
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 17, 1992.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at on Tuesday, November 17, 1992.

PRESENT

His Honour L. A. **WEEKES**, G.C.M., J.P., (Speaker)
His Honour T. C. ESTWICK, **B.Sc., LL.B.**, (Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P., (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)

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

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

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

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

Hon. N. K. **SIMMONS**, (Minister of Justice and Public Safety)

Mr. H. A. **BLACKMAN**, **B.Sc.** (Econ.)

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, G.C.M., B.A., **Ed.M.**, (Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture)

Hon. W. W. **HALL**, G.C.M., H.B.M., (Minister of Tourism and Sports)

Mr. C. **LeR. TROTMAN**, M.A.

Hon. 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**, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)

Mr. J. O. **TUDOR**

Mr. D. W. **BOWEN** (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)

Mr. R. C. **EASTMOND**, B.A., **LL.B.**

Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, November 10, 1992.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the Meeting held on November 10, 1992 have been circulated and I move that they be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of September 1992 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Twenty-third Annual Report and

Financial Statements of the Barbados Development Bank for the year ended March **31, 1992**.

I am also commanded, Sir, to lay the **1991** Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am commanded, Mr. Speaker, to lay the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended December **31, 1991**.

On behalf, Sir, of the Minister for Housing, Lands, Community Development and Culture, I lay the Annual Reports of the Child Care Board for the years April **1988** to March **1989** and April **1989** to March **1990** by the power of the Cabinet, and also by the same authority I lay the Annual Reports of the Welfare Department for the years April **1, 1989** to March **31, 1990** and April **1, 1990** to March **31, 1991**.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter. A Resolution noting the Statement by the Minister of State.

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Whereas the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on November **11, 1992** made a Ministerial Statement setting out Government's policy on privatisation, be it resolved that this House note the statement by the Minister of State.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas – appointment of persons to the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands

- (1) Will the Minister please state what are the criteria used by the National Housing Corporation for the appointment of persons to the permanent establishment and **for promotion?**
- (2) Will the Minister please state the number of persons on the permanent establishment of the said corporation?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member. The state of roads and bridge in the district of Arch Hall, St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minister of Public Works, Communications and Transportation, Mr. Speaker

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the road passing through the district of Arch Hall in the parish of St. Thomas is in grave need of repair?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that the bridge in the said district is on the point of **collapse?**

If the answers are in the affirmative, will the Minister please state what plans his Ministry has for **carrying** out remedial works to the said roads and bridge?

Mr. SPEAKER: The **same** Honourable Member, need of recreational facilities at Arch Hall, Bennetts, Reeves Hill, St. Thomas.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Tourism and Sports (1) Is the Minister aware that the residents of Arch Hall, Bennetts, Reeves Hill, in the parish of St. Thomas ...

Aside.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, if the Honourable Minister of Health will behave himself, Sir, **and** not be fixated by the use of the word Arch Hall, I will repe'at, Sir.

Is the Minister aware that the residents of Arch **Hall, Bennetts**, Reeves Hill, in the parish of St. Thomas and Sea View in the parish of St. James are in need of recreational facilities? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister take steps to cause land to be acquired for the purpose of establishing such facilities for the use and benefit of the said residents?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same Honourable Member, the Barbados High Commission and Consul General's Office in Canada operating in reduced premises.

Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS: To ask the Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs –

Will the Minister **please** state whether it is a fact that the Barbados High Commission and the Consul General's Office in Canada are **currently** operating in **spacially** reduced premises? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister please state –

- (1) the nature and extent of the reduced operations, and
- (2) how many persons are working in the said offices?

Mr. SPEAKER: End of Private Members' Notices.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am moving, at this point, the suspension of the following Standing Orders: Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, **42(5)**, 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day's sitting, Sir.

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

The question that those Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 4 – TO RESUME DEBATE ON THE BILL TO AMEND THE PHARMACY ACT, CAP. 372D AND THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND **INTELLECTUAL** PROPERTY OFFICE ACT, CAP. 21A

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recall that we had asked that this matter be postponed. I beg to move that consideration of this matter be resumed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection then this matter is resumed.

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT, seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Your Honour will recall that when last this matter was visited we were having discussions on the question. There was some vigorous discussion on the desirability or otherwise of having the registry for pharmacies within the Ministry of Health itself. I gave an undertaking then that I would examine the matter. In fact, Mr. Chairman, having now examined the matter, and in all of the circumstances, I have to ask the Committee to proceed. The fact is that, while the argument from the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is attractive on the face of it, and indeed it was buttressed by supporting information from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, the truth is that the Registrar is not required under the present law or under the proposed amendment to do nothing more than to keep the registry.

All of the investigation and all of the matters concerning whether a pharmacy can function as a **pharmacy** are, in fact, approved by the Minister.

12.35 p.m.

The other shops in the business are registered by the Corporate Registrar. For example, the **Ministry** of Trade is responsible for the administration of shops. But the shops are not registered in the Ministry of Trade and, for uniformity, the Government of the day argued this and I think that there is sufficient to be said for it.

In any event, Mr. Chairman, this matter has been outstanding now for 3 years. While we may discuss which is the most appropriate, the fact is that the premises are not now being registered and they have to be registered. Sir, I am asking that this matter be proceeded with and we look at any changes to be made sometime in the not too distant future.

I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, what I really want to ask is a question but I want to make a point as well. The Minister is saying that this has been outstanding for 3 years. I am suggesting that because it has been outstanding for 3 years that now is the time to get it right and not to do a half baked thing. There are many premises which have to be inspected under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. For instance, where doctors carry out operations and so on. Under more than one piece of legislation, doctors' offices have to be inspected and approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Where is the registry for that kept? There are many other premises including trading premises which have to be inspected and approved. Also, hairdressers and eating premises have to be approved. Where are the registers for those kept? Let us be consistent. If they are not kept, I think we need to look at the thing in the whole. Do not start a **piece-meal** thing and then find that you are keeping registers in 4 or 5 different Ministries.

Sir, I need to know the answers to the questions. Where are the registers for other premises **which** have to be inspected by the Ministry of Health, because there are a number of premises which will fall under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. Dental offices, doctors' offices and others have to be approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and registers of those places must be kept. I am saying now that the pharmacies, as distinct from pharmacists, fall under that. It really will not do to have the register of pharmacies in one Ministry and the register for dental offices and so on in another, the register for hairdressing premises in a third and the register for something else in a fourth. I want the Minister to make it quite clear to us exactly how consistent he is proposing to be if at all.

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that the Honourable Minister and the Government have caved in on this matter. They are in control and I am not going to obstruct them, but I just want to point out something. Section 15 of the Act is abundantly clear and it says:

"(1) No person shall, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of another, person, operate a pharmacy on any premises unless

- (a) the Council has, with the approval of the Minister, certified the premises as being suitable for operating a pharmacy;
- (b) the premises have been registered for the purpose of operating a pharmacy; and
- (c) the pharmacy operated on the premises is under the immediate control, management and supervision of a pharmacist.

(2) Certification of the premises is obtainable by

- (a) making application to the Council in such form as the Minister approves; and
- (b) stating in the application such particulars respecting the premises as the Council, with the approval of the Minister, requires, and subject to the approval of the Minister, the Council may, upon payment by the applicant of such fee as the Minister of Finance, by order, prescribes, issue to the applicant, a certificate of approval respecting the premises; and the certificate must at all times be kept conspicuously displayed on the premises.

(3) P. certificate issued under this section is not transferable.

(4) Where a pharmacy is in operation at the date of the commencement of this Act, application for certification must be made within 6 weeks from that date."

Section 16 states:

"(1) Registration of premises is obtainable by presenting to the Registrar a certificate issued under Section 15(2) and paying to him such fee as the Minister of Finance, by order, prescribes.

(2) The Registrar shall, upon being satisfied that a certificate be presented to him under subsection (1) is in order,

(a) enter in a register to be kept and maintained by him and to be known as "the Register of Pharmacies", the address and description of the premises in respect of which a certificate of approval is issued; and

(b) issue in respect of those premises a certificate of registration."

Now the Registrar meant the Registrar of the Supreme Court. Having regard to that scheme of legislation where all of the work in relation to obtaining of the certificate and the suitability of the premises is done in the Ministry of Health, the mechanical process of keeping a register of pharmacies, in my opinion, would best lie within the Ministry of Health. That is all I am trying to point out. If you are going to say that all of the criteria to determine the eligibility of the premises are within the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Health, it is the Council that has to determine it.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: This is the most amazing thing, Sir. I do not care who did it if it was done **originally**. On sober reflection, I regard it as bad. That is no problem. A certificate of approval respecting the premises is issued by the Council. Therefore, after you have issued that, for the mechanical process of keeping the register I say the logical place is in the Ministry of **Health**. If the premises deteriorate, surely they would want to know within their registry itself what the premises are if they are going to monitor them. Presumably, they have a book setting out how many certificates of approval are issued. This is the kind of legislation that creates jobs and increases cost.
12.45 p.m.

