

# THE

# House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

---

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, April 4, 1995.*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. o'clock on Tuesday, April 4, 1995,

#### PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed., (Speaker)

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL (Deputy Speaker)

Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.)

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.), (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.

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

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.) (Minister of Tourism, International Transport and the Environment)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business) (Leader of the House)

Hon. G. W. PAYNE, (Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing)

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Mr. D. CARTER

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports)

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL

Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, J.P., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Health)

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

*Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is in session.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Monday, March 20, 1995.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes of proceedings of the Honourable the House of Assembly for the Meeting of Monday, March 20, 1995 which Minutes have been circulated be taken as read.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

#### PAPERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay:

The Report on the General Election, 1994,

I am also commanded to lay:

The Customs Tariff (Amendment), (No. 2) Order, 1995.

The Exchange Control (Sypher Mueller International Inc.) (Exemption) Order, 1995.

The Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositaries) (Amendment) Order, 1995.

The Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1994.

#### OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a day, some few weeks ago, occurred the passing of a man that I would describe as a great Barbadian. I speak of the late Mr. Kenneth Godding Simmons, father of the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

I can fairly well say that the late Mr. Simmons, Uncle Ken as he was known to so many of us, was the kind of Barbadian that makes us proud. His first chosen profession, as I understood it, was teaching. He did something that so many teachers, in the generation before us, and even in our generation do, he married a nurse. Their children numbering 5 were brought up in the kind of household that I think most of us in here were brought up in, where parents were strict on manners, the courtesies of this life, were strict with one's homework and lessons, education, where one had to read, where we talked to each other, music was introduced into the household. I think it is fair to say, when we look at the 5 children of the late Kenneth Simmons, that his life was more than worthwhile, that his contribution, not only his own contribution to his generation, but his contribution now to his children is a magnificent one. It is not given to enough of us, I think, to be able to claim that but in Kenneth Simmons' case, it can fairly be said that he gave not only of himself but he gave his children too into the service of our beloved country.

When I first met the late Ken Simmons, he was, at that time, no longer in teaching formally, but was Superintendent of the facility for young men at St. Philip, then known as Dodds and still known as Dodds. I think he had supervising authority too in respect of Summervale which was the institution where young women were sent sometimes.

The Simmons' household was, as I said, Sir, not unlike the household in which I grew up and I am sure yourself and several others of us. But there was something very special about Mr. Simmons. Two of his sons are,

particularly, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and his brother, who is now our High Commissioner at London, and that speaks to the level and the quality of contribution that these children are making to the Barbadian community. But those 2 sons are my immediate contemporaries. We had early political interest and would talk. In those days, you were not allowed to be on the telephone like you are today, and we used to write letters and it was full of politics. You were listening to Eric Williams and Sir Grantley Adams in those days.

Ken Simmons was wonderful in the way that he could relate to us, in our mid-teens, as we were then. He did not speak to us as he would speak to the other people. He did not treat us as though we were children. He spoke to us as though we were adults. I think that it was a very good example that he set. I have tried to follow that, in my life, not to speak down to young nieces and nephews and young people generally but to speak across to them and pull them up in that way.

This perhaps is the thing that I remember most and I remember best about the late Kenneth Simmons, that he treated us as young men and young women, even when we were 14 and 15 and still treated ourselves as children. He would discuss and did discuss any and everything with us. He certainly made me feel as though we were already citizens of the world long before we went out into it.

When we went out to study and we came back and we saw him, he was always quick to ask how we were doing and you did not think it was just something he was doing because he wanted to be polite. One felt that he really did care, that it mattered to him the sense of direction that we had and the quality of the contribution that we were making and I felt that same ease.

Even though he had such terrific authority at Dodds, he was not an adult who made you feel that you had to stand off and that you had to be in awe of him. Somehow, you felt an ease of relationship where you could talk freely to him and you could say almost anything to him. 11.30a.m.

I believe that his children, more than the rest of us who were there just as friends or acquaintances, would be particularly thankful throughout their lives for that very special kind of relationship they had with him where you could talk about any and everything and did in fact talk about any and everything.

Kenneth Simmons lived a long and highly useful life. He suffered through a long period of illness before his death but I never heard it said that he complained and I think that he did not. He was not that kind of person. He bore what life brought with great fortitude and great courage. He was clearly of a generation which set

an example that we should be proud to follow. My own father, who went before him, would sometimes say to us in our generation that we did not have the pioneering spirit of their generation, that we did not have that strength of purpose and that strength of character that our parents' generation had, that we were spoilt. Perhaps our generation was a little spoilt but even so I think that we, all of us on all sides, are a credit to the generation of Kenneth Simmons and a credit to our parents and are a credit to our country. Perhaps that is the most important thing that he has left to us, the Kenneth Simmons model which is a model to be emulated and to be followed even in 1995.

He has left an attitude to life which I think is to be found in the way his children deport themselves. They have all sought to serve in our community, again following an old time dictum that is as good now as it was then, that if what you have to give you give it first to Barbados and generations to come will thank you for it. If not to Barbados then to the wider Caribbean and then beyond was like a last choice so to speak, a very distant third choice. But all of the Simmons' children have chosen to give of their talent and of their lives to Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St Thomas, his contribution as a parliamentarian, as an esteemed Attorney-at-law is bettered by none. His eldest of his brothers, who is now our High Commissioner at London.,

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg your pardon. The eldest of his brothers. I know the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is the eldest of them all but the eldest of his brothers gave to Barbados and is still contributing in his present posting as High Commissioner to London and there is a sister who is a business woman *par excellence* in Bridgetown, a young woman who started at a time, we are immediate contemporaries, who started at a time when you did not see young black women heading up businesses. The travel agency of which she is a Managing Director is one that has grown and is perhaps numbered among the top, if it is not the top, travel agency in Barbados and she makes her contribution to our community in that way. She makes other contributions but that is the sphere in which she is best known.

Then there are two younger brothers, one who is an hotelier and the other is a business person and they all live and work in Barbados and are giving back to this little island nation much of what they learned at the knee of their father.

