

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991-96

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 9, 1993

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

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 Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)

Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Q.C., B.A., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of the House)

Hon. M. A. KING, Q.C., LL.B., (Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Minister for CARICOM Affairs)

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN, A.I.C., M.I.A.S., J.P., (Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce)

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

Mr. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Leader of the Opposition)

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

Hon. C. V. WALKER, J.P., (Minister of Health)

Mr. L. L. BRATHWAITE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. E. E. GREAVES, G.C.M., B.A., Ed.M., (Minister of Tourism, Culture and International Transport)

Hon. W. W. HALL, G.C.M., H.B.M., J.P., (Minister of Labour, Public Works, Community Development and Sports)

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

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

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

Miss B. A. MILLER

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR, J.P.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE

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

Prayers were led by Mr. L. L. Brathwaite.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, October 5, 1993.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the meeting which was held on October 5, 1993 have, I am told, been circulated. I move therefore that they be taken as read and confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce* that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the months of July and August, 1993 as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Auditor General's Department for the Financial Year 1992-93.

I am also commanded, Sir, to lay the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1993.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Labour, Public Works, Community Development and Sports, I lay, by the command of the Cabinet, the Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the Financial Year 1991-1992.

PRIVATE MEMBERS* NOTICES

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

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

1. WHEREAS Speightstown has for over 3 centuries, as a sea port, as a trading centre developed to satisfy several of the principal needs of our citizens, especially of our Northern and central parishes, as a focus for social and community life and as an area of prime economic activity central to the base and balance of our country, made a profound contribution to the development of Barbados;

AND WHEREAS there has, in recent years, been steady, continuous and increasing erosion and deterioration in the volume and character of the economic activity of the physical environment and of the social and cultural amenities in Speightstown;

AND WHEREAS Speightstown has also served throughout its history to alleviate the demand for the use of other urban areas in Barbados, notably of the City of Bridgetown;

AND WHEREAS the progressive, continuing erosion and deterioration of all aspects of the infrastructure of Speightstown are removing from the North of this Island a quality of life to which all areas are entitled under policies which should be sponsored by Government for the betterment and strengthening of our country;

AND WHEREAS the plans and strategies of the present Government have not articulated a positive development core or scheme for Speightstown and its environs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House call upon Government to ensure that the rehabilitation of Speightstown be undertaken as a matter of top priority;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this House urge Government to ensure that Government's programmes for Speightstown will be channelled towards its restoration to its former and rightful place as a principal urban centre of Barbados.

2. WHEREAS the Education Act, Cap. 41, section 53(1) states that the Minister responsible for Education may, where practicable, provide special schools appropriate for the education of children requiring special educational treatment or may provide such education at schools other than special schools;

AND WHEREAS present policies and-allocation of resources by Government do not reflect the application of the provisions of section 53 and the need to provide adequate facilities for children requiring special educational treatment;

AND WHEREAS such children are thereby deprived of access to education which will apply their total ability and provide them with the maximum opportunity to live full, useful and productive lives;

AND WHEREAS Government should aim to extend and offer full educational opportunities to all persons according to their needs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House call on Government to allocate appropriate resources to ensure that children requiring special educational treatment are given access to all educational opportunities within their ability, and to ensure that facilities of the quality available to other citizens are prescribed and provided for all such children and continue into their development as adults.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City is not in her place.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Fund into which revenues realised from the disposal of certain public assets are to be paid and for related matters be read a first time.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am going to move, as we do not envision a long meeting of the House today, that Standing Orders 6,16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

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

ORDER NO. 5 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT RUBY, ST. PHILIP FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this is a relatively simple matter. I think that all Honourable Members are aware of the fact that the Government, under the Third Educational Training Project for Barbados, has earmarked a number of existing schools for replacement. The present proposal to construct a primary school at Ruby in St. Philip is part of that overall programme and it will replace the present Holy Trinity/Beulah Primary.

What we are seeking to do today is to ensure that this Resolution is passed for the acquisition of the area of land on which it is contemplated that this primary school will be built. All of the necessary legal formalities have been put into effect and we are now therefore seeking the approval of the Chamber for the acquisition of 27 580 square metres of land at Ruby Corner in the parish of St. Philip for the construction of this new school.

