

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 3, 1991

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 03, 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)

Hon. 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. C. LeR. TROTMAN, M.A.

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

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

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR

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.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, August 27, 1991.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minutes referred to by Your Honour have been circulated and I take them as read, Sir. If there are no objections, I beg that these Minutes be confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PAPERS

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Animals (Disease and Importation Control) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act, Cap.78A be now read a first time.

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

The question that the Bill be read a first time was put and agreed to.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, from time to time in this Honourable Chamber, if for no other than the reason of the passing stage, we are called upon to pay tribute to either a past Member or the close family of a sitting Member of this distinguished Chamber when such a person moves on to the great beyond.

The levels of tribute are sometimes a measure of the perception of service performed by the particular individual. Today I rise because of the position which I now hold temporarily to do a duty that is not pleasant in the sense that duty is pleasant because of the circumstances. But nonetheless it is one that provides a degree of honour for me to have to rise to say something about one of the stalwarts of social and political life of this country in the 20th century is first and foremost an honour.

I speak, Sir, of the service of Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone Husbands, Knight of Saint Andrew, who since this August Chamber last met was called to higher service by his Lord and Master. Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone Husbands would probably from the honoured position where Your Honour now sits have indicated that his title was much too pretentious, bearing in mind the stamp which he had placed on his life and on the life of all those with whom he came into contact over a substantial number of years. To have lived for 86 years in a society that at the time of his birth, possibly extremely grim and difficult, and to come to his end having served his community, family, and country with such distinction and to have risen to the level where he deservedly and unabashedly was given the highest civil accolade that is possible in this land, it must

have been a source of great pride for this very humble and sincere man.

I think, Sir, we would be permitted to refer to him as "Doc" because that is how all who had ever met him – child, young adult, contemporary, or admirer from afar – would have known him as "Doc" Husbands. He had been many things in this country. He had been a teacher, a great churchman when he could, but above all, Sir, a legislator. He was a legislator *par excellence* in that given the opportunity and finally the right to preside over this House of Assembly he carried out that duty being the first of his kind in many respects in the manner which all persons of all good will would have wished a Member coming from such a humble beginning to do. He performed with absolute and utter distinction.

Sir, I did not have the privilege of being a Member of the House at the time when he presided, but I have had the privilege, in a sense, sitting at his feet when he was performing the duty or the pleasant task of great raconteur. I have had the opportunity to read debates in which his sense of fair play and his decisive nature of his rulings in the Chair were not only evident but, Sir, obvious. Clearly, this was a man who brooked no nonsense and at the same time understood and demonstrated the compassion especially for young neophyte coming into the House of Assembly which was a mark of the politics of that day. I think it would be fair to say that he existed at a time, although the politics were more rambunctious, they were nonetheless of a gentler and more English oriented and less savage.

12.25 p.m.

I think it is fair to say that the politics of that day necessarily required that the social situation of that day would inform people like "Doc" Husbands and his contemporaries. They had the unenviable task of laying down the groundwork for black people who would be in the modern House of Assembly. Yes, it is true that there had been others before who were described as coloured, who had graced the House of Assembly and who had performed to the best of their ability in their circumstances, but I think it is in the time of the 1950's, in the time when there were double member constituencies, just before adult suffrage would come to Barbados, those were the times when the modern House of Assembly and the modern political era would have begun in Barbados.

He was elected to this House of Assembly in a bye-election for double member constituencies, Mr. Speaker, as I know you are well aware, in the parish of St. Peter. Some of the greatest politicians of the country have been elected in the parish of St. Peter. They have written their names in the history of the country in one form or another, but he was elected on 4th May, 1948. That was an important year in the history of the world, because it was during that month as well that the state of Israel was

created – on 15th May, 1948 to be exact – and that was to begin an entirely new and different approach to modern politics in the international community. The year 1948 was a watershed year in the political history of the world, and "Doc" Husbands came to this Chamber at that time when the community was bursting to have final freedom, the right to vote, the most sacred right which any individual in a polity can have. He was, along with his colleagues, his contemporaries, to work in this House of Assembly and he served continuously and with distinction until he retired in 1971.

He was, as is not regularly remembered, an Assistant General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and as his colleague, Frank Walcott, who had been elected around the same time, would have toiled with him and would have recognised the importance, and indeed the necessity, to carry the Union's work by upholding their position in the political framework. When I said that St. Peter has produced great parliamentarians and great politicians in this country, those two, Sir – Frank Walcott and "Doc" Husbands – are examples. They were able to bring the fledgling Barbados Workers' Union firmly to the fore and they were able, at the same time, to maintain the important battle for the rights of all the citizens in the country.

He became Speaker during the 1948–51 Session. He was Speaker for the 1951–56 period and from 1958–61. When one thinks of a Speaker in this House, and for as long as the records of this House will be available to the citizens of this country, one will have to think of Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone "Doc" Husbands as one of the great Speakers of our time.

He left that distinguished Chair to become a Minister of the Government. In 1968 he became the Minister of Agriculture, and indeed he would remain a Minister until 1971. When I became a Minister I sat in the chair in the old eye hospital where the Ministry then was. He was the last person who had functioned in that capacity and I recall very well his coming back to show me the desk at which he sat and from which he had taken many a lunch. "Doc" Husbands did not believe that men should eat too much. I cannot say anything about his feeling with regard to how much men should drink, but he demonstrated over and over that he also understood the tenets of good living. Perhaps it was because of his quality of life, because of his attitude to his own life that he lived such a long and fruitful life.

He dominated the parish of St. Peter in a way, whether he was a parliamentarian or not, that could easily earn him the description of Colossus. There is not a person from Speightstown and beyond who is unfamiliar with the gait and the affable mannerisms of the great "Doc" Husbands. Regretfully, as he came to the evening of his life, as happens with many people in that age bracket, his physical capacity deteriorated much more rapidly than his mental

ability and as a result he was confined in the last years to those who would visit him.

I think my last recollection of him in a political context was during the St. Peter bye-election when, adhering to a particular instruction which the candidate had been given, to canvass every single person in St. Peter, I accompanied the then candidate to "Doc's" house to insist that we canvass him for his vote. I well recall him saying that while he was not quite sure who would win the election, he was absolutely certain that Sybil would carry Speightstown. When I asked him: "But why?" He said: "Because I went before her. I have canvassed Speightstown and I am absolutely certain that Sybil will win Speightstown." It is of some significance that he was unable to participate in the second bye-election and there is some question as to whether we carried Speightstown in the same way.

That election provided my last opportunity to see him in a political role. I subsequently had some time with him, because fortuitous circumstances allowed me to be close to his family and I had some contact with him subsequently, but "Doc" was fading and was never really the same as before.

I think it is a good thing that those of us who come after do get the opportunity to be able to put on the record some little tribute to the work of those who had gone before. It is in this context that I am extremely honoured to have this opportunity to offer to his wife and the rest of his very large and well known family in St. Peter the condolences of this Honourable House and hope that he will join those great parliamentarians, not necessarily in their style, but in a different sphere, where the behaviour apparently is extremely good. I wish him well on his journey.

Mr. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself and the Barbados Labour Party with the tribute paid by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West to the late Sir Kenmore Husbands, better known to all of us as "Doc". I had the privilege of joining the Labour Party in the late 1950's, early 1960's, and at that time "Doc" Husbands was one of the stalwarts of the Barbados Labour Party.
12.35 p.m.

He enjoyed a large measure of political success and I know that he was held in very high esteem in St. Peter and indeed, in other parts of the North. I well recall on many occasions, even during the bye-election of late in St. Peter, when Doc Husbands at that time had changed his association, he never made any secret of the fact that the primary motivating factor in his change of association was economic. Even during that time, with all of the tension that is usually generated in bye-elections, I still had the opportunity of visiting Doc in St. Peter and being invited in and partaking of his hospitality. He was a very

hospitable person and it was impossible to visit Doc without partaking in some kind of refreshment.

His contribution to political life is well known. He was a Member of the House of Assembly and Assistant General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union. At the time when he joined it, no doubt, his contribution would have been immeasurably larger because of the fact that in those days the rewards that were available to people who made the sacrifice to associate themselves with a movement such as the Barbados Workers' Union would have been very small. It must be said that by his association at such an early stage in the development of the Barbados Workers' Union is some measure of the quality of the man as well as of the contribution that he made towards the development of Barbados as we are today.

I don't know whether many people recognise that in addition to being a politician, Doc Husbands prided himself on being a teacher. On many occasions, when I saw him in Speightstown, he took me to his library and he had a great thrill in telling me that he taught a number of generations of Barbadians with the same books and those books were the famous Royal Reader series. He used to say if you reach Book 4, he could guarantee that you would be able to educate yourself because you would understand how to read and write properly.

Even when he had reached advanced age he still participated in giving lessons. No doubt, the amount of contribution that he would ask of those to whom he gave lessons was small. In addition to that, he also prided himself on being a member of the scout movement. He really loved young people and in addition to teaching and being a Member of the House of Assembly, he made a contribution to the improvement of young people by being a leading member of the scout movement.