I would wish that the usual Resolution of condolence, Sir, would be suitably prepared and forwarded to the

widow and the immediate family of the late Kenneth Godding Simmons which would reflect the condolences of this Honourable, the House of Assembly.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in this debate. I second the motion of condolence in respect of the passing of the late Mr. Kenneth Simmons whom I only met myself on a few social occasions and, because of my age, and his, we did not have the pleasure or opportunity of coming into greater contact with each other; though I have had close contact with many of his offspring and their offspring and their offspring over many years and the relationship has largely been a personal one, through political and family connections.

I will say he must have been a remarkable man, based on the comments which would have been made about him by those who eulogised him formally and informally and certainly he has made a contribution as a public officer, as a person in the private sector, as a Barbadian who has built and assisted in the building of a family business which is no mean achievement, as a Barbadian who toiled so that his own children could be in positions better than he was and certainly able to earn more, I assume, than he was able to earn in his life time and also to have honours and accolades bestowed on them, not merely through detached public service but also by facing the electorate and having that commendation or distinction placed on their shoulders.

He obviously was a man of many parts who had a very wide and catholic influence on the Barbadian society and leaves behind him children who are contributing at all levels of our society in placid environments, in the heat of political battle and contention, and in the field of diplomacy, in the dog-eat-dog world of business, owning a small hotel and in a whole range of other areas.

I wish to, on behalf of the Members of the Democratic Labour Party, including those of his children and their children who are Members and supporters, to extend my condolence to the family on behalf of the Opposition and to hope that the grief which they would have experienced, not only in his passing, but through the period of his illness which appeared quite protracted, that that will now be surpassed by fond memories of his achievements, of the discipline he instilled in them, of the qualities which he imbued in them and also with the satisfaction that he made a contribution to Barbados which has been acknowledged from the highest levels and right throughout the society. So we extend our condolences to the family and join in supporting this motion of condolence.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to share in the comments that have been expressed both by the Honourable Leader of the House and the

Honourable Leader of the Opposition in respect of the passing of the late Mr. Kenneth Simmons.

I would wish, Sir, to salute the life of Mr. Simmons both in terms of what he was able to achieve, not only as a teacher in the primary school system of this country and his association, I believe with the Rawle Training Institute, as well as his work as the person heading up the juvenile penal institution at Dodds where he exhibited an understanding that work of that kind not only requires discipline, but indeed an understanding that the circumstances in which many of those youngsters found themselves had to be dealt with by empathising them and creating the environment in which they could learn skills and indeed allow themselves to rise above the circumstances in which they had found themselves. 11.40. a.m.

His work in those areas clearly left a deep impression on his children, and indeed the work pursued by the Honourable Attorney General in terms of his Masters in Criminology and his fervour for penal reform is probably as a result of having had first hand experience of watching his father deal with difficult circumstances in an age where few understood the need for rehabilitation.

I would also like to salute his life in terms of his contribution to his family. I think there is no gainsaying that the Simmons family is a strong-willed family in every sense of the word both in terms of how they deal with those outside of the family as well as in terms of how they deal with themselves inside the family. Strong opinions will rule the day, but there is no animosity or malice carried beyond those strong opinions, and I think that is testimony to the type of family environment both that Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Simmons ensured that their children were brought up in.

I would only like at this stage to extend my sympathy to the rest of the Simmons family and to Mrs. Simmons as well, who really is a matriarch in the true sense of the word as we understand it in Barbados and who has also been very kind to me in my affairs to date and I would wish to associate with the words that have passed before in honouring the memory of the late Kenneth Simmons.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago the Honourable Member for St. Thomas rose in his place and paid tribute on the passing of my own father and now it is my turn to rise in my place and pay tribute on the occasion of the passing of his father. That says that we are at the ages where that is going to happen more and more if we stay here long enough. On that occasion he was heard to say that he did not know my father personally; but on this occasion I have to say that my reason for rising is to

acknowledge that the late Mr. Simmons had some little hand in the forming of my own personality.

I have the good fortune to be a graduate of the best elementary school that there ever was in Barbados, Wesley Hall School, and for the period that I spent there I had two Headmasters, the late Mr. Charles F. Broome and the Honourable Member's father, the late Mr. Ken Simmons, and they made an interesting contrast. I was at school from age four plus and left at eight plus; and in that four years I was able to observe the contrast between the styles of the two men, both of them giants in education in Barbados. The late Mr. Broome believed in the look and the word and the "follow my example". The late Ken Simmons believed verily that there ought to be no sparing of the rod lest you earned the spoiling of the child! It meant therefore that many of us had to spend what looked like a lifetime seeking to find various ways to avoid coming under the hand of the late Ken Simmons.

What I remember of him most is a very clear understanding that the environment within which a school existed was to be pristine, every day. The school gardens of the Wesley Hall that I remember had a particular reference to the Headmaster's arrival in the morning. Boys had to ensure that the gardens were properly prepared. The flowers had to be trimmed and the rows had to be straight, and they had to match. I recall Sir, even now that the teachers participated in that exercise. Whereas before him we had concentrated on kitchen gardens, I remember that when Ken Simmons came he concentrated on flower gardens. That is a memory which has remained with me throughout my life; that schools ought to have gardens, both in the front for flowers and in the back for the kitchen garden.

I recall too that he spoke in very short sentences. I remember as a boy trying to understand what could only have been described as a grunt, but having the fear of not wishing to ask him to repeat it, that fear of what might happen to a six year old boy who dared to ask the Headmaster a foolish question, but for all of that I cannot recall any of the little boys ever having been flogged by the Headmaster, so that the reputation of the Headmaster permeated the school and the discipline in the school was fired by the concept of "not wanting to come face to face with Mr. Simmons".

After I left Wesley Hall in 1948 or thereabouts I had no more contact with him for a very long time until I came back to Barbados some time in the late 1960s. At that time through fortuitous circumstances his then son-in-law was living in the environs of Dodds which was the home circle, and therefore I had that association and by extension an association with his daughter - that is, Mr. Simmons' daughter. By then he had become less of a fearsome Headmaster and more of a raconteur. The stories he

told are legendary and would not bear repetition in a situation like this, but I am sure at an appropriate time his son will be in a better position to tell us some of the interesting stories as told by the late Ken Simmons.