With that information, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I will indicate to Honourable Members that a plan of the area of land to be acquired is available for the perusal of Honourable Members.

Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that, Sir, and reserve my right to speak. 12.30p.m.

Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN: I will be very brief on this matter. I am very glad about the forthcoming construction of this school to replace the Holy Trinity and Beulah Schools, not so much on behalf of the Beulah School because it is not badly located and, as far as I am aware, is not too badly overcrowded, but the Holy Trinity is sandwiched between the church, the graveyard and the district hospital and there have been many complaints in the past few years about Holy Trinity and the upgrading of the school at Holy Trinity.

I think that over the years these complaints have increased and at times people have stated their feelings about the proximity of the graveyard to this school. In fact, there are people who even raise the matter of the health of the children at Holy Trinity, how it might be affected by being close to the graveyard.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to see some movement being made to amalgamate these 2 schools in new surroundings, and especially so, on behalf of the staff

and pupils of the Holy Trinity Primary School, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT BELLE GULLY

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a relatively simple Resolution and we are seeking the permission of this Honourable Chamber for the acquisition of a small area of land, 324 square metres of land situated at Belle Gully in the parish of Saint Michael for the purposes of road improvement. As I said, this Resolution seeks to bring this matter to a conclusion.

The land is owned by Mr. Julian Waterman and was utilised for that particular purpose. This is a formalisation of an activity which has already taken place. Again the map of the area is available for the perusal of all Honourable Members and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister can tell us whether the land owner has been paid or how soon he will receive payment. It is within my experience that there is a certain shortage of funds in order to carry out these acquisitions that have occurred for some time. I suspect that the Minister's quarterly allocation is falling short of what is required at this time to pay land owners whose lands have been acquired.

I wonder as well whether the Minister could tell us how much per square metre or square foot is being paid at the market value. It is ironic that when market values have fallen in Barbados the Land Tax has achieved -the exceptional object of increasing the market values of people's properties whereas all around Barbados market values have fallen. However, for the purpose of land tax market values have increased. That has gone contrary to all of the conditions that one has in the valuation of lands and I would expect therefore that people are paying higher land taxes than one would expect, given the market conditions established out there. When this is coupled with increased insurance doubling the insurance, one can see the burden as falling on land owners, coupled as well as we have seen with a decrease, with the Government removing the deductions from mortgage interest rates and what not.

I hope the Minister will be able to tell us that the price that he is paying reflects Government's perception of an increase at least which is really not what is out there but this is what Government's perception seems to tell us.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: I think the questions raised by the Honourable Member are questions that can be easily answered. In the first place, the Government of Barbados has always been in a situation where it has acquired land for public purposes and has never been able to pay persons from whom it has acquired lands immediately. This obtained when the Honourable Member's Party was in power and indeed, Sir, they left office with a large number of properties which were acquired for as many as 10 years and they did not even pay the people for the acquisition.

The fact of the matter is, Sir, that there has been a hangover for many years and it is a fact that we have not been able to pay persons for all the land which the Government has acquired. It is something which has been going on for many many years. We would like to be in a position to settle these outstanding matters as soon as possible; but, Sir, there are a number of problems, one of which has to do with the fact that sometimes when land is acquired the persons do not have proper titles. There is a process which is involved in trying to establish the title and true ownership of the particular area of land and that takes time with the surveyors, the lawyers and all of the other professional people who are involved in determining this particular matter.

I do not want the Honourable Member to give the public the impression that this Democratic Labour Party Administration is deliberately withholding money from people having acquired their land. That is not the case. The fact of the matter is that the Ministry has reduced allocations and we therefore try, as I have explained before, when I was Minister, to settle as many of these issues as we possibly can, based on the payments which we have. We even went to a point where some persons to whom we owed a lot of money agreed to a part payment as a basis of settlement. We are trying our best from the point of view of the Government to get that particular matter resolved.

On the question of the way in which the price is determined for an area of land, again I should let the Honourable Member know that the system which is used by the Government and which has been in use by the Government for many years even when the Honourable Member was a Minister of the Crown in the past Administration is that the Commissioner of Valuation is asked to do a valuation on the particular property and the Government valuers and the standing Valuation Committee which is a committee set up by the Government made up from representatives from various governmental agencies sit and determine what would eventually be paid for a particular area of land. But they use as the guide the valuation from the Commissioner of Land Tax. 12.40 p.m.