You have a double system. One person must issue an approval, the other person must hand it over and create another book to record the approval and has absolutely no function. There is no other function in relation to this, you know, because the more I look at it, in section 18 the Registrar does not have any **power** to cancel, but Council may cancel or suspend a certificate issued under section 15(2) if a pharmacy is no longer operating on the premises to which the certificate relates. What are we doing here? The bureaucrats say you must go on so; so the automatons will send it on so. But this is really deserving of having section 16 cut out altogether. The same person who issues the approval should at the same time issue a certificate of registration, and we will get rid of all of that unnecessary power, because you have a book with columns in it – Approved, Date of Approval, Certificate Issued – and you collect the fees too. You have to go to the Treasury, pay the fee and go to somebody. This is a real waste of time.

We should be cutting down expenses, not increasing them, Sir.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: It is possible that the Honourable Member is correct. Here are the facts, however, Sir. When I became Minister of Health I became aware that we were operating **illegally**.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: It has to be illegal, because it says no pharmacy shall exist unless it is registered. The Registrar, under the Act, **was** the Supreme Court Registrar. I said to the officials: "I **am** not going to preside over an illegal regime. Could you please have the pharmacies registered?" The Registrar said: "I am not registering them, full stop."

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: Yes, she said so. You have asked me to say this, so I **am** going to say it. The Registrar said: "I am not registering them." I said: "Well, the Minister says now send it to whoever you have to send it to, because you are now requiring me to participate in illegal activity." This is a fact of life. I have tried, and now for three years we have pharmacies in Barbados not registered, while the various powers that be down below Minister are going back and forth.

Now the Honourable Members are probably right. I am saying I do not care who registers them, I want them registered. The people who are to advise say let the Registrar of Corporate Affairs register them. If they say let the Chief Justice register them, I would let him register them.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: But that is the whole point. You are constantly saying that I must not take power unto myself. Now I have come and said: "Give me a chance to do this thing legally," you are saying to me: "Go back and continue the illegal bit." I am sorry. I cannot. I am saying to you that what we need is a Registrar General.

The Honourable Member talked about the work done by the inspectors, **et cetera**. The fact is that a doctor in this society has to be approved by the Medical Council. You could theoretically say, in response to the Honourable Member for the City, that since the Medical Council is serviced by the Ministry of Health, doctors should be registered, and doctors' offices as premises are not inspected and registered.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: It does not say **so**. They do not keep any register for that. The law does not require it. You may say that as a matter of policy it should be **so**. The point I am making is, the Registrar **took** care of the doctors, the lawyers. The Corporate Registrar looks after the shops, so when you go now for a shop licence to keep a liquor **shop** the Police inspect that. The Police decide **that** you could get the licence and then the **Corporate** Registrar keeps the registry. The Corporate Registrar is like a Registrar General, but that is what we need. If the Registrar is saying that she is not going to keep it, somebody has to register them:

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: But that is what I thought. I thought that the Registrar was a Registrar General, and this law says so, but if the Registrar tells you. . . .

Asides.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: Mr. Chairman, this is necessary for the record and for the Honourable Members. The Ministry of Health wrote to the Registrar, on my directions, **as** follows:

"Registration of **Pharmacies**

Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act provides for the registration of pharmacies. All pharmacies are currently routinely inspected by the Drug Inspectorate, but no official certificate of registration is issued as required by the law.

The Ministry would like the registration system instituted so that all pharmacies can be registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act.

I should therefore be grateful if you would make the necessary arrangement **so** that the registration process could commence from January, 1990."

The Registrar, after some little time, replied on the **4th**:

"I acknowledge your **Memorandum**, reference. . . I was of the opinion, after discussions with officers at the Ministry of Health, that the legislation would be amended so that the registration of pharmacies would be dealt with by the Ministry of Health.

I have been expressing the view from the drafting stage of the legislation that the Registrar of the Supreme Court is not the proper officer to deal with the registration of pharmacies. I am therefore surprised at your enquiry."

That is the communication I got from the Registrar.

In the face of that, you say I do not mind what you do, and I **am** not going to go into any details of the position I have taken, because in truth there should have been a Writ of **Mandamus** on the part of somebody to get the functionary to perform the duty which the law required the functionary to perform. That is what should have happened. I **am** not involved in who should or should not do what. If the law says that the Leader of the Opposition is to cut finger nails, if he does not cut finger nails we will go to court and let the court direct him to cut the finger nails.

I do not wish you to give the impression that I **am** here wasting the Committee's time. This was January 1990 and it is almost January 1993.

Aside.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: That is part of the problem we have in the country, that functionaries have not been called upon and required to do their duty under the law.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to have that kind of interruption when a member is on his feet.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: Mr. **Chairman**, I beg to move that clause 2 stand part.

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

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

12.55 p.m.

The Schedule was called.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

On the motion of Hon. B. M. TAITT seconded by Hon. M. A. KING, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. B. M. TAITT the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 10 - BILL FOR THE REGULATION, DISTRIBUTION AND CENSORSHIP OF FILMS

Hon. P. M. **GREAVES**: Mr. Speaker, the **Minister** of Agriculture will be taking charge on this occasion.

Hon. D. W. **BOWEN**: Mr. **Speaker**, this Bill seeks to repeal the 1940 Cinematograph Film Censorship Act.

For some time, Mr. Speaker, members of the Film Censorship Board and, indeed, the general public have been agonising over the fact that the existing legislation does not take into account the rapid technological changes that have been taking **place** in the film industry especially as it relates to the distribution and the viewing of films. Government **took** a conscious decision in December 1988 to review the legislation and it used as its basis the proposals which were submitted by the Film Censorship Board and also the Theatres Act of Ontario and the British Video Recording Act, 1984. These were used as the guidelines for preparing the present Bill which is before us.

We also sought to have as wide as possible debate and consultation with a number of outside agencies. In all, we liaised with 30 organisations which included the Child Care Board, the Police, the Bar Association, the Trade Union Movement and Life **Underwriters** Association. These are some of the organisations which made comment and suggestions on the legislation of the Bill that is before us.

I think it would be worthwhile to **trace** what has happened over the last 50 years in the film industry which has, to all intents and purposes, rendered the existing legislation obsolete and outdated. As I said, the current legislation was **enacted** in 1940 and that Act defines "film" according to the standards of the day. It declared that "film" meant a "cinematograph film" and it related to motion picture film in **35mm**, 16mm and 8mm widths. This obviously excluded television film. Of course, in the old Act there were certain provisions relating to the powers of the Governor to establish a Board of not less than 5 persons and a secretary to the Board, and it also gave the Governor certain powers to change the Board as he **saw** fit.

The basic terms of reference of the then Board was to look at the suitability of the film for public exhibition and gave the Board the right to refuse or approve the films subject to excisions being made in respect of certain areas and also to endorse the same as not being suitable for children. According to the present guidelines, there were 3 classifications in the old **Act** - films which were classified as 'general, films classified as P.A. or Parental Advice necessary and adult films.

Over time, as I said there has been vast technological changes which we believe have altered the ideas, the values, the practices and indeed, the lifestyle of Barbadians. Running concomitant was the acquisition of the television set, the video and cassette recorder and, in the case of the privileged few, of the satellite dish. This has had certain far-reaching implications on the moral fabric of society. As Hollywood expanded its promotion and went into what B termed generally, films of realism, so the Barbadian taste

understandably changed and that taste was developed for such films.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act takes **all** these shortcomings into consideration. It also takes into consideration the growing phenomenon of the "blue movie", or the underground film with its uninhibited scenes of full frontal nudity, the sex act in all its **variations** and even scenes of homosexuality. As I said, against this background, therefore, we have drafted this new Bill which has a number of major changes. If I may enumerate them:

- (i) The definition of the word "film" will now include not only cinematograph film but video tapes and other medium from which may be produced visual images that may be viewed as moving pictures.

In that regard you **see** how the scope is widened.

- (ii) The new Bill also **seeks** to extend the powers and the duties of the Film Censorship Board to include the censorship of video tapes.

1.05 p.m.

- (iii) To include a new system of classification.