I recall too that I would raise the phenomenon of his having five children, three of which - making them a majority - had shown a perhaps better understanding of the political situation than the first two, in that their choice of party suggested a more clearly thought out approach to politics. 11,50a.m.

It was always interesting to hear Ken Simmons<sup>9</sup> explanation of that He said that in a democratic environment, "all persons have the right to do foolishness". I remember very well his explanation of that, Sir. He sided with the minority in his household on that occasion.

It is good when one remembers people who have died that one can remember them in a gentle sense. It is good for those who are left behind, because as Honourable Members who have had this experience well know and as the Honourable Member will discover, it is a void that is more easily spoken about than filled. It is a void that it appears cannot be filled. Only the pleasures of time spent with the particular father or mother will provide the relevant substitute for the vacuum which his death would have caused.

In offering condolences, I hope that the Honourable Member will find some solace in the fact that his father made a significant contribution to certain varied parts of public life in Barbados.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all those Honourable Members who spoke on behalf of my late father and offered condolences. I am obliged to them and will treasure their words.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed. I am sure this House will support the Resolution of sympathy and the appropriate condolences will be sent to the family. As a mark of respect, I would invite you to stand with me to observe one minute's silence at the passing of this great Barbadian.

*Members stood in their places in silence for one minute.*

Mr. B. M. TAUT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the day before the late Ken Simmons was buried, we had to go through the process of laying to rest another great Barbadian, a Barbadian who has made a significant contribution to life in the rural parts of this country, a Barbadian whose contribution will last for many years to come.

I speak, Sir, of the late C. A. Eyre Hoppin, a Member of this House of Assembly from 1966 until 1976, a gentleman who throughout his parliamentary career demonstrated a form of representation which came to be capable of emulation by all those that aspire to represent people in this Honourable Place.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, when he left this Honourable Chamber he had ascended to the pinnacle of representation in this Chamber. He sat where Your Honour now sits as one of the Speakers of this Honourable Chamber.

Eyre Hoppin represented an era that was different from those we spoke about earlier and yet falls as part of the fabric that has made this country great. He was one of those who, educated as he was at a town secondary school, Combermere, returned to the country to participate in the education of young people in the country.

Before that, when he left elementary school, he was apprenticed, as was the wont of persons interested in education at that time, to one of the schoolmasters in his neighbourhood, and of course he apprenticed at the salary of zero cents per month. He worked, as I understood his eulogist to say, for almost two years without pay while he was teaching in the junior elementary school of St. George. Having gone to Combermere, and having resumed teaching, he would soon discover along with others, the green pastures of Curacao and Aruba.

In those days, Sir, as Your Honour will recall, it was the custom of Barbadians who wanted to make better the lives and their children's lives to go out where possible either to the United States under the immigration scheme so called or for some lucky ones to the oil fields of Aruba and Curacao. In this case, Eyre Hoppin went to Curacao and spent a considerable time there working hard, contributing to life there and amassing a modest savings such that on his return to Barbados he could begin to function as a small businessman.

Very often these days, Sir, when we talk about small business and when we talk about entrepreneurship, we do not remember how difficult it was for black people especially to begin as entrepreneurs in Barbados. They were at the mercies of the merchant class and Eyre Hoppin developed, I think, a capacity for diplomacy in business which stood him in good stead when he turned subsequently to politics.

He was a very gentle man. I know of no one who could get Eyre Hoppin to quarrel. I can think of no time during his long sojourn in the Democratic Labour Party when he was regarded by anybody as a political enemy. I would make bold to say that even on the other side

it would be hard to find anyone who regarded him in the truest sense as being a political enemy.

He worked with Russell Lowe to represent the Parish of St. George, and I recall very well the occasion when he determined that he had had enough of the political difficulties of representation. Eyre Hoppin indicated that while he was prepared to continue making himself available to those parishioners in St. George, both North and South, he did not have the stomach to go through another political campaign with the inherent difficulty of fighting a campaign with meager resources in circumstances where the major need is in fact resources.

Eyre Hoppin lived and worked in a period when we had in this Honourable House such names as - I think it is important, Sir, that we look at the kinds of names which adorned this House during the time when he came in 1966, the year of our independence, and indeed, just two weeks before Independence. Among the persons elected at that time were people with names like Ernest Deighton Mottley and Jamieson Barrymore Springer. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South was a young freshman member at that time, although he was a Q.C. by then. 12.00 p.m.

Reynold St. Clair Weekes, Russell Woodridge Lowe, Lionel Seymour Craig, Errol Walton Barrow, John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams, Kenmore Nathaniel Rhystone Husbands, John Eustace Theodore Brancker who was knighted subsequently, Lloyd Ethelbert Smith and Arlington DaCosta Edwards, all these names are now part of the political folklore of Barbados, in many respects - I mean no disrespect to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I do not think he has entered the folklore yet, but he is working on it. The people who sat in the House in those days were people who concentrated more on service than they did on anything else. When it was considered that those who were not professional men or women - there were no women in the House then - but those who were not lawyers or doctors had a very difficult time working and functioning as members of Parliament. When it was considered what pittance formed the so-called emoluments for members of Parliament in 1966 and beyond, the magnificence of the service performed by people like Eyre Hoppin becomes even clearer.

It is in that context that I offer to the family of the late Eyre Hoppin, who found time in all of that to be a family man, who found time to be, indeed, not only a family man for those who lived in his household but for almost every other who needed some kind of paternal assistance in St. George.

He was a great churchman. He had time to pay obeisance to his Lord and he did that on a regular basis in

the small church where finally his mortal remains were laid, St. Jude's. To his memory large numbers gathered both at the Auditorium in George Street and subsequently in the little churchyard to pay their last respects.

In the words of the Old Testament "the days of man are but as grass, and the grass withereth and the flower thereof fadeth away but the Word of the Lord endureth forever". I believe that if the voice of the people is the voice of God and if the voice of God spoke when Eyre Hoppin and Russell Lowe especially were representing St. George, I believe that that voice is going to continue to speak and I believe that Eyre Hoppin's voice will continue to be heard even as an influence on those who succeed him and those who will succeed them. May he, Sir, rest in peace.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Eyre Hoppin who was a member of this House from 1966 until 1976. In fact, Sir, he was the Junior Member for the constituency of St. George being one of the last members serving the double member constituency in those days. I would like to characterise him as a community man, an honest man but he was a very rumbustious person. I believe that we would learn a lot from the style of Eyre Hoppin. He used to travel through the length and breadth of St. George looking at the old people, the young people and people in general to help them especially in the rebuilding of houses.