In this particular instance, this land which was utilised somewhere in the mid 1980s for road improvement, we are

now seeking to settle. On that occasion when the Commissioner of Land Tax was asked to value the land, he had estimated the value at \$3 500. Of course, this was lower than what was being claimed by the owner of the land. As I see from the information here, the owner of the land was claiming \$5 per square foot.

It is interesting because you get a situation sometimes when people have land to sell they would want to get the highest price for it. When the land has to be taxed, it then is valueless. One has to understand very clearly that there is a method which is used for this. I do not determine or no Minister of the Crown determines what is paid for a particular piece of land when the Government acquires it. It is done in a manner which is established, and is known, and which the Honourable Member very well knows. I just want to make that particular point. The Cabinet has agreed to pay this amount of money, \$3 500 for the particular areas of land which is being acquired.

I would just want to say, in reply to the statements made by the Honourable Member, and if I would just repeat it that like past administrations, and generally speaking, the Government has always owed people money. It is not a situation with which we are happy but we are trying to get it sorted out and, trying to pay out as much as we can based on the allocations which we have and those claims which have been completed both legally and from the point of view of the surveyor. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, hopefully I would have clarified that particular matter for the Honourable Member.

I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO. 6 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
FAIRFIELD CROSS ROAD, SAINT
MICHAEL, FOR ROAD
IMPROVEMENT

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Again, Sir, this is a matter which we are seeking to tidy up. It is an area of land which was utilised in road improvement. As a matter of fact, it was used in the construction of a road at Fairfield Cross Road. The parcel of land is owned by a Ms. Serena Thorpe. It measures 281.08 square metres. Having utilised the land for that purpose, the Ministry has agreed again, based on the valuation of the land by the Land Tax Commissioner, to payment in the sum of \$17 700 for the particular area of land. All of the relevant legal processes have been completed. We are now seeking to have this matter formalised in terms of the acquisition..

I therefore beg to move that the Resolution for the acquisition of 281.08 square metres of land at Fairfield

Cross Road, St. Michael, for the purposes of road improvement be now passed.

Hon. W. O. FRANKLIN: I beg to second that.

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

**ORDER NO. 10 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
BRIDGE ROAD, ST. MICHAEL, FOR
ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has asked to defer that Resolution. If there is no objection, so be it.

**ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
WESTBURY ROAD, ST. MICHAEL,
FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to acquire 461.8 square metres of land at Westbury Road, St. Michael, for the purposes of road improvement. The background to this is as follows.

In July 1982 the Barbados Diocesan Trustees offered to the Government an area of land, approximately 290 square metres, on St. Leonard's Church frontage for the purpose of widening the road and providing a sidewalk with the understanding that Government would rebuild the guard-wall to the front of the Church. The Government then concluded that the Ministry should negotiate with the Diocesan Trustees for more land than the 12 foot wide area offered by them so that the guard-wall might be positioned about 20 feet instead of the proposed 12 feet.

Consequently, in 1990, it was agreed as follows:-

- (a) that the parcel of land consisting of 480 square metres should be acquired from the Diocesan Trustees for road improvement;
- (b) Government should accept the offer by the Diocesan Trustees of 290 square metres for road improvement;
- (c) Compensation should be paid to the Diocesan Trustees for the 190 square metres required for road improvement; and
- (d) that the Ministry of Housing and Lands should be authorised to commence negotiations relative to the acquisition of the 480 square metres.

The relevant notices in accordance with Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act were duly published. The certified plan indicates that the total area utilised measures

461.8 square metres of which 275.6 square metres represent the strip donated by the Barbados Diocesan Trustees, and the remaining 186.2 square metres represents the portion for which compensation is to be paid.

So, Sir, I thought it was necessary for me to give this background because you would of course noticed the improvement which has taken place in the St. Leonard's Church area with the wall being rebuilt and, of course, more sidewalks being provided in that particular area. It is partly a joint effort by the Diocesan Trustees and the Government for improving the roads in that particular area, the Diocesan Trustees having given up a portion of the land without compensation and the Government agreeing to rebuild the Church wall and provide the pavement there. I think that is something which ought to be commended in terms of that kind of understanding and relationship.