In his later years in politics, he joined us in the Opposition for quite a considerable period of time and of course, in those days, without holding office, he always admitted to the fact that for people who had made a long and outstanding contribution in politics, started as he did at an early age when there was little reward other than glory in holding office in politics, a special provision should be made for them. I think that in his latter days he had the comfort of knowing that the provisions that had been made for retiring Members were such that he could live out his days without suffering the hardships of some of the people who joined the political movement at the same time as himself and who went earlier than himself had suffered.

I would like to associate myself, Sir, with the resolution which will be passed in due course on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party and myself.

Mr. R. L. MORRIS: I rise to associate myself with the remarks made on the passing of Sir Kenmore Husbands.

You are all aware that he was a member of the staff of the Barbados Workers' Union. We have the privilege also to serve the people of Barbados. Even though because of the difference in our years, he was not close to me, nor I close to him, nor did I know him personally except as a normal person would know a figure of some standing in our society. My relationship with the history of the Barbados Workers' Union and my own researches have given me some idea of the man of whom we speak today.

Coming from St. Peter out of what was called then a middle-class family, and going on to Harrison College, I am sure that in those days the normal expectation would have been that he would end up in the public service, as it was then called. However, Doc Husbands found it extremely difficult to get a position as a teacher. Even though as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said he had a love of teaching he would have found it difficult at that time to pursue the career that perhaps was uppermost in his mind. As, for instance, the brother of Sir Hugh Springer, a first-class Honours graduate, found it difficult to get a job at that time in teaching because there were areas that were very difficult to gain access to, even for persons of Sir Kenmore's background at that time. Because of his love for the working people of this country, he gravitated towards the labour movement and was one of the first secretaries of a branch of the Working Men's Association that was formed by that great leader of the workers of this country, Charles Duncan O'Neale. When Duncan O'Neale formed the Working Men's Association, in 1926, he set up branches throughout the country and we have been able to identify branches in St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. John and a number of them in Christ Church, in areas like St. David's etc. The fact that Kenmore Husbands decided that he would become an organising secretary at one of the branches at this very early time indicates that he was an activist on behalf of the poor people of this country. He and the late Van Roland Edwards of St. Peter were the foremost in this kind of battle.

We all know that when the struggle after 1937 had been institutionalised, persons like the late Sir Grantley Adams and Sir Hugh Springer, as professionals, came forward and offered themselves. If one looks at the structure of the Barbados Workers' Union, as it was then, apart from these highly educated leaders, most of the supporters of the Barbados Workers' Union were rank and file people. The Barbados Workers' Union did not have the funds nor the support to have a secretariat that could carry the weight of work that had to be done by that organisation. It had to depend on people called field secretaries, and it set up agencies throughout the country. We are all aware that Sir Frank Walcott was employed as the first full-time staff member of that institution in 1945. Soon after that, along with Sir Grantley Adams and Sir Hugh Springer, an attempt was made to bring in to the staff a number of qualified persons – and by this we are

talking about secondary educated persons – to join persons like MacDonald Brathwaite and Ulric Grant who had come along because of their zeal and commitment but who clearly would not have had all of the organisational skills that would have been necessary to move forward this young and vibrant organisation.

Doc Husbands found himself along with Lawrence Small and R. L. Greene being drafted on to a staff... 12.45 p.m.

Of course, Ronald Mapp – now Sir Ronald Mapp – came on to the staff, although his work was basically with the *Beacon Newspaper* and Lawrence Small was with the accounting area. It was largely Sir, Kenmore Husbands who had the duty, along with Frank Walcott – now Sir Frank Walcott – of going out there to the masses of people and organising them.

There is an episode, a very important episode in the history of the Barbados Workers Union that has been treated so far by one historian, Francis Mark, but I think that will have to be rewritten. I have not read the thesis of Dr. Cheltenham, I am not sure he speaks to that particular area, but I am sure it will be written and we will hear that it is an area of perhaps...history.

Sir Kenmore Husbands worked along with a very important group of workers in the Barbados Workers Union, the workers at the Telephone Company and the workers at the Light and Power Company. It was a very, very important group – later on referred to as the iron curtain group. It was a very difficult group of workers because they came from the cutting edge, the pioneering edge of the working class. These were young electricians and so on. Very, very skilled people at the time. People like Napoleon Layne and a chap by the name of Farrell who had lived in England for a long time and came back. You could not live in England in those days without being dynamised by the nascent Labour Movement in England itself. The Labour Party as a Trade Union.

Napoleon Layne, who was well known as Commissar. Layne and Farrel have been put in history as the leaders of these iron curtain groups and so on and the impression was given that they were basically communist etc. My own investigation indicates that this group of workers, as I said, they were in the technological area of the Barbados Workers Union and if you cast your mind back to the 1940s and 1950s, clearly, places like Rediffusion, Light and Power etc. were really very dynamic areas. These were the modernising areas of the economy and these young men were skilled workers as against the unskilled workers, and so the dynamic group within the Union and they were able to find support with a number of the executive councilors like Clarke and Hepburn so on.

One of the problems that this group had with Sir Grantley Adams, at the time, was the fact that the Better Security Act was on the Statute Books of Barbados. It had been placed there in 1920, revised in 1927 to prohibit things like peaceful picketing etc. The workers saw it as a stumbling block and they were asking Sir Grantley to get it removed. It was felt that they could not make advances in those critical areas, almost like essential services, unless he was able to take his lead as a politician of the day as being the President of the Trade Union Movement to remove the Act. They would use, because Kenmore Husbands was closer to him, he was the Assistant Secretary, they would place their venom against him. In fact he had a very difficult task of controlling that group of workers – indeed I would say all of the executives of the day. By that time Sir Hugh had gone to the University and Sir Grantley found it extremely difficult, coming into 1952, 1953 to control this group of workers because they were insistent that the Better Securities Act had to be removed. Husbands tried his best in order to control them. He did not back down. He showed them that he had firm merit and he certainly carried himself well as a trade union leader against a very turbulent situation. Perhaps he would have lived long enough to know that that Act is still on the Statute Books. Sir Grantley was not able to change it and no Prime Minister since then has been able to change it. Times have changed and it is going to be very difficult to change it, perhaps, as history moves forward.

It was a very critical period and he stood full as a man against the onslaught of that group of workers. Sir Grantley then had to use his power within the movement in order to quieten that particular "uprising" at the time. Eventually of course the ringleaders as we may call them, were suspended and then expelled from the Union and later came back in by popular claim. They were radical against an issue in that day that was a matter of concern to them and they were not able to change the status quo and that status quo has remained as status quo until today.

As I said the real full flush of this came, not from the person who was just chairing the meetings at the time but, Sir Kenmore who had to be down there then, working with the men in the street, trying to get the changes that they wanted, because they felt strongly that unless that was removed they would not be able to strike in those areas. In fact the wages in the area of the electricians and so on remained fairly low at the hands of the employers. Most of them were expatriate employers and as one would understand the ownership of the Light and Power Company and the Rediffusion in those days, or Radio Distribution as it was called in those days, would have been expatriate ownership and they would just fire people at will. At one time they chased out the delegation. When Kenmore Husbands came in with the delegation the General Manager of Radio Distribution refused to see him. He told him he had to go back out.

The same thing happened at one time when Sir Frank Walcott, then Frank Walcott, led the delegation, he refused to see him. The Light and Power General Manager said he would not have the delegation once it had Layne in it. Of course the General Secretary said, "well you can't determine what my delegation would be. Mr. Layne is properly a part of my delegation and if you are not going to see him you are not going to see me."

Sir Kenmore Husbands operated in the rough dark days and as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said, it was very difficult to be associated with the Trade Union movement. Not that it is any less difficult now. It is quite a difficult task at any time, but those were the pioneer days when Sir Kenmore would not have seen any difficulty whatsoever of representing the Union and his political party. The only socialist political party at the time that had strength by the time he came, because before that there was the Congress which was equally strong, so by that time the Labour Party was the only strong socialist party. The only Labour Party and he therefore found it quite easy. It sat well with his conscience, that he could represent the workers at the table and negotiate against those difficult employers and he could also seek to come into the House of Assembly and move for legislation such as the Holidays with Pay Act and similar types of legislation which enhanced the position of workers in this country.

He lived very faithfully to that ideal that said that he could work in both arenas for the workers. We know that he had a very long and continuous career in the Trade Union movement and when he was elevated to payment by the Crown on a full time basis, of course in the tradition that he follow in the Trade Union movement, you no longer hold on to a trade union position, you either resign or you go on leave, that is the tradition and we follow that tradition. So that he had to discontinue his formal ties with the Trade Union movement but he kept up his informal relationship.

He has always been a friend and supporter of the Trade Union movement and therefore on behalf of the executive and staff, certainly of the Barbados Workers Union and all of his colleagues in both politics and the Trade Union movement we would want to extend our condolences to his wife and to his family and we feel that history will speak kindly of Sir Kenmore.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the people of St. Peter in whose name I speak on this occasion, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the very generous and gracious tributes which have been paid to Sir Kenmore.