As I alluded to a while ago, under the old system there were 3 areas of classification, general, parental advice and adult. Now, in the new system under the new **Bill** it is being proposed that there be 4, family, parental permission, adult supervision and adult. It might be worthwhile to note, Mr. Speaker, there are at present 138 registered video shops and this legislation will affect these organisations since they will now be required to register with the Film Censorship Board where their operations will be monitored.

I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to refer to a number of new areas in the Bill. Part **III** of the Bill speaks to the question of exempted work which was hitherto not addressed in the old Bill. Part **II**, section 6 refers also to search **warrants**. This again is a new provision. Just to cite an example of the problems which the Film Censorship Board have been facing over time, on one occasion acting on a tip-off a member of the Film Censorship Board visited a cinema in Bridgetown where a blue movie double was being shown. By the time we went through the process of getting the police to come on the scene and so on, the movie was over. Needless to say the matter is now before the Court.

There are also certain aspects of television showing which have been of great concern to the Film Censorship Board which we hope would be regularised. I take this opportunity to seek the further and full cooperation of CBC. I will cite 2 brief examples. We have had problems where we entered into a gentleman's agreement with CBC

over the showing of trailers, what we call cuts, that these should be shown after **10:00 p.m.** We all know now these cuts are shown in prime time. There is also the question of the issue where films are rated as adult films by the Film Censorship Board but then they are shown on CBC on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday nights in the full viewing of **children**. **These** are areas which **concern** us and which, now that we are looking to completely overhaul film censorship and put on the statute book a new Act, we hope we can have the full co-operation of not only CBC but indeed the other Government agencies and the private sector agencies with whom the Film Censorship Board would be called upon to interface.

With these introductory remarks, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that.

Mr. H. **deB.** FORDE: Mr. Speaker, we will be suggesting to the Government that this Bill be referred to a select committee. I would like to suggest **preferably** that the House should invite the Senate to participate in such a committee so that it would be possible to use the knowledge and expertise available on both sides of the House and, indeed, available to Parliament as a whole to improve the legislation which the Honourable Minister has just introduced.

Let me say, Sir, we agree that it is necessary to update the legislation dealing with the censorship of films and related material. Technological developments have made the existing Cinematograph Film Censorship Act fully outdated. In this regard we understand the rationale behind the Minister's decision to bring before the House a new Bill. However, we believe the Bill should go further than looking at the concept of regulation and control of the standards of decency which one wants to see in the display of films and like material, whether it is to the public or in one's home, and look at the opportunities which should be exploited by Barbadians to use the technological developments for employment creation in the whole area of the arts and films in particular. We think that in this regard the Bill is probably defective and we should look, therefore, at specific provisions to see how we can improve those opportunities.

Let me give one example, **Mr.** Speaker. This Bill will now allow the **Film** Censorship Board to send and grade videos. But whilst that is an improvement and an extension, it has not taken into account that people can now watch films by laser discs and it is therefore necessary to extend the definition contained in section 2 of the Act to take account of the developments that are occurring in this regard. Likewise, the Minister says that the Board will now be able to control the 138 registered video shops. I am surprised at the small number of shops which are registered

because from our survey on the side of the Opposition we have found that there are now over 400 video shops operating, whether some are operating illegally in Barbados I would not know, and they are mostly operated, let me say, with the exception of one or 2 major shop owners, by the small person. They provide a good avenue of private entrepreneurial spirit. One wants, therefore, to encourage this development and encourage private enterprise, particularly among the small people, without putting in their way too many checks and balances which in the long run will cost them money.

Let me say again, Sir, that although provision is being made for the Film Censorship Board to supervise video shops I doubt very much, having regard to the provisions for the Board, whether the enforcement provisions are adequate. It seems to me that this may be another bit of legislation, like so much of the legislation we now have on the statute book, in which there are provisions in the law but the actual enforcement of the law will not take place.

One of the defects of this legislation is that there seem to be no provisions in here for staff to carry out and supervise the functions of the Board. It is a mistake to believe that this is another duty being heaped on the Police Force of Barbados. The Minister should give consideration to a small but effective unit attached in the appropriate Ministry or to the Board whose function it will be to supervise the Act and the Regulations under the Act, and to ensure that the enforcement provisions are given teeth. I believe that the cost of such a unit can be easily absorbed by the kind of fees you would get from what is obviously an expanding industry.

The other major defect we would like to address in a joint committee of Parliament, Sir, is the improved protection which is required for artistes in Barbados.
1.15 p.m.

Let me say this: that within the last 20 years we have, in all aspects of the arts, whether it is the visual arts or the audio arts, whatever of the arts, we have seen a tremendous upsurge in creativity among our young people. What we have to do now is to harness this natural talent whether it is coming from our musicians or poets or film makers or photographers, we must harness this natural talent and creativity and put it to productive purposes. We have to recognize that the United States in particular and other developed countries have used their knowledge industries as their major way of earning foreign exchange.

We are very much behind in not having given assistance to our artistes and I again repeat, whether they are musicians or actors or poets, we are very behind hand in giving them assistance and encouragement in marketing their obvious industry and talents in order to maximize their own standards of living and at the same time help contribute to the foreign exchange of this country. I doubt

whether the Government has really pursued seriously at the GATT negotiations the whole area of intellectual property. It is obvious that the developed countries see this as one of the major planks in negotiations for them to harness whatever benefits they can to the detriment of developing countries.

Let me bring it down, Sir, out of words to actuality. There is no reason why the music of our calypsonians, of our gospel singers and others should not be today earning for them in the wider Caribbean and the world at large tremendous foreign exchange. But we need as a people to put behind them not only our support at Crop Over. We need consistently as a Government so to fashion the laws and so to fashion the incentives and other practices and loans and what not or arrangements for loans to these young people, that they can market their talents not only in the Caribbean but in the wider world in competition with the developed countries.

Last Sunday I sat in my bedroom and watched the Richard Stoute Teen Show and I saw a display of extremely promising young artistes who obviously need further assistance, further than Richard Stoute can give them to develop into world class performers. But we have not, as a people, made any facilities available to them. Outside of the couple of auditoriums in Barbados, what have we done for these young people? Let us take our photographers, those particularly who are producing video material now, whether it is by way of advertisements of goods, whether it is by way of video material of Laff It Off or some other function, what have we done? We must ask ourselves again, as a Government, what have we done to help them produce and market what is obviously outstanding material?

It is in this regard that I believe Government will profit tremendously from the contribution which, on this side of the House, the Opposition is prepared to make because we consider it important that this area of knowledge industries should now be developed to its maximum and to the benefit of the artistes. Likewise, the artistes themselves sometimes do not even know their own rights under existing legislation such as the copyright legislation in particular and in other regards also under the Trade Marks Regulations. Many of them are not even being paid nowadays by the very CBC the royalties to which they are entitled. Very often I see some business person having an advertisement of their particular goods on television and using the song of a local artiste as synchronization and my enquiries have led me to the conclusion that they are not paid any fees for this synchronization process. And that is wrong. Once again, many artistes do not know that they are entitled to be paid in this regard and there seems to be no existing procedure, under existing laws or administrative practices to help them.

Let me again give another area that the Government should be able to exploit, develop and assist the artistes to exploit and develop. Very often we travel abroad and we buy gifts for our children, our grandchildren, or for our nieces and nephews and the whole lot of them and we may buy a story being told about the Mice of Bramley Hill or whatever it is called, Sir, and we fail to recognize that it is possible here in the Caribbean to build up an **industry** educational in nature, as well around our own story tellers, around our own artistes work and at the same time help them to **earn** a proper living. So there are tremendous opportunities, Mr. Speaker, for expanding into real industry the artistic talents of our people, in music, in drama, in poetry, in prose, however you want it. But we must grasp the opportunities that are now available and harness them in this way.

I would hope, therefore, that we would take the opportunity to see this piece of legislation as one in a series of legislative acts dovetailing together and being used in a proper way to maximize the earnings of our people. When I was Attorney-General I had the privilege of drafting and setting up a regime in the area of intellectual property and we brought down a new and updated Copyright Act, industrial designs legislation and trade marks legislation. We used the opportunities provided to us by the World Intellectual Property Organization for training some of our **draftsmen** and other persons in this area of intellectual property. There are several scholarships offered by the World Organizations in various aspects of intellectual property. I would hope Government could tell us whether it has been making use of these opportunities and sending some of our talented film and video makers abroad to learn how to exploit the opportunities that are there for them.