With those remarks, Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution which seeks to acquire a parcel of land situate in Westbury Road in the parish of Saint Michael and containing by admeasurement 461.8 square metres* or thereabouts do now pass.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.50 p.m.

**ORDER NO. 9 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
PALMETTO STREET IN THE CITY OF
BRIDGETOWN FOR THE PROVISION
OF PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this matter is one which has gone a very tortuous route. I remember, when this was first brought to my attention, surveying the file and recognising that this particular matter had its genesis somewhere in the early sixties, that is, the area of establishing ownership of this piece of land which is situated in Palmetto Square, Bridgetown. ,

I think, during the period of the 1980s and indeed in the early 1980s there seemed to have been an arrangement which was made between the then Government and a Mr. Griffith from Griffith Reliance Pharmacy which owns the area of land adjoining, based on representation which was made by that company where the Government would allow them possession of a portion of this area of land and they would construct a public facility there.

Of course that particular arrangement seemed to have fallen through but the Reliance Pharmacy people went ahead and set up an arrangement where they started to collect rents from persons who were parking their vehicles there without any authority for doing such.

I should point out that the Government in trying to establish ownership never really carried through the matter to a final position and really this is the first time that we are reaching that point. I am saying if you check the file you will find there has been a to-ing and fro-ing from in the early sixties on this particular matter. I am told, based on the information here that there was some property there. I think it was a public facility and some other building which was subsequently pushed down.

As I said, in 1980 the Government was approached by Griffith Reliance Pharmacy to enter into an arrangement involving the exchange of land at Palmetto Square and on this arrangement the Government would agree to exchange 51 square metres of land for 18 square metres from Griffith Reliance Pharmacy. The shortfall of 33 square metres would be made up by Griffith Reliance who agreed to finance the construction of a modern public facility on the Crown Lands, the facility to be maintained by the Sanitation Services Authority.

Apparently since that proposal was made to the Government by the representative of Griffith Reliance no further interest was shown in the project by the company but as I pointed out earlier the company proceeded to take possession of the land and collect revenue from this particular area.

We are now seeking, Sir, to have this matter rectified to put the ownership of the land beyond any doubt so that we have been advised that we should go the route of compulsory acquisition. Of course the Notices required under Section 3 have been duly published and the legal formalities which are required for purposes of land acquisition have been gone through and we are now therefore seeking Parliament's approval for the compulsory acquisition to ensure that there is no doubt about the ownership of this particular area of land and it will be utilised for the purposes of the establishment of a modern public facility since the Government is still of the view that such a facility is required in the Bridgetown area.

With those remarks, Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution for the acquisition of 113 square metres of land at Palmetto Square, Bridgetown for the provision of public facilities be now passed and the relevant documents relating to the land, the survey plans, are available to Honourable Members.

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

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Resolution as I would welcome any move which the Government would take to improve the physical environment in the City of Bridgetown,

I represent all of Bridgetown, Sir, not only that part of it where people live and have their daily intercourse and

their being but all of Bridgetown. And, for years, in a City, which is the capital city of Barbados and which is much frequented by tourists and other visitors to Barbados, if you need the use of a public convenience you either have to go into a shop and beg, whether or not you are shopping in the shop, and even in those cases facilities are restricted.

It is not enough for the strip at Palmetto Square. Since I knew myself there was a public convenience right there at Palmetto Square. All the years I was growing up it was there. When I was a child catching the bus from school the Walmer Lodge and the Paynes Bay buses, Your Honour will remember, used to come out here at one stage in the Old City. You had to get off right here in front of Barry Springer's barber shop and for years I caught the bus there. To get to school I walked up Amen Alley and up Constitution Road to school. So, I know this area and there has always been a convenience there and it is so long past the time since a proper, decent, modern convenience should be put there for the use of Barbadians and visitors alike that this really is long overdue.

But what about the rest of the City of Bridgetown. The Government owns small wedges and portions of land, Sir, not unlike this, in and around Bridgetown that you would not think. I remember in this Chamber many years ago now there was discussion on the possibility of a convenience for the use of the public in the lane between Collins and Nicholas House. At the bottom of that lane towards the Wharf side the Government owns property.