Sir Kenmore entered public life, Sir, in 1941, which was sometime before I was born but I am very conscious that he served, Sir, for thirty years, at a time when momentous change was being made in this country and he would have contributed, Mr. Speaker, in his own distinctive

way to fundamental matters, such as the winning of the vote, the laying of the modern Barbados economy and the building of a more egalitarian society and eventually, Sir, the building of an independent country. We can perhaps, appropriately remember as the man who would have contributed to that process of change, Sir, but maintaining always a human touch. I believe, Sir, it is one of his strongest attributes that he would have served in public life for thirty years in this country and have emerged with no known natural enemies.

I believe that the people in St. Peter remember Sir Kenmore with deep affection, Sir. Indeed, I too remember him with a certain amount of affection. The Member for St. Michael West might have visited him in the first bye-election when he might have assured him that the BLP was going to lose Speightstown but I certainly visited him, Sir, in the second and he assured me that we were going to win it on that occasion. I have been visiting him thereafter and I want just to tell the House, Sir, he has been assuring me thereafter that we would be winning Speightstown by larger and larger majorities.
12.55 p.m.

I want to fondly remember him, Mr. Speaker, in the manner in which I last met him. It was on the occasion of Barbados' 21st Anniversary of Independence and I believe that it might have been the last formal state event that he attended. He was proud, Sir, despite his old age and infirmity to appear in his satirical elegance, because he was a man of great satirical elegance, good nature, and good humour, to salute the coming into manhood of Barbados.

He was a simple, decent man and we do not have to enlarge in death beyond what he was in life. He was a simple, decent man who did his duty as he saw his duty had to be done without thought of financial or other reward, Sir. In that capacity, I would like to extend my condolences to his family and relatives.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I wish to join other Members in paying a tribute to the life and work of Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone Husbands. He like a number of other distinguished Barbadians of his generation would have lived through a period of time which saw tremendous changes taking place of social, economic, and political nature not only in Barbados but in the world itself. He would have been a youth, Sir, when the cataclysmic events of the World War I occurred. He would have been able to follow the attempts to create a new world order to bring peace to the world arising out of the efforts to establish the League of Nations after the conclusion of that war. He would have lived through, Sir, the great depression of the 1930's and would have known what suffering was and what Barbadians had to experience during that period of time.

He also would have followed the events of World War II and again the impact that that had on Barbados. He would have not only noted the birth of the State of Israel but would also have noted the birth of the modern Commonwealth and of the United Nations, Sir, and the establishment of the International Monetary Fund. Sir, in addition to all of that, he would have noted the slow, steady and gradualist approach to the constitutional development in Barbados as Barbados moved from one form of colonial status to a slightly improved form of colonial status to a yet more improved form of colonial status which was all part of the gradualist approach. He would have lived at a time when the black people in this country would not have had the right to vote when the franchise was placed at such a level that persons of his particular type would not have been able to exercise the franchise in the land of their birth.

I think we can all be appreciative of the contribution that he has made both to the internal impetus for change and development and for improvement in the quality of life of the individual and for persons who are affected by national policies to be part of the process of discussion and part of the process of contribution to the formulation of national policy.

Colleagues on both sides of the House have spoken in very glowing terms of his contribution to parliamentary life. I would like to add a few words to that and to indicate, Sir, that he brought a special distinction to the office of Speaker of this Honourable Chamber. There was a certain quality to his rulings and to the way in which he sought to maintain order and discipline in this Chamber which could be, at times, Sir, very fractious and contentious. As a schoolboy interested in public affairs, Sir, I used to come to the House of Assembly very often to follow the debates. I would leave the Member for St. George South reading some kind of ancient script maybe a passage from Cicero or Demostenes or some other classical orator whom he was seeking to imitate in his own style at that time, Sir. I would come down here and listen and try to follow the debates. If there was one thing, Sir, he sought to impress on the House of Assembly itself, it was that the dignity and the ancient privileges of each Member whether Government or Opposition should be maintained and preserved at all times. I recall, Sir, that he had a special concern for the dignity of the Chair. It has been brought to my knowledge that he was the first black Speaker of this Honourable Chamber and that in itself is an indication of the measure of the life and work of the man. But not only that, Sir, it is my understanding that with that dignity and respect for the Chair to which I made reference he sought to underline and underscore by obtaining what he considered to be the appropriate regalia in Westminster style.

1.05 p.m.

He certainly obtained the gown and the wig, and it is my understanding, Sir, that there was no vote available for the purchase of that regalia at that time and that he made the purchase out of his own pocket. Other Speakers have also worn the regalia but in more fortunate circumstances. This House makes provision for the supply of the appropriate regalia.

I, Sir, could also speak of his work as a Cabinet Minister, because I sat with him in the Cabinet of Barbados and can attest to his very serious approach to the portfolios to which he was assigned, including the portfolio of youth, and I believe he still carries the record of being the oldest Minister ever to hold the portfolio of Youth Affairs. Sir, he demonstrated that the important characteristic here was not chronological age but the ability and interest to think young and to behave young and to understand the customs and the practices of younger people.

I would like to pay this brief tribute to him, Sir. He came from a very outstanding and proud St. Peter family and he himself added distinction and pride to his family. I am sure that all of us will take note of his passing and of the good that he was able to contribute throughout his life. We hope that his contribution to the life and quality of this Parliament will serve as a beacon for those of us who continue to serve in the role of legislators and parliamentarians to uphold the highest traditions of service of all people and of service to our country.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the tributes made by other Honourable Members.

I first grew to know Sir Kenmore when I was a youngster going to school in Speightstown and two things struck me immediately about him. On discovering that Sir Kenmore entered politics at a time when to sit in this Honourable House was an honour, and when Honourable Members in those days in that position were not remunerated, but more particularly, Sir, when he was a Member of this Honourable House and even when he was a Minister Sir Kenmore had the reputation in the North for being a person who had himself achieved an enormous measure of education and who decided to give that back to the community. He was one of the early pioneers in the North who used to run what we call private lessons. Interestingly, he conducted lessons for persons of all ages. Indeed, just a few days before his death some people who were fairly well acquainted with him were reminiscing and remembered the times when adults who were unable to read and write well sat at Sir Kenmore's feet and were taught to such a degree that some of the people from the outlying areas in the North, even at 20 years of age, who did not have any form of education, could go to him and he would teach them. As was said, Sir, he was a person who loved the Royal Readers, on which a lot of us in here chewed – I believe, Sir, you yourself are familiar with the

Royal Readers – and when he was conducting these lessons many a parent in the North was of the view that even after their children had passed the Common Entrance Examination, to be properly taught they still had to go back to his house. He conducted these lessons from his house at nominal rates, which earned him the reputation of being what we call a community do-gooder.

He was a person seised of the common touch. He had a presence in the North. He would come out in khaki shorts and walk Speightstown early on mornings, collect his newspaper, stop by the youth and give them a friendly word. Those of us who would walk up the hill to Coleridge & Parry School, when misbehaving on the streets, would be cautioned by him and encouraged to become gentlemen. He had this way too, Sir, of blending his work as an educator and a teacher with the work of St. Peter's Parish Church. These things stood him in such great stead that, his sense of humility and the ease with which he mingled among his constituents in St. Peter allowed him to be able to serve 23 unbroken years of service in this Honourable House.

He had a way of being habituated to meeting and talking to people. His concern for people led him to the Labour Movement and to this Honourable House. His concern for people allowed him to go beyond the call of duty and render a lot of gratuitous service to persons in that area, so that, as he was familiarly called in St. Peter and the North, "Doc" Husbands was very much a Colossus down there. Even though not rising to become Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition or any such very high office, he was seen as the consummate politician and community worker in his time.

With these few remarks, Sir, I freely associate myself with the other tributes paid by Honourable Members. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the second time during my term of office that I have had to associate myself with tributes paid to one of my predecessors. I do so with great satisfaction, but with some sadness, since he is not here to hear these kinds of tributes being paid. However, I cannot say as much about his private life as most of you have done, but one thing is certain, in my early teenage days I used to come to this Assembly. It was not as well air conditioned as it is, the acoustics were not as good as they are now, and the difficulty of presiding in Chamber with noise coming through the window has always presented me with a problem as to how this distinguished gentleman could conduct his affairs in this Chamber. Added to that, he was in a scenario where the changing of the two party system was developing and the differences on both sides were almost distinct. As one who had an interest in impartiality, it must have been extremely difficult to belong to a party which had just won for the workers a great victory, obviously leaving some scars in the other area, to

bring those two people together to sit in one Chamber and at the same time achieve the kind of results that this Legislature has received. I think I should mention that as I move around the Commonwealth Caribbean, you in this Legislature should be very proud that they feel that this is a model Parliament. I believe that the foundation was laid by such distinguished gentlemen as the one who graced this Chair.

1.15 p.m.