Barbados could also become a major area of film production. Jamaica has taken the lead in this regard and is ahead of us. I would have expected the Minister to tell the House whether the Government has made any moves along this line **to develop** Barbados as a film centre. We have in place in our legislation some of the necessary legislation, incentives. We can use our tax and other incentive legislation to develop Barbados as a centre for film production. Those are the sorts of policy initiatives that are required.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must also advert to another area, the area of piracy. Let me admit it, one of the reasons why we have had such an increase in the number of video shops in Barbados is because we have learnt how to pirate the films of other countries and to a large extent we have got away with it. We have to be conscious, however, that when the new GATT comes into place and even before the **new** Agreement on Trades and Tariffs will be in place, we have

to be conscious of the fact that the United States has begun to flex its muscles in no uncertain terms because of its own internal economic problems. Just as it is pressurizing the Government through the IMF to liberalise trade in relation to industrial and ago-industrial products, we expect that it would be pressurizing Government in the area of the regulation of intellectual property shortly. **Therefore** we in turn must press for reciprocity to ensure that our budding artistes are not disadvantaged in this way and that whether they are **calypsonians**, gospel singers, whoever they are, their works will be getting as good protection in the developed markets and that their songs, their writings, will not be purloined and misused.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Caribbean peoples need have no fear of their talent and their ability. If there was any doubt about it we can look at the fact that only recently Derek Walcott was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and we have many Derek Walcotts in our midst. I believe therefore, Sir, that it is necessary for us, as a matter of urgency, to look at the international conventions regulating the regime of trafficking in intellectual property, to ensure that under those conventions, whether it is the Paris Convention, the Berne Convention, or whatever other convention it is, we get a fair deal for our artistes.

The Minister has concentrated to a large extent, in his presentation, on the standards of morality or decency which should operate in viewing films. He has made passing reference to the growth within our jurisdiction in blue movies. I think that one is going, again, in this regard to have to look very carefully at controlling the type of film which is an obvious offence to public morality and at the same time not impinging too much on persons' private lives if they do matters within their own bedrooms. Within the United States, England and what not, these are some of the areas of the legislation that are hotly contested. Indeed, if you read the law reports, in Canada or elsewhere, you will see that legislation of this nature, both substantive legislation and regulations, are challenged very frequently as overstepping and breaching people's fundamental rights. I have not seen the Regulations because, obviously, those have not been made yet. I would hope it is intended to lay down in the legislation the specific provisions that govern the standards of decency and morality to guide the Board when it is passing on whether or not a film or a video should be shown and where and how it should be shown and rated.

I think, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like whoever is attending to this matter to bear in mind as well the fundamental provisions of the Constitution. I would not want anything that I have said to be taken as encouraging people to expose young people in our community to some of the films that, in my view, **are** not good and should not even be viewed in your private bedroom. So, I hope that nothing which I have said would encourage them, Sir, but

one must face the fact that there are some constitutional constraints that we have to deal with when drafting this legislation.

In short, therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we support in principle the policy of the Bill, we feel there is room for improving this legislation. There is a good **deal** of talent about, both in the House and about, with **knowledge** of the whole area of intellectual property and I think, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Select Committee would work expeditiously and assiduously I can **see** no harm in asking the Government to accept our suggestion that this Bill should go to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a short intervention firstly to say that the Government has no objection to allowing this Bill to go to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament to review what has been drafted and if possible improve on the legislation. I think it is an indication of the concern which the Government and the Opposition have for this kind of legislation and the kind of standards which we want to see put in place in this country.

Now, the Leader of the Opposition made a very long intervention on the whole question of the promotion and the marketing of the arts in Barbados. Whereas one could very well argue that in some instances he went beyond the context of the Bill, nevertheless I think that the comments which he has made **are** comments which are well taken, that is, that we in Barbados have to recognise that there are very important possibilities for the export of the arts in Barbados. I would want to remind this Chamber and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that the idea is not a new one. Indeed, I should point out that in 1990 the Export Promotion Corporation of Barbados identified this area as one of the new areas which contain some potential for export and, indeed, for the earning of foreign exchange and has begun work in that particular direction. One could **recall** the whole question of the possibilities for the export of calypsoes during the Crop Over, the promotion of **our** **artistes**, our painters and a whole range of works which have been covered by the remit which the Export Promotion Corporation has had on this particular issue. So we are at one on this. I just want the Honourable Member to recognise that it is not a new area, and he is not promoting a new idea but one on which the Government has been working. The recently **established** Foreign Exchange Committee has also reemphasised this and certainly has indicated very clearly that this is an area into which they would want to go. I think that debate is useful in the sense that the Opposition and the Government are at a point where we both recognise the potential which exists in this particular area.

Sir, the whole question of standards in film is something which must be of concern to all of us. The

Honourable Member, the present Minister of Agriculture who had immediate past responsibility for this Bill and who introduced this Bill in Parliament made reference to a number of instances which are of concern to the Government and indeed to the Ministry. I **also** want to say, certainly from a personal point of view, that I am very alarmed, **as** indeed I believe a number of people in Barbados are alarmed, at the extent of violence which is present in a number of our films and the fact that these violent films are the ones which seem to be selected out of the video shops **on a** regular basis. Also, it seems these are the films which are shown with tremendous regularity on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. When we reach a situation where our national corporation can **find** none other than this kind of standard to portray to the viewing public, one must really ask some very serious questions.
1.35 p.m.

I would like to think that we pay very close attention to this. I believe that, quite apart from the changes which the society is going through, a lot of our attitudes to each other in relation to violence have been encouraged and nurtured in that type of environment which we get coming out of the **films** which are available for **general** viewing without much control.

This particular bit of legislation is most timely and one would hope that the Select Committee **which** will be set up from both Houses will be able to act on these matters in an expeditious manner because we want to see that this becomes legislation as soon **as** possible. As I **said**, the comments which have been made by the Leader of the Opposition are well taken and I will go on to indicate that Government has already begun to work in this particular **direction**. **Thank** you, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, it seems clear that both sides of the House are agreed that this matter should be sent to a Select Committee. For that reason, I am going to name 4 members on my side. I have had consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and I have asked him to let us have the name of 3 persons from that side to serve on this Select Committee. We are also going to invite the Senate. I think the point made by the Leader of the Opposition is a good one that we should invite the Senate to join with us. I am not sure of the procedures for that.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are on the second reading and we obviously will have to pass it on second reading and then ask that it goes on to the Committee. Following the Committee's Report, the Bill will come back for its final reading. We are at second reading at this stage. We are not postponing the second reading. We are completing the second reading with the proviso that it is going to be sent to the Select Committee and we will come back in on the third reading. The question of the Senate would be by way of message.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In that **case**, Sir, at this point I move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, in keeping with what I was saying a few minutes ago, we are nominating for this Committee the Honourable Minister of Housing, Lands, Community Development and **Culture**, the Honourable Minister of Education, the Honourable Minister of Health and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who is the Deputy Speaker of the House, and the Chairman of Committees to chair the Select Committee.

Hon. H. **deB.** FORDE: I would like to nominate as well to that Committee, Sir, the Honourable Member for the City, the Honourable Member for St. **Joseph** and the Honourable Member for St. **Andrew**.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I am asking at this point that an appropriate message be sent to the Other Place inviting them to nominate 3 Senators to join with our nominees to form the Select Committee to deal with this particular Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: There seems to be no objection, so the message will be sent on through the normal channels.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND
AT CLARKES ROAD, **NEAR** HOTHERSAL
TURNING, ST. **MICHAEL** TO FACILITATE
THE RELOCATION OF HOUSES

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is a rather simple exercise. As a matter of fact, the history of this matter dates back to 1988 when Cabinet examined the proposal for the acquisition of land at Clarkes Road, St. Michael which was utilised during a housing relocation exercise. I should point out that this acquisition exercise was embarked on in order to regularise Government's encroachment of the area during the relocation of houses to facilitate the construction of the ABC Highway.

The Ministry of Housing and Lands at the time initiated acquisition proceedings through private treaty. It was, however, forced to abandon this approach in favour of land acquisition when the owner did not produce title deeds to the property. It was discovered when we looked very closely at the matter that the area to be acquired was, in fact, 1 **397.4** square metres and not **450** square metres as previously stated. What we are seeking here to do today, Mr. Speaker, is to ask Parliament to pass this Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Clarkes Road near Hothersal Turning, St. Michael to facilitate the

relocation of houses, bearing in mind that it is to address and regularise a problem which arose out of the construction of the **ABC** Highway. We are doing this in a historical context now.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak.

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

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
BOURNE'S LAND, ST. CHRISTOPHER,
CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of this Resolution, I should state that, on **10th** March, **1986** the Crown acquired **4** parcels of land, measuring **5 357.9** square metres at **Bourne's** Land, St. Christopher, Christ Church for the extension of the playing field at St. **Christopher's Boys'** School and for relocation of houses. It was proposed that the playing field be extended to meet the needs of the school and the residents of the area.