He was not only a teacher, as the Honourable Member has said before, but he travelled to Aruba where he worked, so he was a West Indian man.

In terms of St. George politics, I believe Eyre has made a great contribution to the development of the social life of St. George and also to the development of this country. We know that he was a Deputy Speaker during the years 1971 to 1976 and then he took over for one year after his colleague retired.

I remember Eyre mostly during the year 1976. I recall at the height of his political career he was shafted by that party and he never really regained his political favour at all because even though he tried to return in the 1981 General Election, the people of St. George felt that they would not take him on at all because they felt he should have stood up as a man and fought after his shafting in 1976. But he was a street fighter and he will go down in history as an honest man and a man who spoke the truth. We believe that such a man is needed in politics today. We believe that Eyre Hoppin as a community worker stands out not only in St. George but also in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to his family that they have lost a good man, and the country of Barbados

a good parliamentarian. We surely miss the contribution that he has made to this country.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to lend my voice to the tribute that is being paid today to the late Clifford Eyre Hoppin. Mr. Hoppin was my parliamentary representative for the whole time he was a member of Parliament, and for many years I was his parliamentary representative, so he looked after my needs in St. George North but I looked after his in St George South.

I listened to the words from my colleague, the Honourable Member for St George North, and I wish to adopt much of what he said as my own words. Therefore I will not be very long.

Eyre Hoppin was a large man. I believe he was probably about 6 ft. 4 ins., a very big man. The biggest part of Eyre Hoppin was his heart and I do not mean that literally. I mean it figuratively. He was a man with a generosity of spirit that is very infrequently seen these days. He was a man who gave both of himself and his material things to others. It is for this reason that he was widely respected in St George.

I remember, Sir, that he had a community house called the "Winter Garden Casino" where regularly on weekends there would be dances. His house was next door. At a certain hour of the morning, around 3 o'clock, he would emerge from his house into the Casino to collect the money that was to be paid for the rental of the hall. I could say that I have been present on many occasions when the person who was holding the dance would say to him "Lock at the people in here. There were not many people turning up. Business was not too good". He would say, "If you did not make any money I cannot expect you to pay me" and he would return to his house. That is the way he lived with the people in St George.

When he died there was almost a hush in the parish because although his name was not mentioned outside of St. George as a big name in the political life of this country, or indeed the social life of this country, in St. George Eyre Hoppin enjoyed a very special place in the hearts of the people. 12.10 p.m.

No party political division made any difference in that regard. Those who voted for one side or the other did not make any difference in their regard for Eyre Hoppin.

In the last years of his life, he was treated very shabbily by the political process. There are those who believe that the easiest way to fame and fortune is to get involved in elective politics. Eyre Hoppin served the parish

of St George with distinction. But in the later years of his life, he was bordering on destitution and nothing, in the process, worked in his favour.

Constantly, I would be in discussion with him about his fate and very often it made me more conscious and aware of the minefield of political activity in this country.

The Honourable Member for St. George North used the word "shafted" referring to the way he was treated by his own political Party in 1976. I hear the Honourable Member for St Michael West speak fulsomely about what a great man he was and the unique contribution he made to the political life, particularly in a rural area. But it must not be forgotten on an occasion like this, that even though he was Speaker of the House in 1976 and one hears that he performed the job well, when the Elections of 1976 came, he was shunted aside by his own political Party and room found in St. George North for the now Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

It is a sordid story that still leaves a taste of bitterness in the mouths of the people of St George. It happened to a man who least deserved it. It is said that he was a great community man. That is true. He was also a man of immense modesty and humility. Many of us who get into political life too often allow our elevated status to move us away from our roots, from among and between the people who gave us prominence. Eyre Hoppin was a kind of man who, no matter what he achieved in life, remained very much part of the community of St. George, dealing with ease and confidence with people of every walk of life in that parish. He came from Greens in St George. His aunt and mother were supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. It is difficult to explain the aberration that put Eyre on the other side. But that is not a criticism, because I am speaking of a good man who, despite the fact that he was a strong political partisan, was nevertheless able to deal even with people who were sometimes hostile to him politically, with an evenness and equanimity and a generosity that characterise people who are larger than normal.

I knew his family well, his wife Dorothy and his 3 children, his brother and other members of the family. They were all, at one stage or another during my own political career, kind to me. I grieve with them on the passing of a husband, father, brother. I have great pleasure in joining with the mover of this Resolution of Condolence to the family of the late Clifford Alleyne Eyre Hoppin.

Hon. Sir. HAROLD St JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had the honour of knowing the late Eyre Hoppin, both as a member of this Honourable House and as a Councillor representing St. George in the Southern District Council in the period of time when there was Local Government in Barbados between 1959 and 1962.

The Honourable Member has truthfully said that Mr. Hoppin was a person who had intimate contact with all of the community, all shades of opinion in St. George and indeed, in Barbados. There are particularly two areas of his character that I should like to speak about. One relates to his work as the Credit Control Manager of the Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory. In that capacity, one could always send a person to Mr. Hoppin to be evaluated for a loan for a chattel building. He did that work with great skill, with great sympathy and I believe that many people benefited from his assessment.

I also can speak of his interest in the sport of horse-racing. He was an avid fan of racing. As a Parliamentarian, he was quiet, but, at the same time, his contribution to the debates reflected his genuine interest in the improvement of the society which he represented, which, in essence, was a rural society. In those days, Barbados was not as fortunate as it is today. There used to be a much greater fight than there is today for the provisions of such basic amenities as electricity and water in our several districts.

The community today is much better off in that it is true to say that over 95% of the population has access to water and I believe a similar percentage to electricity. It was not so in the 1960s. A great part of the work of a member of Parliament in those days was the lobbying of the utility companies and the relevant Ministry to ensure that particular districts obtained these basic amenities.