If only I could leave the impression that he left with me when I was a youngster in this Chamber! His language was very sweet. He was a very cool person and above all he seemed to be knowledgeable about parliamentary affairs. You must remember that in those days to adopt a parliamentary system like the Westminster model it would have taken a very knowledgeable person so to do. If I could only give inspiration as he gave it to me! As I sat in the Chamber and I saw this dapper person walking up to the seat I could never have dreamt that I would be able to fill that role that he so admirably and ably filled. I thought it was almost beyond me. However, whatever inspiration I gained then must be responsible for you in this Chamber to ask me to preside. Therefore, I pay tribute to Sir Kenmore because I was very impressed by his mannerly way, the language he used and the coolness and the calmness with which he approached his business which has given me that feeling that I, too, should be able to help. If I could pass on to other generations what he has passed on to people like myself, I think we in Barbados would be very much better off. Certainly we have lost from this country yet another model of excellence.

I, therefore, on behalf of myself and my family extend condolences, and in the passing of this resolution, I am going to ask you to stand for one minute's silence.

Members stood in their places in silence for one minute.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF USE OF LAND AT HAGGATT HALL

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to change the purposes for which this parcel of land

was originally acquired. The history of this matter indicates that on June 18, 1985 this Honourable Chamber approved Resolution No. 60/1985 in respect of the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of 4.868 hectares of land at Haggatt Hall for the relocation of the Headquarters of the Transport Board. The Resolution was concurred in by the Senate June 26, 1985 and by virtue of S.I. 1985 No. 117, the land became vested in the Crown on July 25, 1985. The property was handed over to the Ministry of Transport and Works in August of that year.

In December 1989, the Minister of Transport and Works and officials of that Ministry visited the site at Haggatt Hall in order to gain a first-hand look at the implications of siting facilities in that area. The visit became necessary after a report submitted by the architects, Selby, Rose and Mapp indicated that development of the site for the stated purpose would be economically unwise. The following facts have a direct bearing on the findings of the architects.

Permission had been granted for the development of a large commercial enterprise immediately west of the site. The proposed access to the site to be off Highway 5. The area of Highway 5 south of the site is narrow and cut into rock. The average height of the rock face on both sides of the highway ranging between one and two metres. No sidewalks existed on either side of the highway and houses are built relatively close to the edge of the highway. The architects indicated that increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic would result from the development of the Transport Board facilities and the commercial enterprise. In view of this, it would therefore be necessary to (a) widen highway 5 to include a bus lane; (b) provide sidewalks on both sides of Highway 5; (c) acquire additional surrounding property for the office buildings and staff parking. This would be necessary since the proposed site was not large enough to accommodate adequately all of the requirements of the new development as well as provide access to the site from Highway 5; (d) resite most of the residents of the northern side of Highway 5 or reposition their houses further to the north of the present location. The consultants also sounded a warning with regard to the lack of room for expansion afforded by the Haggatt Hall location. In addition, the high cost associated with the development of a zone 2 area was highlighted.

As a result of these crucial indicators, the Ministry of Transport and Works decided that it would not be feasible to relocate the Transport Board at the Haggatt Hall site. Through consultation with the Chief Town Planner an area of land at Kendal Hill was deemed ideal for the purpose. Consequently, appropriate recommendations were submitted to Cabinet.

I think it should be noted that in February 1990 Cabinet made a decision to have the new Transport Board Headquarters sited at Kendal Hill, Christ Church and

during that same year it was agreed that action should be taken by the Ministry of Housing and Lands to acquire 6.380 hectares of land at Kendal Hill for the purpose of the construction of the Transport Board Headquarters. This turn of events freed up the land at Haggatt Hall.
1.25 p.m.

Priority was given to using the land in question for relocating squatters at the Belle consisting of 24 households, relocation of squatters at the Ivy consisting of seven households, the relocation of squatters at Blenheim, My Lords Hill, consisting of eight households, and the relocation of three households at Sherbourne. These persons are presently living on lands that were recently acquired by the Crown for the Sherbourne centre car parking facilities. The remaining house spots would be allocated for persons who may want to purchase and/or rent in consonance with the sites and services programme which the Government has enunciated.

The fact of the matter, Sir, is that the Chief Town Planner has approved the design laid out for the subdivision of ninety-three lots at Haggatt Hall for housing purposes. That is, this area of land which would now be developed for housing purposes would be able to accommodate ninety-three lots and the development has been approved by the Chief Town Planner.

It should also be stated that the first part of the relocation exercise, that is, the relocation of the squatters at the Belle has taken place. It is being developed in a phased manner and the National Housing Corporation is in the process of developing the remaining areas of lands to continue with the relocation process, that is, putting in the water and the lights and roads, basically, so that persons who are in these areas would be offered this area into which they could move their houses. I think it is very important that this be clearly understood.

Basically what we are saying then, is that through this particular development the Government has decided to ensure that the problem in the Zone 1 area will be taken care of and the remaining lots will be made available to persons who will be approved out of the many applications which are made for the purposes of housing. So that we are therefore, today, seeking through this Resolution to have the approval of Parliament to change the purposes for which the acquisition would be used. As I said, it was originally acquired to relocate the Headquarters of the Transport Board and the Government is now seeking parliamentary approval for the use of this land to be changed and that change is for the purposes of housing.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass and to indicate that the plots of the area are available for Honourable Members if they desire to have a look at them. Thank you.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I want from the outset to indicate that this side has no objection to the Resolution. Before we fully endorse the decision by the Government to resite people or use the area in question for housing purposes, I wish to point out a number of things which need to be addressed by this Government and/or all future governments.

I am aware, Mr. Speaker that this land was purchased by the Barbados Labour Party for the purpose of relocating the Headquarters of the Transport Board. What I am particularly disturbed about is the fact that at a later date, the technical people – the surveyors, the architects – can say or advise this Government that the site is not suitable because of, as they say, it is economically unwise.

I am disturbed, Mr. Speaker. I have warned this Government before and I am going to issue another warning to them. If this sort of exercise continues it is going to be costly and the burden will fall heavily on the taxpayers of Barbados. Land when it is acquired, as in this case, was acquired for commercial purposes and those of us who are in the business of the sale of land and the pricing of land will know that commercial land is sold at a higher cost than land used for residential purposes, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, when Government proposes as a prospective purchaser to purchase land for commercial purposes or intended commercial purposes, the landowner usually, and reasonably so, seeks to have a price fixed which is higher than that which it would be offered for residential purposes.

What I am saying here is, that we have got to be very cautious and we have got to be very, very alert in these matters, because here is a case where land was acquired for commercial use and no doubt the price fixed then reflected the price that would be paid for commercial land or for land that was used for commercial purposes. The land is now abandoned or the use has been changed but the Government has already paid for the land. What I am saying is, we have got to be very careful and I hope the Government gets the message, that in future land that is bought for one purpose, especially commercial purposes, that this sort of thing does not recur.

The Government has stated and the Minister has stated on the floor of this House this afternoon that another area of land has been purchased or acquired in Kendal Hill. I am therefore hoping that since that land is also costly and the purpose for which it is supposed to be used has earned the vendor a higher sum than that which would have been earned in the case if it was for residential purpose, that I do not hear or I do not learn of any time that the Government comes in here and do a similar thing or even abandon that acquisition. If so, I would hope that the Government takes into consideration the fact that it has already spent money for the purchase of that land and if it should try, if it is going to abandon or change the use

get rid of the land, to recoup the money that the taxpayers of Barbados have paid.

The other question is that I do hope that the Government would endeavour to effect the transfer or build the Headquarters for the Transport Board soon, rather than have it prolonged because that too would mean an additional cost.

The other point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that which affects those persons who are to be relocated and those who have been relocated.

1.35 p.m.

As I said, I support the Resolution in that regard. This area of land in Haggatt Hall happens to be in my constituency. I am familiar with the area. The area is a Zone 2 area and, Mr. Speaker, I am warning the Government again. It is going to be costly, if not to the Government, to the tenants who are called upon to purchase the land. There are some inescapable costs involved here, Mr. Speaker. In a Zone 2 area, it is required by the Town and Country Planning Department and the Ministry of Health to erect water-borne facilities or septic tank plus well. What I am saying to the Government is this. Since these people are there, whenever they want to erect their water-borne facilities, it is going to cost them. It is going to cost them a lot more money than for land which was acquired in a Zone 3 or Zone 4 area where just a suck well is required. We have to look at these things because those persons who are now being resited in Haggatt Hall are poor people, so poor that they could not afford to buy land in the first place. I am concerned about this. One has to drive home the message to Government that an additional burden is being placed on poor people who are already depressed.

It is all right having a policy. I am supporting this because the people must have somewhere to go. But what I am saying is that more serious thought must be put into these things from the outset. These people would have to find money and money is hard to come by. The cost of borrowing money is high especially in these times. Those persons for a very long time, certainly not in the immediate future since they are poor, would have to wait or pay high cost to get money to put in water-borne facilities. I am saying that in this day and age no Government or policy-maker should be encouraging the use of dry pits and that is the case in Haggatt Hall. How could I stand here and say that I support that sort of conduct?