In order to accommodate this expansion, it was projected that the 6 houses on the area required for the extension of the playing field would have to be removed to a more convenient location. It was subsequently discovered that only **4** of the houses were required to be relocated and it was agreed to **resite** the dwellings towards the south western end of the land.

When the subdivision plan was prepared by the National Housing Corporation, they advised that an additional parcel of land had to be acquired in order to provide an access road to the houses. **Basically**, what we are seeking to do here today, Mr. Speaker, is to acquire the area of land, the exact measurement which is **459.8** square metres. It is to provide the access for the relocation. We are just regularising a matter which ought to have been done some time ago.

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

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER NO. 11 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
LEASE, UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN
LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT,
CAP. 225, TO SIMPSON INCOR-
PORATED OF LAND AT GRANTLEY
ADAMS INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, you will **recall** on at least 2 previous occasions the Government had come to this Parliament for the lease of an area of land in the Grantley Adams Airport compound to private sector groups, namely, for example, British **Airways** and Caribbean Airways. At that time I had indicated that we had another lease which we were negotiating and would soon be before the House. This is the Resolution for which we are seeking parliamentary approval today, that is, a Resolution in connection with the lease of 20 235.4 square metres of land at Grantley **Adams** International Airport to Simpson Incorporated.

During 1991 **Simpson** Incorporated, in association with its affiliated company, International Aircraft Management, approached the Ministry of Housing and Lands indicating an interest in leasing land at the Airport in order to expand its aviation activities. The area which we **are** allocating consists of 2 **parcels** of land which were previously leased to Tropic Air and **Seawell** Air Services Limited respectively, together with a vacant portion located to the north of the former Tropic Air site.

Simpson Incorporated, as the Addendum to the Resolution suggests, **proposes** to accommodate its ongoing activities with corporate, private and military aircraft operations on the land in question. The company's affiliate, Wilkens Weather Technologies Caribbean Limited, is also expected to be housed in this site. The information which we have on Wilkens Weather Technologies Caribbean Limited is that it is a Barbados registered company. It has entered into a joint venture with Simpson Incorporated for the purpose of collecting and selling weather **data** to the entire Caribbean and **Latin** American area. Its main **task**, as proposed in Barbados, is to provide weather information for aircraft. Other activities include the provision of weather information for offshore drilling rigs. This is the basic reason why this company is operating and it is going to be operating from that particular area. I am told there is a tremendous amount of foreign exchange to be earned from providing facilities of this nature.

Simpson Incorporated has indicated that the basic aim of this facility is to attract regional aircraft maintenance activity away from Miami and they have also expressed intentions to develop an aircraft hangar and a maintenance facility at the Airport to house corporate aircraft. This development is expected to enhance the aviation facilities at the Airport, strengthen Barbados' position as a corporate aviation centre and, through the provision of corporate aircraft and facilities for private and some military aircraft, will have comprehensive and positive employment

implications. This is in keeping with the **Government's** view that private developers should be encouraged to develop the vacant land at Grantley Adams International Airport for the common benefit of the Government and the developer. Hence, the Government, having taken everything into consideration, the way in which hopefully this company will be able to attract private aircraft, the facilities which are going to be provided and the employment which would be generated by this kind of activity, has **agreed** to enter into a lease arrangement with Simpson Incorporated on the basis of the following:

1. That the lease shall be for a period of 15 years;
2. That the rent payable **shall** be at the rate of \$30 000 per annum;
3. That the rent payable shall be subject to review every 5 years; and
4. That there shall be an option to renew the lease for a further period of 15 years subject, of course, as usual, to parliamentary approval.

I will pass the copy of the plan of **the** area for Honourable Members to see. It is an "L" shaped area, starting with Lot 2 and going over beneath the area occupied by Aircraft Services International, and it has "Simpson Incorporated" written across it. I think this should be of interest to Honourable Members and I just want to indicate that this is available and to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. N. K. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Mr. Speaker, and reserve my right to speak.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I think that this Resolution provides us with a good opportunity to reflect on what is happening at the Airport and to **ask** some basic questions with respect to the future management and development of what is really a major resource and asset to the country, namely the Airport. I think that we have not been treating it that way. For example, there is no plan with respect to the future development of the Grantley Adams Airport. There are **lands** which now and again come before Parliament and we are told that X company would like to lease 20 000 sq. feet or 100 000 sq. feet as the case may be. We **are** given the terms of the lease and the Resolution to that effect is approved but, at no point, do we know what areas of the airport are going to be reserved for maintenance and hangar and other operations for the future and what areas are going to be reserved for shops, outside the inner part of the **airport**.

1.55 p.m.

The whole development of this major asset has been haphazard and unplanned and **unstructured**. I think that we in Barbados need to call on the Government – we in the

Opposition certainly have a duty to do so – to publish a plan with respect to the future development of the airport. We do not feel that this major resource should be ~~treated~~ in such a willy-nilly, haphazard, ad *hoc* manner **as** it is **being** treated by this present Administration.

The second point, Sir, has got to do with the organisational structure at the airport. It is very questionable whether a commercial operation such **as** that can be effectively run as a Civil Service **Department**. It is well known that a lot of initiative has not been taken at the airport by the management, a lot could not be done there because of the fact that approval has always got to be secured from the Ministry. It seems to me ~~that~~ the airport is one activity in Barbados that so much needs speed of decision making **and** flexibility in management ~~that~~ it makes the case for an operation at the airport for the management of the airport more so than a lot of other activities that have for long been organised by way of a Statutory Corporation.

This raises a related point in respect to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. The Ministry of Housing and Lands has long maintained that they own the land at the airport and to that extent they should be receiving **all** the revenue earned by the lands at the airport. In truth and in fact, the Ministry of Housing and Lands has no expertise, no staff even to monitor and control or supervise this lease that they have entered into. They should really be delegating that responsibility to the management at the airport. That goes to emphasise the point that the lands at the airport should really be under some airport authority, some body responsible for the airport that can police all of these relations with these individuals and companies that the Government has entered into a relationship with and that can attend to the **problems that** arise **as** a result of these relationships.

The Ministry is not a satisfactory structure for dealing with these problems and I hope that the Minister responsible will tell us whether there are any plans for moving in the direction of establishing an airport authority. It is one area **of** Barbados where we need speed of decision **making**, flexibility in management. It seems to me that it has made the case for its own authority, **as** has been the practice in several other airports around the world and in the region, too.

What I **am** not too sure about and I think that the Minister ought to tell the House frankly is whether this is going to be a facility at the outset to service the planes or a plane or 2 belonging to Simpson or whether this is going to be a facility at the very outset that is going to service aircraft from outside the region and from within the region. It is common knowledge that Simpson do a lot of flying both in the region and outside, particularly to Brazil, Puerto Rico and the United States. What I am concerned about is whether this is going to be a facility to accommodate

Kyffin Simpson and it is being rationalised as something that down the road, in the long term, will develop into a facility servicing planes, both within the region and without, or whether from the outset it is intended that this is going to be an engineering and maintenance facility that is going to service planes within the region and planes from **without**. Is this a sham or is it **not?** **That** is the question, Mr. Speaker.

I think the Minister needs to tell the House frankly whether the Government is facilitating a friend or whether this is **something** which is conceived in the national interest or in the interest of a friend of the governing party. I think the country will need to know that and I certainly would be concerned to know that too.

Barbados cannot afford to stand still.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: My only position is that I still have to keep in mind the Resolution before us. You will recognise that I have been fairly generous at **this** point in time.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I **am** indebted, Mr. Speaker. This facility has immediate implications and obvious implications for Barbados' development as an aviation hub in the Eastern Caribbean. I think the Honourable Minister who introduced the Resolution alluded to ~~that~~ the strengthening of the **infrastructural** facilities at the airport and the development of **Grantley Adams** International Airport as a hub for the Eastern Caribbean. I think that that is important and if, indeed, the real purpose of the Resolution is as has been explained, then it is very much to be welcomed.

The fee charges are obviously too low. This is very expensive land at the airport and it has long **been** recognised in Government that the lease fees at the airport are really too low and this particular Resolution obviously illustrates that. If you do the arithmetic it works out to a little more than \$1 per sq. metre, which for airport land is really ludicrously small. I do not think that if it were tripled that there could be any quarrel. The **fee** structure here is really ludicrously small, but there are features on the plus side of this Resolution which we need to emphasise. To begin with, it is a Barbadian company. It does have, if it develops along the lines indicated, some employment potential particularly for medium level and high level skills in engineering. To that extent it is to be welcomed.

2.05 p.m.