Mr. Hoppin was also a great small farmer. He was particularly fond of keeping pigs and I believe up to his last days, he was still attending to a much smaller number.

He certainly made a valuable contribution to the political and social life of Barbados. I join the Honourable Members in extending condolences to his wife and his family.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be very brief in extending my condolences to the wife and family of the late Eyre Hoppin.

As my colleague the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has said, we are particularly saddened by his passing, not least because of the views expressed by some in this Chamber about his spotty political career, in which events occurred largely out of his own control, but I certainly share with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for St. George South. 12.20 p.m.

I knew Eyre Hoppin from his regular visits to Spry Street and its environs and while there have had many opportunities to talk to him about a number of matters,

areas of interest and like many of those older Barbadians who participated in politics at some level he was always willing to offer advice and suggestions and was also very conscious of the realities of political involvement. That apart he ran in the 1981 General Election for the Democratic Labour Party and I recall participating in that election and he was certainly one of those candidates who was manageable and hardworking and had his finger on the pulse of his constituency but obviously not so strong as to land a seat for the Democratic Labour Party on that occasion.

He nevertheless is remembered by Parliamentarians as a very fair person and a person who contributed in his own way and we are very grateful in the Democratic Labour Party that he made that wise choice to participate in politics under our banner, and are very grateful for the service which he rendered to the people of St. George and to Barbados as a whole and regret very much his untimely passing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Chair with all the comments made about the late Honourable Member. This House with acclaim will support the Resolution of Sympathy and the necessary condolences will be passed on to his family. As a mark of respect for the passing of this late Honourable Member, I now invite you to join with me in observing one minute's silence.

*Members stood in their places in silence for one minute.*

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, before we conclude this Head I think I ought to say a few words on behalf of Mrs. Denise Carter, a member of the staff of Parliament, a typist, who passed on the week after my father and Mr. Hoppin.

Mrs. Carter of course is the sister of Mrs. Ellis and for many years has been relied on by the Clerk of Parliament in the way that, as he expressed it to me, he could not rely on anybody else, because she always seemed to be available whenever there was need and nothing was too difficult for her to do or assume on behalf of the public of Barbados in the discharge of her duties.

She was a most efficient worker. She was a particularly gentle and quiet person, tending on the plump side, and it is said that those who are plump have a certain warmth of personality and warm disposition.

I have always found her of tremendous assistance for the time I have been in Parliament, Sir. If I wanted to find any speech or wanted her to type anything urgently for me she was always there and she moved so unobtrusively that I do not believe that a lot of us knew her closely. She did not operate at the shorthand writer's desk but rather

from the room outside and behind the Clerk's Chambers and as I said she was so quiet, so unobtrusive that you could probably not know that she was there. But for all that, she performed with great effectiveness and efficiency during her years,

I am very proud to have known her. Of course she was a constituent of mine from Arch Hall and.,,

*Aside.*

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, she suffered greatly from the effusions of Mangrove Pond but she and her family were eminent people in the district of Arch Hall, very well respected and respectable persons. She herself passed at a comparatively early age, leaving behind young children. However, I think I can say with confidence that the closeness of the family unit will ensure that those children lack for nothing in terms of affection that can be bestowed on them by the immediate family and in that regard, her sister, Diana, who works here at Parliament, I know will be generous in offering whatever assistance she can.

It is sad when persons go and leave young children behind and as much as we grieve for that situation, I still have the confidence, from what I know of the family, to assure Honourable Members that the young children will be well cared and provided for by a loving and devoted father and husband and immediate family. With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this Honourable House take note also of the passing of Mrs. Carter at a very early age and convey our condolences to her family,

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the motion of the Honourable Member and to speak on behalf of Members of the Opposition all of whom participated in Parliament during the time when Mrs. Carter was a member of the Parliamentary Staff.

Although the Parliamentary Staff does not come into contact with Parliamentarians with the kind of frequency or intimacy which may exist in other kinds of environments in which you work because we only come here once a week, and other than at Estimates time, are not here for lengthy periods, that is not to say that we do not acknowledge and appreciate the work of our Parliamentary Staff including the contribution which was made by Mrs. Carter to the smooth functioning of Parliament.

In particular we extend our condolence to her sister and to members of her family. We share the concerns which have been expressed by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and hope that the grief and misfortune which her family may have suffered by her passing will be transient and that they will soon be able to bypass that

hiccup and to reflect on her contribution to the development of this Parliament and the life which she lived and the attributes which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, certainly with more knowledge than I, said that she possessed. So we extend our condolence and support this Resolution, 12.30 p.m.,

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the Honourable Members for St. Thomas and St. John and also to say to this House that I have known the family for a while. It is very regrettable sometimes when someone is cut away from one's family. She has left behind two children and I am quite confident that they will be taken care of. Her husband has been a rather devoted husband and a good friend of mine, and I think that they are in good hands. I hope that will continue and that we will pray for them and wish the family the best in their future endeavours.

Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Chair once again with all the sentiments expressed.

Mrs. Carter served this Assembly for 28 years and although she died at the young age of 46, I am told that her work here was a work that could not be equalled. She was always very co-operative, all the Presiding Officers I have spoken to spoke very highly of her and indeed I think we have lost a true and dedicated worker, as so many of the workers here at this Assembly seem to be.

This House will again with acclaim support the Resolution of sympathy and I now ask you once again to stand with me for one minute to observe her passing,

*Members stood in silence in their places for one minute.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the rest of this day's sitting.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,*

### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day.

ORDER NO. 1 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE  
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT  
HALLS ROAD, ST. MICHAEL FOR CANA-  
LISATION AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of this Resolution pertaining to the acquisition of approximately 3 400 square feet of land at Halls Road, St. Michael for the purpose of canalisation and road improvement.

In May 1989 Miss Ida Davis approached the Ministry of Housing and Lands offering for sale a parcel of land at Halls Road, St. Michael. Miss Davis indicated then that it was her understanding that Government did not want any building erected in the area.