I do not want to reflect on any previous Resolution passed in this House. But I am saying that if certain Members of this Honourable Chamber can call on the Minister or on the Government to insist that people are resited and given the facilities that are compatible with present day standards of living, I have a duty to call on the Government to do a similar thing for the people in Haggatt

Hall. Nothing short of that will satisfy me and I want to make that quite clear. I am not saying to the Government on this occasion, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. SPEAKER: Just one moment. I do not want the noise level to the point where it interrupts the speaker.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the Government to find money when it does not have it. I can understand the Government's problem with that. I am not unreasonable in this regard. I want the Government to listen quite clearly. I am offering them some advice. The Housing Credit Fund which was negotiated by the Barbados Labour Party is there. Make sure that you let the people know that they can have access to that Housing Credit Fund to have their houses improved. I want to see that educational exercise undertaken by this Government or any future Government.

The people have a right to know. The people at Haggatt Hall have to use dry pits. You see the Health Authority coming in and digging a pit 5 and 6 feet deep. That is what it is and the toilets are in the yard, Mr. Speaker. The Barbados Labour Party and progressive Governments have sought to correct that. What do we have in 1991? People at Haggatt Hall are now being resited at this moment and using dry pits. Am I suppose to sit and hear this sort of thing or see this sort of thing and keep quiet?

I am saying that every man in this country has a right to have his standard of living improved. Whether these people are squatters or not, I do not want to hear that. Do not put that they are squatters. They are Barbadians and they are workers of this country. They are entitled to a piece of the national cake. So I do not want to hear this sort of argument. It is only an argument which seeks to show the contempt for the poor people in this country. Do not use that argument because those people are entitled. You asked for their vote. They voted for improvement and, therefore, I am saying that they deserve it. The people in Haggatt Hall are people too. They have moved from the Ivy. They come from the Belle and Licorish Village. They are coming into St. Michael East. I have represented the people of St. Michael South East ably already and I shall continue to do so. I will speak out wherever it is possible and in particular in this Honourable Chamber on matters that I feel that operate against the best interest of the people in that constituency and for that matter across Barbados.

It is no sense one seeking to address one particular area of discomfort and not looking at the effect they have on the people. As I said, it is going to be costly to them. I have heard repeated calls from people to get help. Because they are squatters we are hearing this. I read it in the newspaper, Mr. Speaker. Because they are squatters they are not entitled to help. Well, I am going to say this. People squat

because of their economic situation. They cannot go into a development and they cannot get land. What I think the Government must bear in mind and all of us should bear this in mind that you must admire a man who tries to buy a couple of blocks or some timber to erect his own house. Those persons need to be considered. I do not want to hear this sort of logic that they are squatters and they are not entitled. The Government has to understand now, if they have not got the message, that those persons who went into the Ivy and the Belle and erected their houses unlawfully are people who could not benefit, or the Government was in no position to answer their request for land or houses. They sought to use their savings to buy material to erect houses.

As I said, the siting of them in the first place should not have been condoned but here again vigilance. That takes me to a very, very crucial point of vigilance. We get in this Honourable Chamber and pass legislation which we feel is in the interest of the country and which would improve the lot of all. But then it is thwarted by people in the industry caused by the lack of policing to make sure that everything is done to carry out the intentions of our Resolutions and Acts passed in here.

The politicians cannot do it, but the politicians have a duty to speak out when they see something is not being done. After all, if you have to be critical of people for not discharging their duties, then you have a duty if you are leading a country to speak out on it. I am not chicken. I am saying if it is the duty of the civil servants then I will say it. I am cautioning them that they have a duty to do their job because they are paid to do it. It is part of their national duty as well. But what I am saying is this. People are allowed to go and squat. It is something which does not go all well for us and the people were there for a long time. Whether people think it is political or not, let us cross that line. We must understand that there is a breakdown in the system and that somebody lacks the moral authority to speak out and to exercise the powers conferred on them in this regard. When officers in Government are given powers to see that these unlawful acts do not come about, you have officers not being able even when they have issued, in this case, "Stop Notices" to have them effected because you have an intervention.

Mr. Speaker, no one needs to tell me about the law of "Stop Notices" and otherwise. I do not need anyone to tell me about that. What I am saying is that this Resolution has come when there is *au fait accompli*. It is wrong. The Minister of Housing is doing his best. I must give him that. 1.45 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that this is wrong. When it was contemplated, or when Cabinet decided to change the use of the land, what they should have done is

to come immediately to this Chamber for its approval before the people were resited. I am going to submit to the Government and to this Honourable Chamber that what is taking place is still illegal.

Aside.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I will regularise an irregularity, because the poor people will suffer. It is like another case where they break the law and because of the national interest you are not expected to go out there and overturn everything and cause havoc in the country. I am saying the Government knows that they are wrong in this. Here it is, Mr. Speaker, a Chief Town Planner is issuing enforcement notices – do you see the mockery of it? – giving the people 28 days to move, but here it is they are talking about carrying out the law, but on the other hand they are breaking the law by putting people on land that is not approved for the purpose for which the people are using it. I do not understand that. The Government must understand we can think and understand, we can read between the lines. You cannot be law makers on the one hand and law breakers on the other.

People have a way of passing the buck. I am saying it is wrong. What is going on at Haggatt Hall at this moment is illegal. It violates the law of Barbados and the Government knows, they have concurred in it. The Town Planner is in there, he needed to have enforced the law.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I am sure the Honourable Member knows what he wants to say, but I will ask him to withdraw that the Government has concurred in the breaking of the law. He would mean by that that the Government knowingly agreed to breaking the law.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, if you ask me to withdraw it, I will, but I am saying I know it is a fact, because I have heard the Minister say the Cabinet took a decision.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I have objected to the Honourable Member indicating that the Government... since I am part of the Government, Sir, he is saying that I knowingly concurred in the breaking of the law. I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I will ask the Honourable Member to do is, if a Member objects to a statement I think it is fair that the Member would either adjust his approach to the subject in wording, or on the other hand leave the matter and finish with it.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, permit me to point out to the Honourable Member that I am aware that the Ministry of Housing and Lands was dealing with...

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the point the Honourable Member made was that you were saying that he, as a Member of the Government, knowingly broke the law.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I did not imply that, Sir. If that is the impression, I will withdraw that, but it is not what I am saying. I shall proceed to say that the Ministry of Housing and Lands, located at Marine House, was dealing with this. They are the ones who dealt with the approval and the submission of the plans, not the National Housing Corporation. It was done in the Ministry, at Marine House. They decided in the Ministry to allocate the plots, so if the Minister does not know and the Minister did not tell Cabinet, something is wrong, because it was being done there. The work has started, Mr. Speaker. All that is happening now is that we are seeking to endorse what has already been going on. I passed there this morning. My constituency office is up there, on Cutting Road, and Housing is hard at work putting in the roads.

What I am saying is, all this Resolution seeks to do, as I understand it, and it is clear, is to make the National Housing Corporation directly responsible for conveying the lots, for doing all the work. People will no longer have to go to the Ministry of Housing and Lands, they will pass over the work in future, including conveyancing, or the transfer of land, to the National Housing Corporation. The Minister is sitting there and he knows what I am saying is true, so I am saying that all this work was done.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we have to be very, very careful. These little slips are costing us dearly. I am going to be consistent. I am concerned with the man at the bottom rung of the ladder. Those of us who are in positions that earn us a good, decent salary can afford to forego a lot of things and overlook a lot of things, but I know what it means to a man or a woman who takes in \$200 a week, especially on a week on/week off, and has to borrow money to put on a water toilet, which will involve getting a septic tank, which will cost at least \$3,000. I want Honourable Members over there to get up and deny that, if they do not know the cost. That is nothing to do with a well, because when you have a septic tank you must also have a suck well, which costs \$2,000. The minimum cost of digging a suck well is \$60 per square foot and you go as far as 18 and 20 feet. The reason for having that well is to take the water, so you are looking at \$5,000 all told to put in a septic tank or water-borne facilities. All I am saying is, make a soft loan available to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I shall repeat, for the benefit of Honourable Members, that...
1.55 p.m.

The Barbados Labour Party negotiated a housing credit fund with the United States Agency for Industrial Development. I was a Minister of Housing and I know about it. Sarah Frankel, the lady who died in the United

States in an accident, sat down with us and worked out the terms and conditions for house improvement for persons on plantation tenantry lots. The National Housing Corporation and the commercial banks as well as certain financial institutions were allowed to lend money to people who were in need. So, I don't understand what the Government wants to tell me now. You criticise us over here when we say something and you feel that we don't know what is going on.

We have reached a very sad state in our political affairs when they cannot explain to people what is available. It would cost the Government not one red cent if you refer the people to the Housing Credit Fund. If money is there, pass the terms... Conditions are there. Officer Jones from the Ministry knows that...

Asides.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I said they should direct the people and assist them in the loan. I am saying that the Government has a duty and we cannot and should not seek to discriminate or let it appear that there is any form of discrimination in dealing with the lower class of people in this country. They have a right, Mr. Speaker, to be treated as any other people in this country. They can hear me from the housetops saying that.