Aside,

Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes there is the Queen's Warehouse but there is other property that the Government owns there too. Even part of the building where the Immigration is now housed it is possible. We are talking about 10 feet by 12 feet, 120 square feet, to make a decent convenience for people because there is a lot of pedestrian traffic flow there. If this Government had not put the red pencil through the greater Bridgetown plan that we had for the reclaimed land which is sitting idle there to have been developed and to have improved and expanded the Waterfront facility in Bridgetown where people, tourists particularly, would have walked up from the seaport and had shops and other facilities at their disposal. There, too, the Barbados Labour Party had planned that there would have been quite generous and modern public conveniences suited for the use of the Barbadian public and its visitors. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic in that area as well. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic around the Post Office and Cheapside. 1.00 p.m.

When I was a girl, these conveniences used to be attached to the two markets, one at Fairchild Street and one at Gheapside. But the Government has allowed the markets to run down and so they are now rat kingdoms. The

Cheapside Market is now a rat kingdom. The rats outnumber the humans in there and the convenience that used to be attached thereto is used I gather neither by rats nor humans. It is so unfit.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Health that it is imperative in 1993 that the Government should design and strategize not just for one public convenience, but for a number of strategically located public conveniences in and around Bridgetown. While I am on the subject, Sir, might I draw it to the attention of the Minister of Health that the collection of garbage and other sanitary measures which need to be taken in Bridgetown is woefully and grievously lacking. It is more than inadequate. Inadequate is an understatement. We have had a small outbreak of dengue and we are only lucky, particularly in Bridgetown where people live so close together and where mosquitoes are breeding in the deep gutters all along Kensington New Road, Passage Road and New Orleans. If you dig to less than a foot, you will find water in some parts of New Orleans. The land is actually swampy out behind Beckles Land. There is a great deal that has to be done. The canal at Murphy Pasture is a disgrace. The Ministry of Transport and Works went there and said they were widening the canal or dredging it. Nobody knows what they were doing. All we know is that they dug a great big hole in it and left it there. There are thousands or millions of fish. I saw them* Sir. There are thousands or millions now swimming in the water in the canal at Murphy Pasture. I am not sorry that the thousands or millions are swimming there because it means that they are eating the mosquito larvae. But it is not fair that people should have to live in that environment.

Sir, it is not enough to put a little lonely toilet at Palmetto Square. I am glad that that is being done, but the Government really needs to devise a proper plan for public conveniences throughout the length and breadth of the City of Bridgetown. There should be several conveniences running from the Fairchild Street Market right back down to and beyond Cheapside where people are on the move all day and in some parts of Bridgetown all night. It is remarkable that there is no public convenience in a place like Baxters Road. You would know where people use. The gutters are the conveniences in Baxters Road if you are a man. But that kind of discrimination women have suffered and will continue to suffer. All of these things need to be taken into account. The Barbados Labour Party had started a programme and like so many other things that the Barbados Labour Party had started, particularly in the City of Bridgetown, the red pen went through it and people are forced to do without. The whole business of urban renewal has to be ongoing, Mr. Speaker. It is not something that you can stop and start because it will get into slippage and it will cost you more in the end to reclaim those areas from slippage than if you had kept a good preventive maintenance programme ongoing.

Sir, I would want to add my support to this Resolution but call upon the Government to look very seriously into this. It is a matter of grave embarrassment for tourists and for Barbadians as well that in 1993 in a city as sophisticated as the City of Bridgetown that there is such a dearth of public facilities.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any reasonable person could take issue with the point raised by the Honourable Member for the City. I am sure that all of us who are Barbadians and who have pride in our country are concerned about the non-existence of such public facilities particularly in the Bridgetown area. I am sure that the Government is cognizant of that and the mere fact that we have taken the decision to bring this matter to a point where we are now in Parliament trying to get this particular matter resolved is an indication of the Government's commitment to provide modern facilities of the nature described by the Honourable Member.

When I introduced the Resolution, I pointed out that this matter was being bandied about for many years. In fact, Sir, the file reveals that there were questions about the ownership of the land going as far back as 1963. Indeed, Sir, it was during the early 1980's, as I pointed out, that Mr. Griffith of Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy made a proposal to the then Government for the trading of some of the area so that they could construct a facility there in Palmetto Square. Sir, in looking at a note which I have on file here dated March 18, 1981, I believe the Honourable Member for the City might have been the Minister of Health at that time. It is interesting that the Honourable Member for the City was representing the City at that time and she was a Minister of the Cabinet and was not able to use her considerable influence as a Minister and also as the representative for the City to get even this facility constructed when an offer was made at that time. It is very interesting, Sir...

Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. In the first place, it is gravely improper to be reading from a Government file in the way that the Minister is seeking to do.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Did you hear my sentence..."seeking to do"? Secondly, Sir, if the Minister would look back now, he would be able to see the amount of money that was spent upgrading this facility between 1981 and now.

Aside.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am just referring to the fact that the Honourable Member was speaking in such

glorious terms and giving the public, and rightly so, reasons for the need for such facilities. I was saying that this was a matter which was on the table as far back as in the late 1970's or early 1980's. I was just recalling a note which I saw on the file dated March 18, 1981 and I said, in addition to that, the Honourable Member was a Minister and representative and ought to have been using her considerable influence to get this matter pushed further than it is. 1.10 p.m.

On that particular occasion the note indicated very clearly that there was no money and that they would try to get money in the Estimates for the following year, but if a private sector person came along and would set up the facility then the Government would be in agreement with that. That is the basis on which apparently this Griffith initiative came into being, but nothing happened after that. The Griffith who owned the contiguous property then took it upon himself to move on to the area and to charge people fees for parking over there. I think you will recall that it was an area which was occupied by a fairly entrepreneurial young man from St. Peter who used to sell vegetables on that spot. I am not getting into that, all I am saying is that the area of land is there, we are now establishing a very clear title to it, and the Government will establish a modern facility which, we all agree, is required there and in other parts of the City, and this Government is committed to doing that.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to indicate to the Leader of the House that when the item Notices of Questions was called previously the Honourable Member for the City was not in her place. I want to recommit that item in order to give the Honourable Member the opportunity to raise the question.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am much obliged to Your Honour for accommodating me. I was in another place and I apologise for my lateness.

Aside.

Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, I am much obliged to the Honourable Leader of the House for accommodating me with my Question.

To ask the Honourable Leader of the House:

Will the Minister state why land acquired by Government at the Pondsides in the City of Bridgetown for housing development has been underdeveloped since 1986?

Will the Minister state any proposals Government now has or has projected for housing development in terms of the acquisition of that land?

Will the Minister also state what proposals Government has for satisfying the considerable backlog of valid applications for housing units from residents of the City of Bridgetown, whether at the Pondsides or elsewhere in the City, especially as some of those applications have been with the Ministry responsible for housing and/or the National Housing Corporation for several years?

- Will the Minister undertake to ensure that all housing units constructed by Government or its agencies in the City of Bridgetown will be allocated to *bona fide* residents of the City?

I would wish to amend this Question, Sir. It is speaking to the wrong Honourable Member. It is to speak to the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, whoever that person is.

Hon. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, does the Honourable Member want the Reply to the Question now?

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am willing to accept an Oral Reply instant.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: As I indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, Government Business for the day has been concluded and I therefore move that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, 16th November at 12 o'clock noon.

* Hon. C. V. WALKER: I beg to second that, Sir."

Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the adjournment to draw to Your Honour's attention on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business I have an item numbered 5. It is a Resolution of no confidence in the Honourable Member for St. Michael West as Minister of Health. I would wish to invite Your Honours advice as to how and when I might proceed with this, because I must first amend it and I cannot do that unless it has been called.

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Mr. SPEAKER: It is now for me to decide when the time will be, but I am glad the Honourable Member raised the question. I think the Honourable Member would

recognise in the present circumstances there is going to be some need for the Resolution itself as it stands to be amended.

I would also like to make a comment, because it is necessary that these things be aired. One of the things I discovered is that among the many Commonwealth parliamentary countries Barbados is one of the very, very few countries that has in its Standing Orders a motion of no confidence in a Minister. Very few countries have done so. On my recent visit to Cyprus and that conference I shared the thought with some of the members there, and particularly the United Kingdom Government thought it very unusual that such a procedure would have been adopted in the light that it is always accepted that collective responsibility takes precedent over other things. Therefore they have never ever allowed a vote of no confidence in a Minister, but moreso in the Government

We have opted for this kind of approach, which obviously we have no precedents to go by when certain developments arise. Therefore, I would not want to make a ruling without in some way sharing my thoughts on the matter with the Honourable Member. I hope we should be able to get some kind of consensus suitable for the motion, but I think you will agree that the motion as it stands will have a lot of difficulty if it were being proceeded with forthwith.