Research carried out into this matter has revealed that Miss Davis owned approximately 3 400 square feet of land, some 1 600 square feet of which was utilised by the Crown as part of the canalisation and road improvement project during the 1960s. The 1 600 square feet was however never formally acquired. The Ministry of Public Works has advised that the remaining 1 800 square feet lies within a flood zone and should be acquired.

It is therefore proposed to regularise the use of the 1 600 square feet and to acquire the remaining 1 800 square feet for road improvement purposes. Efforts on Government's part to obtain a survey plan clearly delineating the subject parcel have been unsuccessful. The Chief Surveyor has, however, produced a sketch plan showing the approximate area of the land.

In the light of the unavailability of a survey plan identifying the land with precision, parliamentary approval is being sought to acquire approximately 3 400 square feet of land at Halls Road, St Michael from Miss Ida Davis for canalisation and road improvement so as to facilitate the payment of compensation to her.

Mr. Speaker, this acquisition coming some 32 years after the land was actually occupied by Government raises a number of concerns. With respect to private land owners, after a person has been in possession of land for ten years, that person under the Limitation and Prescription Act has the right if there is evidence of adverse possession to claim the land as their own. Not so with Government. It is a question of mere conjecture as to why Miss Davis, even though she was informed in 1963 that Government had intended to acquire the land, did nothing until 1989. It raises the need for amendment of the legislation so that persons who might realise at the time they might be

informed that their land would be acquired, where they might be of the opinion that they would not be able to prove ownership, would sit tight and then wait until a few years afterwards and then come forward where they might be satisfied that persons whose claim would be better than theirs would be no longer around.

I think the time has come for the relevant legislation to be amended so that Government would not necessarily have to go through this process, not so much to facilitate the claim of Miss Davis in 1989 but also to facilitate the process whereby even if she is the correct owner you would not necessarily have to go through the problems of acquisition, publication of notices and payment of interest and the like. Maybe if the relevant amendment to the Land Acquisition Act could be made, whether or not the period of ownership by Government could be not necessarily ten years after occupation, without prejudice to the rights of the persons who are entitled to come forward thereafter, I think it would certainly quicken up the process.

*Aside.*

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I am saying that maybe if the legislation is amended in such a way whereby Government would be able to acquire the land after a specific period, say 20 years, without prejudice to the rights of the actual claimants to come forward thereafter, it would not be necessary for us to go through this acquisition process at this stage. The Act should be clear on this, because the question of the publication of the notices still has to be gone into, notwithstanding the fact that Government had been in occupation of the land for over 32 years. 12.40 p.m.

It raises also the question of the process to be followed, the dilemma for the Legal Department, Government having occupied the land, whether or not it was necessary to go through the whole process under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act to formally publish the notices. Even though this was not necessary by our reading of the relevant legislation, because the legislation makes provision for cases where Government intends to acquire land and not cases where the land has actually been occupied for all intents and purposes by Government. This process has already been gone into.

This particular acquisition because of the fact that the claim came so long after the land was actually occupied raised problems for the land surveyors in that no plan of the land could be found, especially taking into consideration that Miss Davis could not even produce any title to the land and the entire area of the land had already been occupied by Government.

There is provision in Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act for the Chief Surveyor, notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has formally approved an approximate area to go in and do a proper demarcation of the land.

Finally, with respect to our own policy with respect to acquisitions, a policy which we are trying to implement during this Administration. We are trying to ensure that where land is being acquired by Government or rather where a project is undertaken by Government the cost of the acquisition is actually included in the Estimates. It is fairly obvious that if Government proceeds to acquire land and then for some reason provision is made for the acquisition and the persons do not come forward there would be some lapse in the particular amount that is voted.

Also, more importantly, the fact that during this administrative period we have been trying to strike a very fair balance as to the amounts that would be required for the purposes of acquisition from year to year. Taking into consideration the actual amounts that were paid out for the purpose of acquisition during the last five years and taking into consideration the projections for the next 5 years it is fairly obvious that if there are a number of cases like these it would be extremely difficult for our projections to be realistic.

When one looks at the projections over the past 5 years in 1989-90 the sum of \$1 611 218 was the actual expenditure with respect to acquisitions. In 1990-91, \$2 197 746. In 1991-92, \$2 997 997. In 1992-93, \$2 998 325. In 1993, \$2 999 664 and for the period 1994-95, \$3 million was voted in the Estimates which was supplemented by a further \$2 million.

We have actually used that as the level taking into consideration that our projections for 1995-96 is in the vicinity of \$5 million. Three million dollars have been allocated in the Estimates and a further \$2 million will be utilised from an amount which was left in an account at the Crown Solicitor's Department at the time when the function of the acquisition was transferred to the accounting unit in the Ministry of Housing, making a total of \$5 million. So that if we get these unexpected claims for compensation and it would mean that it would go against the whole grain of the amounts which we project from year to year in the Estimates of Expenditure for acquisitions.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I listened with interest to the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands on this matter. The Constitution River

is no longer what it used to be. There was a time when it was tidal, when I was a very young child. I don't have any recollection of it, but I am told and advised that the Constitution River was tidal up to the Globe Roundabout in the early 50s. Those of us who can remember the floods of the late 1940s and the floods of the 1950s will be able to attest to that.

There are large outcroppings of rock on which Harrison College occupies a site, Queen's Park House, now Theatre, occupies one of those sites, the old Combermere School, later Queen's College School also occupied one of those cusps of rock on which buildings could in fact be built. But year after year even when there were not significant floods but simply heavy rainfall the people who lived at Ellis Village, that is, the river side of Halls Road which falls at this time within the City of Bridgetown and used to fall in another constituency at an earlier time, the people who live along Constitution Road were accustomed to having water coursing through their houses as a matter of habit

This is the point that I rise to speak on, Sir, that even though the Constitution River has been canalised and has been tamed to that extent that it has been canalised, the lands on either side are really alluvial peat bog. I make the point in here year after year that the old Nutrition Centre which was built on peat broke its back because it had no firm foundation. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, formerly the old St. Michael Deanery, was also built on an outcropping of rock but along the course of the Constitution River and particularly on Ellis Village where people live again and again there is going to be this problem of massive low lying flooding. It was all a alluvial plain and it still is so. 12.50 p.m.