Asides.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I would advise the Government on this occasion to pick on somebody lesser than this Honourable Member because I would run them up a hill and down a hill. They cannot tackle me on these subjects. I don't know where they live. They better understand out there that they can't battle with the Honourable Member and they shouldn't seek it in here. This is a different kettle of fish. Pick your man, not me. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

These are things that I know. You see, when the Government runs into trouble on these matters they say there must be a consensus, even though you went out there and you told people what they could do to avoid it. I am here this morning to point out that the Government needs not spend one further cent but take some advice and use their public relations department to lecture the people. You have officers at Housing. Send them out there and let them inform the people as to how they can get money to help themselves and thereby take the burden off the Government. If the Government wants to get into a political debate about whether the Government should do it or not, let me say, I will rise in the defence of the Barbados Labour Party and say that when I was the Minister of Housing whenever people were resited I insisted that they were given water-borne facilities.

There are people in that same constituency, Mr. Speaker, in adjacent lands in Chapel Gap who when they were resited were provided with such facilities. You have a situation when people were moved from the areas of the Belle and so forth and the Government did not even consider giving them water. I had to go in my capacity and beg the people in Cutting Road to give them water. I was up there.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one minute to go.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I was up there helping them and I begged the bank manager to lend them money to put up the houses. These are the sorts of things, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, I want to support this resolution for its intentions. I want to support the poor people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is fair that I obtain from the Opposition Benches if you are the first speaker for them. If he is the first speaker then he is unlimited in his speech.

Asides.

SUSPENSION

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now suspend until 3 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the House until 3 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, have you concluded your speech?

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I have finished.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution which seeks to change the use of land which was acquired for the purposes of the Transport Board facilities at Haggatt Hall and which was subsequently abandoned for that purpose and for which there is a change of use for the squatters and other people to be resited in the area of Haggatt Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I join this debate with some concerns and I believe it may be necessary for me to reflect on some of the comments mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. You would appreciate, Sir, that

some of the residents that have been resited from the Belle area were indeed squatters and what I like to consider a humane approach was adopted in reallocating alternative housing spots for them. Listening to the debate which emanated from the other side one would have believed that this Government was probably the most uncaring administration that there ever was. Indeed, Sir, I am disturbed...

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: ... the other Government, prior to 1986. I am saying the Barbados Labour Party administration would want to suggest that this administration is one of the most uncaring, based on the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, that we would take a stance against poor, unfortunate people who find themselves in a situation where they have to squat and where they have to be at the mercies of authorities or other forces. That administration has on record the poorest record of human treatment and what is strange to me, Sir, is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East at this time today seeks to represent squatters and it was the same honourable representative for the same constituency that drove the fear of God into the hearts of the squatters in the Ivy in 1982. It was the same Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. Today, he seeks to represent people as if he is a humanitarian and this administration, the Democratic Labour Party is an uncaring one.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are some 50 or 51 residents presently in the Belle area that are to be resited in this area designated at Haggatt Hall. There are another 11 or 12 houses in the Licorish Village area that I understand were supposed to be resited in an area in My Lord's Hill called Clarkes Land. That idea has been abandoned. The residents in that Clarkes Land area are now beautifying that particular area and I believe that they will probably win the first prize in the Minister's competition for Independence. It is a beautiful park that they are putting up in My Lord's Hill. Those residents from Licorish Village that were scheduled to be resited on Clarkes Land will now have to be accommodated in some other area. Of course, you would appreciate that the Haggatt Hall area is presently contiguous to St. Michael East. It borders on our eastern boundary. I think it is only fair for me to assume that the 93 lots that will become available will not be enough for us, but I am sure that once we are given the 93 lots from St. Michael East they will certainly relieve some of the pressure that we have in terms of requests at this present time.

Mr. Speaker, what bothers me and I am sure it bothers other Honourable Members, is that we have heard from time to time some arguments suggesting that we should keep communities together and it is in that context that I

support the relocating of residents, whether they are legal or illegal. The point is, they are Barbadian and they have to be accommodated.

3.05 p.m.

The Honourable Member sought to suggest that this administration deliberately, maybe I should withdraw the word deliberately, seeks to disadvantage people by not providing facilities for them in the resiting programme.

Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting that if there was a caring administration, one that understands the needs of poor working class people, it has always been, over the last thirty years, the Democratic Labour Party Government. We have had a very strong reputation of representing the interest of poor unfortunate people. If there is one individual that is a total humanitarian, it is your humble servant. Because, Sir, if I had enough money I would make all of the facilities available to all of my constituents or I would even extend that beyond the boundaries of St. Michael East. It is unnecessary and dishonourable to some extent for members to come into this Honourable House and pompaset – and I would not like to say masquerade – as if they are representing the interests of people, when they have on record the worst track record possible, of any Government administration.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member spoke in terms that the land, when it was originally acquired, was acquired as land to be used for commercial venture. He did indicate that it was the Barbados Labour Party administration that purchased that property at commercial value. Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting, Sir, that that particular purchase – we talk in this modern day about expenditure and wastage of taxpayers money – that is another example of the level of unreasonable expenditure that took place in 1984 or 1985 or whenever it was purchased. I am suggesting, Sir, that the money that could have been saved if they had taken note of the recommendations by people authorised to indicate whether it was viable to purchase the land for the Transport venture or not. They were properly advised not to purchase that land for those purposes. They went ahead and purchased the land at a commercial value rate.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I was then the Minister of Housing and Lands. At no time did anyone recommend not to purchase the land. The Honourable Member is not telling this House the truth.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the administration of the Barbados Labour Party were properly advised not to purchase the land for commercial use as the Transport Board's facility. They went ahead against proper advice, and they have the temerity to suggest to this country that this administration has been wasting money and has been squandering money. Mr. Speaker, we can set them up in chronological order, one after the other,

and we will determine who spent the billion dollars over ten years. We can determine it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reflect again on another aspect of the change of use. The Minister, in his opening remarks, indicated that the excess lots will be available for rent or sale as part of the Ministry's sites and services programme.

The Honourable Member from St. Michael South East sought to suggest that the land was being sold at prices that were exorbitant and unreasonable and were out of the reach of the average man, or in this case, out of the reach of the poor man. It is my understanding that the actual rent that is being charged is in the vicinity of \$150 or \$160 a year, which, Mr. Speaker, to my mind, works out to some \$3.50 per week.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael East should understand that I am giving him a little chance for the other Members to hear him.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: It is time, Mr. Speaker, that this Honourable House has some maturity when it comes to debating issues of national importance. I am not reflecting on the Chair, Mr. Speaker, but I really feel that this cross talk is totally unnecessary and it is highly provocative.

I am saying, Sir, that the rent that is affixed to the lots of the tenants from Haggatt Hall is in the vicinity of \$160 per year which works out at an average of \$3.40 per week, which is a reasonable sum charged in respect of the going rate for rents today. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, you will appreciate that there are many landlords at present who are refusing to rent lands to people who are out there seeking to rent spots to put houses on. It is very difficult to get house spots and if anybody can acquire a house spot at \$3.50 in this day, I think that is a reasonable and a humanitarian exercise to make provision for people who are unable to do it for themselves.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East indicated that this administration has not provided soft loans or has not made the way possible for people to acquire soak-a-ways or septic tanks etc.

Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting that these are my constituents that he is talking about, these constituents have come to me and I have sought assistance through National Housing and three or four of them have made applications for soft loans and they have been approved. I am not sure if the money has been allocated as yet, but they have come to me and I do not think it is fair for him to mislead the House. I left him alone even though he misled the House,

cause I am not sure if he did ask the Bank Manager to lend them money or not. He may have, but I don't believe that they got it. The point is, Mr. Speaker, they came to me and I sought the proper avenue in advising them in regard to their ability to repay a small loan or whatever, to seek it through the assistance of the National Housing Corporation. That, Mr. Speaker, is the kind of advice that I will be giving to the rest of the squatters or the rest of the residents who have to be resited from the Belle to the Haggatt Hall area.

Mr. Speaker, I share some of the concerns in terms of these developments because I believe that when we are resiting we are in fact developing a new community. I think it is important for us that we do not have a scattered community and that the Government, I am sure, will pay some attention to aspects of light, water, proper roads and indeed the drainage, rather than, perhaps, develop the community in a manner that there are no proper facilities for the residents to be accommodated in.

3.15 p.m.

I do not think that we need to be advised in terms of what we have to provide to make the area secure. I do not think that we need to be advised. We understand on this side, Sir. We clearly understand what it takes and what is required to properly house people whether they are legal squatters or illegal squatters. There is a tremendous demand in Barbados and we can only do it in a rational manner.