Miss B. A. MILLER: I am much obliged to Your Honour. This would not be the only connection in which Barbados has led Commonwealth opinion on matters and I would like to interpret this as Barbados being ahead and perhaps being prescient, certainly in respect of noconfidence motions. I had intimated when I first spoke, Sir, that I would wish to amend the Resolution, but I cannot do it until it has been called. I just wonder if I could elicit from the Government benches some indication as to when this was likely.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to that of the Honourable Member for the City. I think it is important that we get back to clearing and doing Private Members' Business. The Leader of the House should organise the time in such a way, since Your Honour says you have no control over the time at which these matters are dealt with, that once there is Private Members' Business on the Order Paper and there is consultation with the Leader of the House beforehand, that Private Members' Business be dealt with. Otherwise, the House is going to remain a dead place. Private Members do and should have a say to have their business moving. 1.20p.m.

I have had 2 Resolutions since October 1992: debate has started on one and was postponed for some time* I am willing to give way with that Resolution in order to facilitate the Honourable Member's Motion of No

Confidence since I believe very strongly that a motion of no confidence, whether it be in the Government or, under our procedure, in a Minister should be dealt with" as promptly as possible.

I would hope, therefore, that on the next occasion when the House meets there will be room for Private Members' Business although the time limit for that, as we know, is about one hour and one half. Perhaps the Honourable Leader of the House will give consideration to arranging with the Honourable Member for the City a special time to do that Motion so that it can be disposed of, hopefully favourably, with the vote of the Honourable Members on the Other Side. It should be disposed of as fast as possible, Sir. Also we should be able to complete the other matters on Private Members' Business. I believe there are other Resolutions that are Private Members' motions which have come in before this House and, in my view, I believe that we can make progress just by proper arrangements.

If the Government, like today, knows that its business is going to finish so early or anticipates thus, then with some sort of arrangement we could have gone on to dispose with the other work of the House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to amend my Resolution before the House for the adjournment to be November 23 rather than November 16. That will require a seconder as well.

Also, Sir, I just want to state that I did have some preliminary consultation today.

Aside.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Consultation all the same, short or long. It was long enough to dispose of what we were talking about because I have understood from the Leader of the Opposition that in fact he would have some consultation with the Member who gave notice of the Resolution, whom I assume is the Deputy Leader - the Honourable Member for the City, let me say - at lunchtime, and would speak to me again. I am just repeating what was said today. I discussed the matter with the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the Leader of the Opposition, who informed me that he himself would be speaking to the Honourable Member for the City at lunchtime. At that time she was not in her seat and we would then discuss this matter later today on the question of timing for debate on this Resolution.

I gave him some idea as to when it might possibly be done and when it could not be done. That was only done today, Sir, but I assume that the Honourable Member has not had the opportunity. He did give the assurance he would speak at lunch and lunch has not yet come, so my belief is that the Honourable Member has not yet spoken

to the Honourable Member for the City, seeing that he has maintained his silence throughout all of this. That can only be an assumption on my part.

Anyhow, Sir, the position still remains the same. It is my intention to speak to the Leader of the Opposition so that a time can be agreed on when a No Confidence Resolution can be debated. A No Confidence Resolution should be debated at the earliest possible opportunity. As I said before on other occasions, I am available to discuss matters with Honourable Members on the Other Side as Leader of the House. If they will let me know when they are ready to deal with matters, I will try to arrange things

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in such a way that those matters that are on the Order Paper can be disposed of.

I thought I should say what I have said and I am moving that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, November 23, 1993 at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. M. A. KING: I beg to second it, Six

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 1.25 p.m.

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Mr. H. A. (St. Philip South) FORDE, Mr. H.
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E. (St. Lucy) GREAVES, Hon. P. M. (St
Michael North) MILLER, Miss B. A. (City of
Bridgetown) SANDIFORD, Rt. Hon. L. E. (St.
Michael South)