A number of people have built substantial residences in Ellis Village and because we have not yet properly tackled the question of drainage in Bridgetown - and remember, if you go back to the Ligon's history of Barbados, Bridgetown was built on a swamp. It still suffers many of the problems associated with reclaimed land.

We sewered Bridgetown in the second half of the 1970s. I was Minister of Health at the time and responsible for it. A lot of people fondly but quite improperly believed that in sewerage Bridgetown we had taken care of the problems of drainage. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sewage is sewage. Drainage is drainage.

We still have a serious problem with flooding in the City of Bridgetown. When there is a heavy rainfall, believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, waters from as far as Sturges in St. Thomas will find their way on to Baxter's Road. There is a saying that if you drop a coke bottle and it breaks

on Baxter's Road you can create a flood. The canal which runs through Murphy's Pasture which might not be known to many Honourable Members in here, but it is certainly well known to me, that is very inadequate drainage indeed to drain Bridgetown. Even a canalised Constitution River is not designed to drain that part of Bridgetown. You do not have huge underground pipes going into the canalised Constitution River. Because the Constitution River is no longer tidal we do not even see it as a river anymore. People underestimate the capacity of that canal running from the Globe down to the Fairchild Street Market and, in fact, running into the Chamberlain Bridge, to the waters there in the Inner Careenage. People underestimate the capacity there.

I would like to call upon the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, to institute a survey, or a study, or maybe both, to look at drainage in the first instance and separately to look at the resiling of those people who live at Ellis Village and those people who live at a place called Riverside which is not known to many Honourable Members, I am sure. It used to be 11 houses, then it was 9, now it is 8. It is about 7 now. It is on the minibus stand side, below the old Queen's College at the Nelson Gate. The other gate is the Governor's Gate, I think. It is the westerly gate of Queen's Park. We need the resiling of those people and also the resiting of the people who live at Church Village as part of a project if those three areas could be looked at and some of the people who still live on the upper part of Constitution Road.

The fact is that between Queen's College and the westerly Park Gate all of the properties there have now gone commercial, but it really does need to be the subject of a separate project for resiting for reasons to do with flooding, particularly at Ellis Village and part of Constitution Road and Riverside, of course and in respect of Church Village, the alleviation of very bad congestion in what is now an essentially commercial and built-up area.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that being my contribution, and the time being almost 1.00 o'clock, I would wish to move that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

*The question that the sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.*

#### RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4.

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE BARBADOS AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION INC. OF LAND AT WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SWIMMING CENTRE

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association of land at Wildey for the establishment of a Swimming Centre.

In 1985 the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association and the Barbados Swimming Association approached Government seeking to lease an area of land to them at Wildey for lawn tennis and swimming purposes respectively. On August 15, 1985, Government agreed to the lease of approximately 1.21 hectares of land at Wildey to the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association on the following terms:-

- (1) The lease should be for a period of 25 years.
- (2) The lease should contain an option to renew for a similar period and on the same terms except as to the payment of rent.
- (3) The rental should be \$100 per annum.
- (4) The lease should be reviewed at the 10th and 20th year of its existence.

At that same time Government agreed in principle to the lease of approximately 11 000 square metres of land at Wildey to the Barbados Swimming Association on the same terms and conditions as those granted to the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association. The Association had indicated at the time that they intended to construct an Olympic size swimming pool and to utilise part of the lease for parking. They had further indicated that the area requested was adequate for the future expansion incorporating a diving well, should this become necessary.

Mr. Speaker, it is now proposed to formalise the lease of the said land now found to contain by admeasurement 1.099 hectares at Wildey, St. Michael, to the Barbados

Amateur Swimming Association. The parcel in question is adjacent to the site on which the Gymnasium is constructed and is also close to the area leased to the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association. The lands form part of the Wildey Plantation and were previously under the control of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation.

The Ministry of Sports having discussed the plans and proposals for the provision of swimming facilities at Wildey approved and recommended that the Swimming Association should be given every possible support for the provision of the facilities.

It was subsequently agreed that the said area would be leased to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association who agreed to the main terms and conditions proposed by the Government. The Association then sought permission to begin the construction on the said parcel pending the execution of the lease documents. 2.05 p.m.

The Association then sought permission to begin the construction on the said pasture pending the execution of the lease document. Having given careful consideration to the matter, the Ministry of Housing and Lands granted approval for the Swimming Association to take possession of the site with effect from February 1, 1988. An Olympic sized swimming pool has since been constructed in the area. The original agreement was for a period of 25 years. The Barbados Swimming Association has been in possession of the said land for the past 7 years, in accordance with the terms of the original agreement.

Parliamentary approval is now being sought to lease the said area containing by admeasurement 1.099 hectares to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association for a period of 18 years with an option to renew at a rental of \$100 per annum, subject to review in the year 2 004 and 2 014 of the said lease.

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that, Sir. In so doing, Sir, I want to say that the terms of this lease in particular the rental at \$100 per year for 25 years clearly indicates that Government is making every effort to encourage sporting activities in this island. In this case, Sir, it is the sport of swimming.

I do not think that we would want to politicize this particular event because I do believe that successive Governments, whether it be a BLP Administration or a DLP Administration have always indicated concerted efforts to support sports, in general. It is, once again, an

example of providing facilities in this country for the youth.

I want to make a few brief comments about the Swimming Association of Barbados and about the facility at Wildey. I firmly believe that, because of that facility, we in Barbados can now boast of some of the best junior swimmers in the region. We have never, since that facility came on stream, been disgraced at a swimming meet, any part of the region. We have held our own and, indeed, we have rivalled a lot of those who formerly used to defeat us. The only regret I would have is the fact that swimming seems, however, to be a sport of a select few. This perhaps is my one regret, that there are too many instances where we can see the same families coming up, time and time again, and it does not appear to me as though swimming is as broad-based, as it should be and that the Swimming Association perhaps would need to relate more to the masses of Barbadians.