I have said on the floor of this House many times that we in St. Michael East are severely restricted by the water zone problem. Seventy per cent of my constituency is restricted and we cannot use the land for housing. We cannot change the use of the land under the present conditions. It is a tremendous burden on us when we have people who are literally desperate for house spots. So we have to look at the problem. I would not even be against if the particular area of Haggatt Hall was used, rather than having 80 or 90 lots for building a unit that could probably have 100 or 200 housing units that would be able to accommodate at least 500 or 600 people. I have no difficulty with that. But the point is, Mr. Speaker, that we have to plan and provide within the limited resources that are available to the Government. It is unfair for any Member to want this House or to want any administration to operate outside of those boundaries. There is no way that I would sit or stand as a representative and allow any situation to exist where I know better can be done and we are not making sure that that is being done.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to close and to thank you for the opportunity for me to support the passing of this Resolution. Thank you very much.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take this opportunity to make mention of some aspects of the policy relating to the movement of the people from the

Belle. Mr. Speaker, I was very interested to hear the comments by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East in which he made the point that those persons who were squatters were people too and that they should be treated humanely and be given every consideration. When he was speaking, he said that there are times when we should speak from a moral point of view and not necessarily from some other point of view and he felt that political leaders especially had a responsibility to speak from that point of view from time to time.

I want to take this opportunity, Sir, to say that I was very disturbed, I will go no higher than disturbed, by some of the actual attitudes which were displayed during the time about when these people would move or if they would ever move from the Belle. There are a number of people in Barbados who jump on bandwagons. They love to jump on bandwagons because the effort and the idea of thought is such a gigantic task that they prefer to let someone lead and for them to jump on the bandwagon. Now the people who went to squat in the Belle were squatting in the Belle. The Government of the day, this Government, said that we have identified this problem. We are taking steps to solve it. The problem developed into a situation where land was identified where these squatters should go. After the bore holes were done, as is normal, it became obvious that there was mold as deep as 24 feet. Clearly, you cannot be putting houses of any kind in any serious way on the top soil that is more 24 feet deep. So the Government had to make a decision to find an alternate place. During that time, Sir, there was an almost hysterical call. I saw at least two editorials. Miss Joan Benjamin in the...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: I do not know that is a woman. I do not know anything about her. You never hear about Miss Aimey.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: A person writing in a newspaper in a most obnoxious way from time to time who is constantly attacking ordinary people in this country and behaving as though the colonial period has not been over, a person whose column fills up the newspaper on an almost daily basis with thorough and complete trash on most occasions attacked the Government in a most unconscionable way about the squatters in the Belle.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I remember that there was a cacaphony of sound calling for the Government to do something about the Belle and a number of Latter Day Saints who have become environmentalists, many of them suffering from intellectual rigormortis who is always

talking about the environment as though the environment is some creature out there that is to subsume the rest of us and not understand that the environment is not a monolith, or something that they would have more interest in than the average person. The truth is, Sir, that we have said before and we say again that our problem of pollution in this country is more concerned with the nitrates and other pollutants coming out of the use of agricultural pesticides and herbicides than almost anything else.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Of course, we have the normal pollution problems. We think people should not litter. We know that people have been treating the environment badly. In terms of water, I am really restricting this to the question of our water resources. It is the nitrates, Sir, and the whole pesticides and herbicides and what comes out of them. There is a run off from the effluent which flows from an agricultural plot after the rain falls. I do not want to alarm anybody but we have a concentrated amount of pollutant which can be found in some non-water wells. This is the point. I have said before that there was a study. There was a ground water pollution risk assessment for the Belle water supply catchment in Barbados. This was done under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and we had experts from PAHO Office here in Bridgetown, PAHO Centre for sanitary engineering in environmental sciences from Lima, Peru, the British Geological Survey, the Hydro-geology Group, and the BGS Group from Wellingford in Great Britain. They produced the first report for the Belle public water supply catchment area in Barbados. They have also done a study of the Hampton water area and that study has just been delivered to us and it is being examined.

The main point that I want to make here today is that contrary to a popular information that went across, there was no inherent specific imminent danger of the water supply in Barbados from those squatters that were at the Belle. It is a qualified statement because I am making it and I do not want to be an alarmist or irresponsible.
3.25 p.m.

I just want to say that it was thoroughly and completely undesirable for these human settlements to be so near to one of our main water resources. It was completely undesirable, but at the same time we were not in any imminent danger, and I am very pleased to say that all those who said they would never move will now have to take a back seat and go on the back burner, because this Resolution confirms that they will in fact move.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Well, if he has dealt with both sides, that is par for the course. We have no quarrel with whatever you have to say, we have a "most favoured

nation" clause over here too. Mr. Speaker, they know of what I speak and we understand. There is a *noblesse oblige* that operates in these matters. They understand and we understand, but the fact is that I am very pleased and happy to see that these squatters have now been moved. Not only have we taken account of the ones in the Belle, we have taken account of the ones elsewhere and we want to serve warning. The Ministry of Health, and indeed the Government, wants to serve warning, I do not wish to see anywhere anybody writing that we have to be humane with the squatters, that we have to do this and we have to do that.

The same columnist I talked about, who writes every day, will now say that I am closing the stable now the horse is out. There are no more horses out, so we are now saying to all the foals that are about to become horses there will be no acceptance of any squatting anywhere, we are going to move the houses, bulldoze them, do whatever.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: We are going to operate within the law, but the Ministry of Health will not – and I want to make it clear – the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said that it is the duty of the Public Officers to be vigilant. It is not my responsibility in here to criticise any Public Officers, the traditions of the system we have require that Ministers do not criticise Public Officers in the House.

Asides.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that it is traditional for a Minister not to criticise Public Officers in the House of Assembly, and therefore while the Members of the Opposition might *ex post facto* make the odd comment about how the Public Officers should behave, we are proscribed from that, according to the traditions, and I do not intend to do so. I just want to say, however, that no Minister has the responsibility or falls within the category of jobs going out to check when a squatter's camp is about to become alive. I feel that the Public Health Inspector who is in an area should be among the first people to notice that a piece of property has gone up on a piece of land and it does not look like it should have been there. If there is a Public Health Inspector functioning in the area, that is his or her responsibility, and I have charged the people in my Ministry that I will hold them responsible as part of their duty to see that we will not have these squatters coming up overnight, sometimes down in the middle of what is a watercourse. Therefore, I do not expect that this is a problem that will recur, I do not expect it will be a problem we will have to solve in the future.

I want to take the point made about Zone 2 land. The conditions under which Zone 2 land can be utilised have been clearly delineated ever since the 1970's which Mr. Arthur Archer designed for the Government and the Cabinet of the day articulated a policy with regard to the zoning of land for water purposes. The kind of building that will be allowed in Zone 1 has been articulated. In Zone 2 there is a specific methodology which any property owner who gets permission to build a house must follow if he or she is to live in that house. Strict adherence to those rules will be applied.

As to the question of pit-borne, there is a philosophical belief by the professionals in the Ministry of Health that in Zone 2 areas the pit toilet is superior to the water-borne facility. They operate on the thesis that because it is Zone 2 solid waste and leech-it will not permeate into the system, if at all, but if it does it will not be as rapid as water-borne systems. The advice coming from one professional to another would hold to that view.

However, there is a methodology by which water-borne systems can be introduced into a Zone 2 without grave danger to the water system, which could not be allowed in a Zone 1. Therefore, in a housing settlement, a human settlement as large as this one would be, I believe the Minister would be required by the health authorities – that is to say, the Ministry of Health will require that there be a judicious mix of water-borne facilities with the pit-borne facilities.

Those persons who had to move from the Belle, who had to move in a hurry and who at the time could not accommodate the cost of water-borne facilities, were permitted and in some instances encouraged to have the pit-borne facilities, but I have no doubt that as a matter of policy the Government would not wish, within the urban areas of Bridgetown, to have pit toilets. To the extent that we can avoid having pit toilets, we will seek to do so.

I am explaining for the Honourable Member, Sir, because I think it is important. Those particular pit toilets were on the advice of the technocrats, who felt that given the speed with which people had to move, and to avoid persons making errors with regard to the environment, that they would in the first instance have pit toilets, but as all of us know, we graduate from pit toilets to water-borne facilities and the water-borne facilities have to be uniform and in order. They will have to be approved before they are put in. I hear there are 93 lots. Each single one will have to be specifically approved. There is a particular design which will make sure that the environment is not sullied.

I do not think anyone can accuse any politician on either side of this House of not being interested in the environment. Unfortunately, because of the adversarial

relationship which we necessarily must have, sometimes we tend to run down one another, but I do not know...

Aside.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: No, no, we recognise a terrorist when we see one. There is a difference between a real terrorist and an economic terrorist, especially if the economic terrorist is in the Barbados Labour Party. They are really paper terrorists, but that is not the point, Sir.

I am saying that I do not believe that there is any politician - and I am really saying this for the vanguard that writes to the newspapers and tries to run down the politicians when they talk about the environment, as though we are nobody, we do not exist, we do not drink the water here. I do not know what water anybody named Benjamin could drink that I do not drink, but I know I might drink water that anybody named Benjamin does not drink, because I would not buy bottled water or any of those things. I am just saying that it is not fair to portray the Government or the politicians as not being interested in the environment. The history of the environment and the health services in this country is a history of all the Governments in this country over the last 25 years, all of them working assiduously to ensure that we have an environment in which especially our water resources and our water reserves are well taken care of.

If I speak, Sir, to this Resolution with a tinge of regret at the debate that has gone on in the past about what happened in the Belle, then it is because I wish to clear the air.