The point is, **too**, that the Government cannot be expected, particularly in these difficult days, to make the investment necessary for the expansion of the infrastructure at the Airport. I think it is important that that whole area be

privatised and privatised rapidly, sensibly and in accordance with a plan which is public and known to all of us who have an interest in these matters.

The Airport must not be allowed to become like the Port where, at one point, Barbados was very much bypassed and neighbours in the region developed facilities which were found to be far more **attractive**. To that extent there is need for new dynamics at the Airport. We need to ensure that Barbados keeps ahead of its neighbours in the region who are themselves rapidly developing airport facilities. We need also to strengthen our infrastructure there in the direction of this particular Resolution whose real purpose in the facility has been set out in the Addendum. Barbados has natural facilities both for long haul aircraft coming from Europe and North America and also because of its **location** within the region. Barbados can become a natural hub both for transit activity, as it is called, and for long haul aircraft. I hope the Minister will indicate the plans to strengthen Barbados in those 2 particular respects.

I do not have a great deal more to say, Mr. Speaker, and to that extent I can conclude before the break. I should just like to repeat what I have said earlier, that is, the **time** has come for this expensive piece of land at the Airport and for this important resource and facility, the **Grantley Adams** International Airport, to be properly planned and managed. I hope Government will see the wisdom of moving with despatch, not only to establish an authority at the Airport but also to ensure that the plans for future development are well known and published.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the time has come for us to have our normal luncheon recess. I now move, Sir, that the sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second the motion.

The question that the sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
2.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity of having a look at the plan of the area which is proposed to be leased. I must endorse one point made by the Honourable Member for **St. Joseph**, that is, given the area of over 20 000 square metres which, according to my calculation, is somewhere in the vicinity of over 200 000 square feet, and that annual rent for the lease, as I heard

from the **Honourable** Minister in **introducing** this Resolution, is proposed to be \$30 000, to me, Sir, that is a remarkable bit of bounty to the proprietors of these companies who are going to lease this particular area of land.

If my memory serves me right, the basis of the calculation of rental for lands at the Airport was devised by a formula which sought from time to time to value the land in the area and to seek to recover a return of 10% on the capital **valuation**. Now, even if one is valuing it at \$1.50 a square foot, it appears to me the valuation would be \$200 000. I think that is remarkably low, Sir. I am wondering how that compares with other areas of land which have recently been leased.

I want to make it clear, Sir, that the Government has to make up its mind on the commercialisation of its property. We are in a serious economic position in which there are considerable constraints upon Government's revenue and hence Government's expenditure. The Ministry of Housing and **Lands** has been the subject of very drastic cuts. I feel that the Government is adopting an ambivalent **attitude** in **relation** to this matter. On the one **hand** it is saying that the National Housing Corporation tenants and others have to pay a more economic rent. On the other hand it is **leasing** lands, which are situated in an area in which considerable sums of money have been **spent** on the development of the infrastructure, at rates and charges which, in my opinion, are exceptionally generous to the lessees.

I used to be responsible for policy in relation to the airport, I believe there is a plan. If my memory serves me correct I believe a master plan was drawn up by Canadian consultants **years** ago. A master plan was drawn up for the utilisation of the present physical structure that is there together with some of the surrounding lands. It was also envisaged that periodically, after a lapse of **10** or **15** years, a review would be done of that plan. You have to do reviews of this area after periods.

Aside.

• Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That would have been the review of a 1975 plan. There were areas earmarked for commercial development in the same way as at **airports** in other countries in which airport authorities lease land and terminal buildings and other activities are actually built by airlines. I remember in the Other Place the late Senator **Ashby** making the point that this air **terminal** in Barbados would probably be the last to be built by Government, that we would reach the stage where the cost involved would be so great that Government would say to the airlines, if they want expanded facilities, here is a bit of land, we shall lease it to you and you will be able to build your own air terminal as you have done in many other areas. Therefore,

the concept of leasing land for associated airline activity is not something we are quarrelling with.

I remember also a sweetheart lease with a thing called the Barbados Light **Airplane** Club. In this House there were repeated criticisms on both sides of that lease because the Light **Airplane** Club had a sweetheart lease. It promptly sublet the area at a much **higher** commercial rent and it made profit on the lease. I have absolutely no doubt, from the facts that have been outlined here, that that is precisely what the lessee intends to do here because as it is said, the lessee is going to lease the part of this land will be used for some weather station, some sublet, you either do it by lease or licence. It does not matter because it is said that an affiliate company – I am using the precise words of the Honourable Minister, The Honourable Minister said that it is understood and appreciated that an affiliate of Simpson Incorporated was going to use part of this area for the purpose of housing its services which it sells in the area and that that was a very profitable business because there was demand for those services from oil drilling and other activities. These **are** matters that we have to take into account. I am really worried about the price.

3.25 p.m.

There is a very serious thing here, Sir, the Honourable Minister did not give us any background on Simpson Incorporated. This is an important point because there are holding companies, there are subsidiaries companies and there are international business companies. You see **you** have not told us much about the character of the lessee. It is a corporate structure. It is a company incorporated in Barbados, I have no doubt, the Simpson Incorporated. I just want to know whether it is a company that is incorporated to do business in Barbados or whether it is an international business company **because** the Opposition gets information too. This other company that you talk of, is that an international business company? Because you describe it as an affiliate and I would like to know. Because I know under the International Business Companies laws Barbadians cannot have more than 10% of a share in a company.

To be quite frank, Sir, the concept of Barbados being a centre for providing engineering services is one that has been explored on more than one occasion. The tendency today is for airlines to run their own aviation workshops. If you look in the Caribbean BA – they are Barbadians – is using Barbados with the engineering skills that they have but they have sent on training in Barbados as they sent I believe for doing certain essential monitoring of their aircraft as far as South America. There are two or three Barbadians dealing with that. We have BWIA. **Seawell** Air Services used to provide a fair amount of services but the airlines themselves have found that the contractors charge more than what they can do it for in-house. There may be some business, I am not saying there is not some business in clearing aircraft. There is business for being an agent of

an aircraft. Obviously if you have jets coming here, and Venezuela is a country that has a large amount of private planes and a number of the executives like to hold meetings outside of Venezuela Some of them may have companies here so there may be a little business in air servicing and cleaning and cleaning these aircraft and in providing the services of reception services and things of that kind. There may be a **little** business in **that**. Do not let us forget that we have **Seawell** Air Services. We have Caribbean Aircraft Handling. There **are** only two. So Simpson Incorporated is now going to be the third.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: When the Honourable Minister introduced it I got the impression that **it** was going to provide certain services. All right maintenance. We have a reservoir of activity that seems quite unclear in this.

But all I am asking is do we really feel that this is the best use for this particular piece of land at this particular price? I know there was a thought coming. There was a lot of discussion at the time – I see Speed in charge of the Ministry – **as** to whether it would not be more profitable to Barbados particularly in that area which was already surrounded by a fence to designate that area as a free trade zone for the purpose of carrying on activities in there which would need to be controlled. I remember that. I take it that this area of land is within the fence. There **are** certain areas of land that are within the fence and that is very highly restricted, a lot of security considerations apply to that.

Given the area of land I want to know why do we need – that is 200 000 square feet of land. Twenty thousand square metres by 10, is it not?

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: That is **200 000** square feet of land. Two hundred thousand square feet is nearly **5 acres** of land. The hanger that you would build there on **5 acres** of land, it seems to me that there is a little land bank being created here, Sir. I really want to know more. I want to know more about the company. I would like to know more about why is it necessary to have all of that amount.

Sir, there was a little uncertainty on this side because of the plan. The plan had said **there** were **3** lots, Lot 1, 2 and 3. As I understood it International Air Services still are operating there. Perhaps the Minister would be able to answer. This does not interfere with that part of the plot which is consolidated that relates to **Seawell** Air Services. I do not think that **Seawell** Air Services has surrendered that area and this is not being leased. The plot is confusing. If you look at the plot that was circulated here, for some reason or the other in the box they have consolidated all 3. Perhaps you could get the plot, Sir, because the plot has it

as a contiguous piece of land, Lot 1, 2, 3. Mr. Best had the plot. We had the plot. No, no, no. I think we sent it back. You asked to send it back. If you check it you would see it.

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: But there is no road or anything to suggest to us...If you look at that, we were told – Sir, you see that there is a consolidation of that plot in 3 there. I do not understand if you are leasing one person 200 000 square feet as we understand it, why give us 3 different things?

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If it is 34 000 square metres that makes it even worse. The plot is confusing to me. Because when the Honourable Minister introduced it I thought he was very particular to say it was an L shaped plot.

I am not clear in my mind and we are not clear in our minds here how we can arrive at \$30 000; I would like to know some more about it, Sir.

Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I have some concerns about this particular measure before this Chamber. When we deal with matters surrounding the Airport or the Seaport we have got to be very **careful** and realize that we are dealing with very sensitive areas.
3.35 p.m.

I would have no difficulty in supporting a resolution calling for the lease of land by Government to a particular business or company. What worries me is the fact that I would want to be satisfied that Government has solicited the views of the Airport Manager and the security services to determine whether or not this land should be leased to this or any particular company. It is as straightforward as that.

We are at a stage of our development in Barbados where a lot of things are happening and I am very worried when companies set up at the Airport where drugs can come in and go out. I am worried about that aspect of the security of our country and what can happen there. We recognise the fact that the Airport Manager from time to time has expressed his concern and we have **seen** people who operate there who have difficulty in realising the way they are allowed to operate and what the Airport Manager has responsibility for. We have seen that. It has happened from time to time. Even as I speak, the Government is thinking in terms of changing the shift system up there because there has been some falling apart of the security system at the Airport. That is why the Government is in the process of working out something with the Customs and Immigration Departments. Now we have to be very careful

because we see from **Seawell Services** and the security services which were there that they have been relieved of their contract to operate at the **Airport**. It has arisen from the simple fact that the Government is not satisfied that all is well with the security aspect at that Airport.

Sir, I want to be satisfied as a representative of the people of this country because I have a duty. I want a clear statement from the Government whether it has **sought** the advice or the input of all the security services organisations at the Airport. I want the Government to understand, too, that it is a question of having a buffer to protect that Airport. We know what can happen at an Airport and we must not, in dealing with this particular matter, ignore the seriousness of what we are doing.

Sir, I do not know who these people are. I have heard the Minister seek to give some information on some person or persons who have connection with it. But that is not enough for me. I want to know who they are because they are going to be around the **Airport**. As I said, I am aware that some concern has been expressed by the Airport Manager as to whether people should be allowed to operate within that area or within a buffer area. I want to know what sort of identification badges are **going** to be used, because there are still problems surrounding the Airport as far as this is concerned. We want to know if there are bona *fide* people going in there, who are they and who is going to be responsible for issuing badges since they have to pass through the **Airport** from time to time. I want to know that.

Sir, I also want to know whether there has been some input by the Barbados Defence Force which has a facility to the southern side of the Airport. As I understand it, the Defence Force operates from the southern side. That area is reserved and certain activities do not take place there. All of this has got to be told to us. We have got to be concerned about this, or are we just ignoring the fact that people could land at the Airport? Are we not thinking of the safety and security of our people from those people from abroad who have got other agendas? Are we going to sit down and think that this is something that we can easily gloss over? That is why I said that we have got to be very careful and go through this with a very analytical mind. We have got to understand to **treat** the people as people and that anything can happen to our **country**. The mere operation of this company at the Airport could spell danger for us in the future. That is what I want the Minister to understand.

Sir, we may be looking at the fee and I agree totally with the Member for Christ Church South who mentioned the fact that we have got to look very carefully at the lease, the amount of money that is being paid, and how it is arrived at. That is a very valid point. I hope that the Minister will let this Honourable Chamber know what the Land Valuation Department has said on future leases. I have sat in here and I have seen leases come and go as

approved. But this is one where we have got to understand that the value of the land determines the amount of money that is paid annually on a lease. This is not a three-quarter acre of land or an area of land like down in St. Lucy or St. Peter. The Airport area is prime land and I want to know how the value of this land was determined. I want to know if the Land Valuation Department or the Chief Valuer has had any input. I want to know that.

It is not sufficient for the Ministry of Housing to do it although they have qualified people there. Regarding the point about who manages, I think that we should address that particular point. The Ministry of Housing does not have adequate staff to deal with the collection of monies resulting from rents on leases. We have to understand that. We have to look at that. In the past, it worked but problems are being experienced presently by that Ministry in regard to collecting money. The Minister must know that. This is a very serious matter.

We are talking about money and funds. It is Government's property and the taxpayers' money. If Government is seeking to get money from any land or property leased out, we have to be satisfied in here that we have got fair value for money. It belongs to us and it cannot be treated lightly. This is no giveaway. I want to know because this is the way Government determines the amount of money per lease. I want to know the value of the land. Tell us the value of the land and we will be able to analyse whether or not it is a fair price for this particular piece of land.

Sir, these are things we have to understand. Do not treat them lightly because these people can have a piece of land which is a gift for a very small fee, but at the same time they are deriving large incomes as a result. Government gets very little because Government does not have in place a system whereby they can get money out of the profits made. I want to make sure that the rent for this land is fair and reasonable.

We have seen from time to time where Government has leased **properties from** other individuals and had to pay a very steep cost for it. Some of these things can be compared like with like. We have to be satisfied that, if we are going to lease out Government's property, we examine carefully whether or not it is fair to the taxpayers of Barbados. Why charge these people so little money because we want to encourage them to start a business? Yes, concessions, but certainly when it comes to Government's lands we have to make sure that they pay a fair and a market price.

3.45 p.m.

I called some time ago, and I am going to repeat my call, for the Opposition to be provided with a copy of the plan before we come in here. I want to be able to go and identify the piece of land so that I can come in here and

make a meaningful input to the discussion. Nobody is going to tell me that when I come in here they will give me a plan. I cannot see the land when I am in here. **Let** me understand what you are talking about. I am in the business. I have to see land, identify it and see and know the exact potential of the land. I do not think it takes anything from the Government to make a copy **available** at least a couple of days before so that we can do our homework.

Do you see what has happened today during this debate? **Members** on this side cannot identify where the land is, whether it is on the southern side, the western side, south western or northern side of the Airport. All of that tells us, Mr. Speaker, that if we have a plan we will be able to find out very early whether it falls within that particular zone for which the Airport Manager has responsibility, or whether or not it would be advisable for the Government to have in place extra security so they can protect the Airport and the operations there. We just have to understand this, so I am not one who will take lands around the Airport lightly. We know what sort of activities will take place around there and I do not want, at a later stage, to be defending an action supportive of a Government to lease lands to people like that. We need to know. All this information needs to be thrown out here so that we could know who they are. Some of these people approach Government for cheap lands and you have to assess their activities to see whether it is worth it.

Mr. Speaker, Government needs to pay attention to the two points I raised: (1) the security aspect of the Airport, and (2) whether this figure represents a fair and reasonable price for the land to be leased. The only way you can determine this is if you can present to this Honourable Chamber the exact price of the land, the market price or what Land Valuation has put on the land. It is from there I or anyone who knows anything about valuation would be able to determine the lease value of this land.

I hope that the Minister in his reply will make this information available and let us in future deal with these matters in a manner I feel would be best for this **country**. We would no longer be hearing that Government has given away land. I do not want to hear that. I do not want to hear that Government is charging one person one thing and the poor people have to pay more for it. That is what is happening, and it is because there ~~has~~ been some slip up somewhere in valuation in this country. We have to look at it. If it is done for convenience, then we have to look at that. It is a very serious thing. We have to be very consistent in this. I hope the Minister in his reply will throw some light on this so that he can satisfy us over here. Certainly I would want to know, because I will be faced with questions on these matters and I want to be quite clear. I have to give an explanation and I want to be satisfied. I hope the Minister will give me the assurance

that he has the information so that we can feel at least relieved in this particular matter today.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to say whether in fact this is a fair rental for the land, because I have never been in that **kind** of business. I know that the policy of the Government has been the same as has been employed by our predecessor Government, that is, we get a valuation done by the Valuation Department when we **are** going to lease lands.

I can only say from my understanding of it, because I have visited the area, that this area of land is at the north of the runway. The land being leased to the Barbados Light Aeroplane Club, as was referred to by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, is on the south side of the runway. That was then sublet to **Seawell Air Services** for hangar purposes. **Seawell Air Services** has now given way. Only the formal obsequies are now to be performed at **Seawell Air Services**. TIA – I forget what "TIA stands for, Sir – has now taken over what was **Seawell Air Services**. Also, all assets of **Seawell Air Services** have gone on to Trans-Island Airways, I think it is called.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: **Seawell Air Services** does not belong to the Government. All the Barbados Government has is 18%. I am sorry. It is Aero Services. The subleasing of the Aeroplane Club. **was** to Aero Services, not **Seawell Air Services**. **Seawell Air Services** is something else. **Seawell Air Services** is a tenant of **lands**, not tenants by us but by you all. The rate is not any better. I raise this point because the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has raised a question about security in bringing these people in at the **Airport**. In fact these people were brought in by a number of persons and not only **Seawell Air Services** were brought in: Barbados Shipping and Trading too. We came and found Barbados Shipping and Trading planted within the compound of the **Airport**.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Precisely. They were there for quite some time, therefore do not raise this as an issue now. The fact is, Sir, that these lands are all within a perimeter defined and demarcated by a chain link fence. It is all within the fence, like the rest of **lands** leased to **Seawell Air Services** and so on, all within the fence. The Caribbean Airports Project, which was a project by the Canadians, ...
3.55 p.m.