Mr. Speaker, one last point. What is not known perhaps, or if known is not recognised, is that we have caused stakes to be put in the roadway going toward the Belle which have precluded all of the trucks that used to go at night illegally and dump the commercial garbage into the Belle. For the last two years the Belle, I cannot say is as clean as a whistle, but it certainly has been pristine almost in its cleanliness - I am told I can say it is as clean as a whistle - and we intend to drive stakes down in the driveway to every gully in Barbados so that those commercial trucks, and I repeat, commercial trucks who empty their garbage in the gullies when everybody is sleeping, cannot get access to the gullies. We have asked the police and we ourselves are getting the supervisors in the Sanitation Service Authority to drive about at night looking for those who contaminate the environment by emptying their garbage at night. I am talking about commercial houses. We are making sure and we are going to tighten up to ensure that this becomes an almost ABC in the minds of people at the adult level.

3.35 p.m.

I drove behind a car the other day, and I saw come out of the car, at respectable intervals, first a piece

paper, then a piece of box, then a piece of chicken. The car was one of those cars where you can't see inside. You know how you have to be careful when you drive behind these cars. As the car stopped, I drove up next to the person and suggested, "You know, if you had a little thing to put that in, you would be able to throw it out one time." Mr. Speaker, the language which greeted me was so... I couldn't repeat it even outside of here. The language was worst than the contamination that had happened, and it dawned on me that we have a very difficult task and each of us is going to have to become some kind of environmental policeman. Each of us is going to have to take some step because there are some people who have become insensitive to what is happening. Some of them are very selfish.

I will make bold to say that not one of the Honourable Members on the other side or on this side would throw a piece of paper out of their car or condone anybody throwing a piece of paper out of their airconditioned cars or whatever kinds of cars they drive. I think that we, as citizens of this country, have to go beyond casting aspersions and blame when we come to discuss the environment. I feel that each of us has a special responsibility and I can only give the assurance that this Government, while it has the responsibility will take whatever steps are necessary, expedient and possible to ensure that we retain this heritage which has been given to us by the forefathers down through the years, and make this environment well.

This policy here is an attempt to do that. I have no doubt that the Minister when he winds up will be able to deal with it in more specifics. I wanted to deal with that aspect of it to assure the population that the environmental division of the Ministry of Health is losing no opportunity to ensure that our environment remains pure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, following on the intervention by the Honourable Minister of Health, and since no other Honourable Members wish to speak, I would want to wind this debate up by replying to some of the points made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and at the same time indicate very clearly the position of the Government on matters of this nature.

Let me start out by saying, Sir, using the famous and well known quotation: "Let him who is without sin, cast the first stone". Now the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East would want the public, I suppose, or this Honourable Chamber, to believe that the Barbados Labour Party never found itself in a position where it acquired land for a particular purpose, changed its mind on that acquisition, went ahead and used it for other purposes and then sought parliamentary approval for it. It has happened over and over again with that administration and

it happened with this administration. I am not saying it is right. The fact of the matter is that during the 1981-86 period, I could give you a number of examples, but I will give just one which reached the Floor of this House and occasioned a lot of debate. It was on the occasion when the Barbados Labour Party acquired an area of land for building a playing field at Gall Hill. The playing field facilities were already there, and they changed the use of the land to housing. They went in and put in house spots, allocated the house spots and then came to this Honourable Chamber after all that was done and got approval for the change of use.

I am saying that this kind of activity has been used by the last administration and it has happened in this administration. I am not saying that it is right, but these things happen. So, they have nothing really to hold on to.

The other point which I want to make is, I gather that when the Honourable Member for St. Michael East was speaking he made the point that the Barbados Labour Party was advised against the Transport Board on this location. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East denied that. Sir, he rose on a point of order. Now, I have a note here on the file which indicated – I can make it a document of the House if you want it to. I memorised it, so I don't have to read it – that a site visit was made to Haggatt Hall in the area by Cutting Road by the Ministry of Transport and Works along with the officials including the Barbados Water Authority and the Chief Town Planner. The General Manager of the Barbados Water Authority indicated that this site was unsuitable for siting of the Transport Board because of the oil and gas and a whole range of effluence which would have emanated from the Transport Board operations. They advised the Government against acquiring this land for that particular purpose. When we hear the Barbados Labour Party now coming and ranting and raving about the Belle and the location of the Belle, I want to make the point that they were doing the same thing.

3.45 p.m.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: On a point of order. It has always been my understanding that Ministers do not release advice given by advisers in those circumstances. The Honourable Member says it is no point, Sir. When he mentions who is the adviser he exposes the very adviser in the circumstances, particularly where it is known that this particular adviser has been sent home recently.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: The fact remains, Sir, that the records must show that the Barbados Labour Party was advised against siting the Transport Board in this particular area and yet they went ahead and acquired it for this particular purpose. As I said, when the Democratic Labour Party came into office we looked at it and it was agreed

that the site was unsuitable and consequently we made a decision to site the Transport Board headquarters in Kendal Hill in Christ Church.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just like to assure the Honourable Member he needs not shout beyond his normal voice to be heard because I have already put in trend how to deal with noises that prevent an Honourable Member from making his contribution. You need not raise your voice. Speak at your normal voice.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Sir. Thank you, Sir. The point I am making, Sir, is that the point which was made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East about acquiring the land for commercial purposes and now changing it to housing is really a non point. It should not have been acquired for that purpose in the first place.

Now, Sir, the other point which I would want to make and certainly reiterate the point which was made by the Honourable Minister of Health, is that the Chief Town Planner under the law has certain...

Mr. SPEAKER: May I make another observation? If Honourable Members need to converse with each other about something, you can come to the back of the Chair and make your point. I am not going to accept this kind of cross talking. The back of the Chair is available.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Under the law the Chief Town Planner has responsibility to conform with a number of things and where people are seen to be breaking the law, as in the instance of squatting, he has to carry out his responsibility, that is, of serving notices and ensuring that laws are complied with. I think the point has to be made. The Government has no responsibility to provide alternative accommodation for people. Now, I am making this point quite clear. If, for example you come and squat on my land and notices have been served on you and all of the legal areas have been exhausted, I don't have to provide any alternative accommodation for you. The fact of the matter is that squatting is illegal and the Town and Country Planner was carrying out his responsibility as far as notices are concerned. Now, this humane administration took it upon itself to identify an area of land where they would be able to resite the people and the provision was therefore made to do the resiting in a phased process.

You will recall, Sir, that during the Estimates I indicated that the relocation of the offending persons would be done under a phased programme. The first programme has, for practical purposes, been completed and those persons who were resited were resited along the Cutting Road where they were in close proximity to the services. The National Housing Corporation is in the process of developing the other areas of land to accommodate the other people who must move from that particular area.

I agree entirely with the Honourable Minister of Health where, whenever this is done, the resiting has to be done according to the specific regulations relating to Health and the environment and all of the other requirements which have got to be fulfilled. So that what we also indicated to the persons concerned was that we would make it possible for them to apply to the National Housing Corporation for a loan to assist them with complying with the requirements of health and the environment and all of the other requirements that would be necessary.

The land on which they will be resited they will either have to purchase that land or rent it, or indeed, Sir, we have also indicated, very clearly that the rents which they pay for the land will eventually be converted into payments towards their eventual ownership of this particular land.

That, Sir, is a humane and reasonable position taken by this administration. Nobody is seeking to put the persons concerned in a worse position than they were before, but it must be clearly understood, Sir, that we cannot encourage a situation where people would want to go and squat in areas which are Zone 1 areas, on which they know they cannot squat, and then politicians going behind them and telling them, oh you can go there because if the Government has to move you they are going to provide you with water, light, and repair your house and all of that kind of thing, which really places a tremendous strain on the Government. What we have done, is that we are going to develop the land and make sure that the people will have somewhere to go but at the same time they have to recognise that they have responsibilities too.

The interesting thing in this, Sir, is that those people in the Belle who have moved so far, the National Housing Corporation did not have to move them, they moved themselves and we know that a lot more of this can be done. We will have to make sure that this is done because we cannot be seen as politicians to be encouraging people to go and squat and then the fairy godmother will come and provide them with facilities which they did not have before and at great cost.

Sir, I think the position is very clear. We have made it possible, if I may repeat, for accommodation for the people concerned who are in the Zone 1 areas to move into this area, the land which will be made available to them, in the first instance, is made available on a rental basis but eventually they can own it but the rents which they pay towards it would be credited towards their eventual ownership of the land. Those who can buy the land outright they would be most welcomed and we will make sure that is done.

I would like to make it very clear, Sir, that we have to be very firm on this and certainly the Ministry will be very firm on this and one would see that the Ministry of Health is also adopting a very tough position on these matters because in the final analysis, I think, we have a responsibility for coming generations to ensure that we have proper development in this country and one which is environmentally acceptable to each and every one of us.

Sir, with those remarks, I would want therefore to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, September 17, 1991 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, September 17, 1991 at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
3.55 p.m.

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St. JOHN, Mr. H. B. (Christ Church South)
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