I believe they were brought in, in the time of the Honourable Member, because I became Minister in 1987 and found them established and ensconced there at Terminal 2 at the **Airport**. They were probably in their final

days because they **were** doing work, not only for Barbados, but for the whole Caribbean. They devised a total land use plan for the land **at** the **Airport**, including this land which they had themselves recommended should be reserved for leasing to people who have related and **kindred** interests at the **Airport**.

Ail we **are** doing, Sir, is carrying out the terms of that plan as has been devised by these Canadians. **As** I said, I do not know whether the lease is at the right or wrong level. I am not in that business, but the Government has people who have been advising them and the same people **are** advising us. If they have been giving them one advice and are giving us a different advice, I cannot say. I do not believe it. They have been consistent – and I think they are pretty good civil servants – I think they have been consistent throughout.

I will deal now with Simpson. Simpson for the past 4 years – and I speak from the time I was a Minister – has been speaking to me in terms of developing an executive facility for the executive **jets** and executives **located** at Terminal 2 for the purpose of **checking** in and out these people. He was made to understand that he would have to pay for the services of Customs and the services of Immigration if he wants to use them at Terminal 2 because they are not located there for that purpose. So that is clearly understood. He believes, and he probably is right, that there is a lot of business which can earn foreign exchange for the country by having this **kind** of facility established at Terminal 2 at the airport. Included with that, he wants to do some engineering work for the executive jets. It is not a general maintenance work for aircraft.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was right. The aircraft do establish their own engineering services at the **airport**. This, now, Sir, is for his own clients – these people who bring their executive jets to Barbados. He hopes to encourage these **kinds** of people to come to Barbados, have their meetings, have whatever they want to have at the airport, and when the jets need servicing, he would be able to give that kind of service for that **aircraft**. At the **same** time, Sir, **he would** be able to establish in Terminal 2, at his own expense – all these things that have been done have been done at their own expense – an area where the passengers and the crew of executive jets can be checked through in Terminal 2 while paying for the facilities of having Immigration and Customs there.

In other words, Sir, this is an additional kind of service being proposed for the **airport**. So this area of land is for the hangar as well as for the engineering work at the **airport**. **All** the lands that we have leased at the **Airport** including lands to Caribbean Airways which this House approved about 3 or 4 meetings ago...

Asides.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: ... **all** of these lands that are leased to these various interests, it is the responsibility of these interests to put up their buildings at their own expense. Government is not going to build for them, not even for Caribbean Airways **that** Government holds **100%** interest in, not even **for** Caribbean Handling Company which Caribbean Airways wholly owns... Not wholly owns, I am wrong. There **are** other shareholders.

We hear **all kinds** of extravagant claims being made and these things **are** not true. There is no way any authentic document... Any document can be circulated as we have experienced before. It is absolutely untrue that any aircraft has been told that it cannot use **Seawell** Air Services. It is not only wrong it would be idiotic to say that **kind** of thing. Sir, I am not getting into that.

The point I really want to make, and I will end on this point, is that I believe that it is a very good thing for Barbados. I cannot speak to the level of rent. I do not know, but I believe that it is a good proper and economic use being made for development of our airport here in Barbados. We have a study being done of the **airport**. We are going to increase the whole area of the airport going towards Spencers. We will have to come back to Parliament to extend the boundaries to the south and the boundaries to the west. We have to acquire additional lands for that purpose to make sure that we are within the ICAO regulations.

Sir, I think we are on the right track and the security of the airport is something we have always borne in mind. We have vehicles at the airport that traverse the perimeter area of the airport from time to time. We carry some security lighting at the airport and as far as security is concerned, I have no problem with that. This does not mean that drugs will not come in. Drugs will come in anywhere at all in the world, but our security is fairly well looked after at the moment.

Sir, this is the kind of development at the airport that will get my total support because it means development for the airport and development for Barbados.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, a number of questions were asked in connection with this particular lease. The Deputy Prime Minister who has the responsibility for Civil Aviation has answered in very clear terms some of the points which were raised by the Honourable Members on the other side. Let me say that as is usual practice when we are seeking to lease Government lands, the Ministry of Housing and Lands asked for an evaluation of this area of land from the Commissioner of

Land Tax. This area of land was valued by him **at \$84 948 per annum**. The Government is leasing the land to this company **at \$30 000 per annum**. Now, let me explain.
4.05 p.m.

The Government, in coming to this decision, **took** into consideration a number of factors. The **Company** proposes to spend in excess of \$4 million in developing this area. I think the Deputy Prime Minister has indicated the ways in which the development will take place but, in addition to that, the Company proposes to establish, as part of their development; a terminal which will be used in addition to the existing facilities by the people who will be using that particular area. The lands to be leased and the buildings which will be put up will, at the end of the lease, revert to the Crown for nil consideration.

The Ministry of International Transport and the Chief Technical Officer for Civil Aviation, have indicated very clearly their support for this particular development. The question of security is a matter which will be dealt with by the people who look after the security at the **Airport**, that is, the Airport Manager's Office. Quite naturally, the lessee will have to comply with all the regulations in respect of the Airport Act and Regulations which **are** there. I do not think one could fault the development. We believe this will bring further development to this particular area. It will also earn foreign exchange and create job opportunities for Barbadians. The Company is a company registered in Barbados.

I should like, therefore, with that information, to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO 12 - VESTING OF CROWN LANDS IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT BREEDY'S LAND, CHRIST CHURCH, FOR HOUSING PURPOSES

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. **Speaker**, **this** is an area of land of 5 **969** square metres at **Breedy's** Land, Christ Church which we **are** proposing to vest in the National Housing Corporation. On May **13, 1991** the Crown acquired this land for the purposes of housing development. This parcel was occupied by approximately 6 tenants who qualified to purchase their spots in accordance with the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. We recognised that an additional **6** or **8** house spots could be created. In order to facilitate this development, it was considered that we should vest this area in the National Housing Corporation which would use its resources to provide these additional lots for rent and sale and, of course, provide the overall management of the area.

With those introductory remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes matters which the Government intends to do on this day. I do not know if Honourable Members are ready to do their matters.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: *Can* we have a decision if there is going to be any Private Members' Business?

Asides.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 1, 1992 at 12:00 o'clock noon.

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

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: I did not hear Private Members' Business at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was asking for a determination whether we would do that because my understanding was that the Leader of the House indicated...

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: He said "Government Business".

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but then my understanding was that he was seeking an indication if there were any members who wanted to deal with Private Members' Business. Nobody responded to that but there was just cross-talk.

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: I certainly did not hear it over here, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Honourable **Membér** did not hear clearly I do not think one could fault him for that because there was too much cross-talk in the interim. My view is that, if the Honourable Member intends to do Private Members' Business, I would suggest that that be taken rather than the adjournment.

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: Yes, Sir. We have an urgent Resolution on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Member prepared to deal with it?

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: Yes, Sir. I **am** prepared to deal with it. I am prepared to wind up if nobody else wants to do it. The last thing, I understand, was that the Honourable Member for St. **Michael** West had spoken.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Honourable Member is ready to do it I would have to call the number so that it would be officially...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but I did not put it neither did I take the seconder either.

Hon. B. M. **TAITT**: I second it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I did not accept it at the point in time. I did not and so I did not put the question..

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to get on to the other point. I understood the Leader of the House, if I **am** clear, **after** the end of Government **Business** to indicate that if members wanted to do Private Members' Business it was open to them.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Nobody moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the point I **am** making that Honourable Members said they were not clear as to that call. Therefore, since there was a lot of cross-talk in which I myself **was** not **sure** what was the **true** position, I would allow the Honourable Member to deal with his Private Members' Business if he so wants to deal with it because I do not think one should be denied the opportunity so to speak.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is how I understand it. I have to take the Honourable Member's position. **Are** you dealing with this matter now or do you want it to be held over until the next meeting?

Aside.

Hon. H. B. St. **JOHN**: Yes, because we have been trying to get it done, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to have an indication also from the Leader of the House in response to the Honourable Member.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I have no objection, Sir. We will give them time on another occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I can hear the seconder to the adjournment.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 1, 1992 at 12:00 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly, 4.17 p.m.

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