I want to say that we seem to take too much for granted in Barbados where our facilities are concerned. We do not know how fortunate we are. I believe that this swimming facility at Wildey is arguably the best in the region. Looking at what the other areas would have to offer, I think the only competition we can have, in terms of a class facility, would be coming from Puerto Rico and Curacao. Those, Mr. Speaker, I think are our only rivals where having a good swimming facility is concerned. That facility there is an extremely safe one. I have visited it, on a couple of occasions since being in office, and I can safely say that there is a particular area there which has been laid out, specifically, for young children who want to train and to be taught to swim. It is the kind of learner's pool. A lot of their parents take the children there in the evenings and, as I said, it is an extremely safe facility.

There at that facility at Wildey, there is also accommodation and it is serving as one of the major planks for sports tourism in Barbados, where, in the winter, a lot of colleges come from overseas and use the swimming pool to continue their training and so on.

I believe that the time has come when the Gymnasium which is right next to the Swimming Association's facility there, when the two of them will have to work, hand in hand, and, perhaps, since there is no accommodation really at the Gymnasium, that the accommodation at the Swimming Association may be used by people who want to use the Gymnasium for similar activities. In other words they need to work together.

The plans are also on the way, I must inform the House to have the diving well set up at the facility as well because right now all that is being done is for swimming. But we need to have some of our youngsters trained in

the art of diving, We need to have the well dug and so on and I have spoken to the officials there and, they are almost ready with those plans.

I want to make another point, Mr. Speaker, and it is this, that there are certain people who work tirelessly with the Swimming Association. The President, Mr. Ian King, then we also have people like Mr. Angus Edghill and Mr. Maurice Foster. These people have worked, very tirelessly, in making that Association the success that it has been. Voluntary work is sometimes very, very thankless. We sacrifice a lot of our time. We have a lot of sleepless nights. In the end, after working so hard, very often we do not get any praise, any thanks for it, I must commend the people whom I have just mentioned for the efforts which they have put into it.

Swimming, in Barbados, within the last couple of years, has taken a little fillip. I believe there is a bit more interest than there used to be. I do not know whether the interest is there because of the Judy Ridge incident when she tried to swim around Barbados. I do not know whether the interest is there because a Frenchman recently swam to Barbados or not, but I can say that the interest certainly has improved.

Barbados is going to be hosting the CARIFTA Games in swimming, I think towards the end of this month, and I would hope that a lot of the public turn out to watch those games and to give the Swimming Association the kind of support that it deserves,

The other point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, concerns the car park. For quite some time now, the Swimming Association has been asking for some assistance in having a car park paved at the centre. It is not a paved car park. A lot of the dust is blown from the car park into the actual swimming pool. When this happens it means that the pool has to be cleaned more often that would be necessary. This is an expensive task they tell me. 2.15 p.m.

Therefore they are requesting assistance with having the car park paved. I have been in discussion with officers from the Ministry of Sports and also contacted the Ministry of Public Works and I do believe that in a short while, perhaps in a couple weeks we will be able to commence the work there on the car park.

So, once again I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we should not be relegating sports to the back burner and this effort by the Ministry of Sports, as well as by the Ministry of Housing and Lands, to finalise this lease at \$100 per year for 25 years to the Swimming Association, is a clear indication that we mean serious business because we

believe that sports can be an engine of social and economic growth.

Once again I applaud the Minister for seeing that all of the conditions necessary *for* making the arrangements a reality are met. In the Ministry of Sports you can rest assured that we are going to make every effort to make that facility at Wildey the envy of the Caribbean. Thank you very much.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to give my support to the moving and passing of this Resolution to approve the lease to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association. I believe that this Association has contributed immensely to development of this particular sport in this country, especially through its schools sports programme where they have the junior programme with children coming from the primary school also in addition to the children coming from the older secondary schools.

I think the administrators from the Barbados Swimming Association should look closely at what we call, in Barbados, or consider in Barbados, the newer secondary schools, for instance the Garrison, Parkinson which is much closer in terms of geographical proximity.

Again, I am very heartened to see that this Resolution has come before the House and we, on this side, will be giving our fullest support to the Barbados Amateur Swimming Association in their attempts to further the development of this sport in this country.

This, Sir, incidentally brings me, if Your Honour allows to look at another developmental area of sports in relation to the Wildey Gymnasium which is not too far from the Wildey Complex. We have a problem existing right now in this country, where there are a number of Associations, particularly the Basketball Association and also the Volleyball Association were seeking to use the facilities at the Wildey Gymnasium. What I have learned, Sir, is that the present fee for using the Wildey Gymnasium is \$500 per hour. I understand concessions were made in terms of these organisations of not having to pay the rent for the gymnasium itself but more or less to pay the utilities cost which is laudable, but \$500 per hour for any sporting organisation in this country, in my own estimation, is a great deal of money.

I believe, Sir, the development of this country, and especially the resources of our youth, and particularly sports, cannot be measured and counted only in dollars and cents. Therefore I believe that we should concessional or make some kind of concession to these two respective associations in the light that at this present time the basketball association is currently staging their national tournament.

Sir, I know you are a great lover of sports yourself and you realise that a basketball game plays four quarters, each quarter comprising of 15 minutes and that takes us to an hour. Now the B. A. B. A. they stage double headers and it means that if they have to use the facilities at the gymnasium as it is, it would work out to approximately \$1 500 a night at the minimum. Why I say that, Sir, is because the facilities at the YMCA are at present in an atrocious condition. Not only that, but because it is an open forum it means that the patrons are susceptible to the elements of the weather and therefore many of the fixtured games would obviously have to be put back.

I trust the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, being a keen sportsman himself would obviously intervene in this present situation and let us look and try a more amicable solution to the present problems that obtain in these two associations in Barbados so that collectively we, as a people, could come together and work together for the benefit of the people.

Maybe, Sir, the time has come for the Government to examine the possibility of a national sports lottery. I am just throwing it out at this present stage to the Government Members, but just maybe it is one of the areas that we could stan looking at to support sports.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, again I support the call by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and also from St. Philip North and I support this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber, but again I would call on the Minister to intervene in the present situation with the Basketball Association, and also the Volleyball Association in the light of the fact that later this year they will be hosting the CARICOM championships to which Barbados will be the defending champions.

Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for hearing me and I look forward to other contributions from Members in this present debate.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr, Speaker, I believe my party will be supporting this Resolution but we in this country must start looking at sports in a way that we will be able to develop our communities.

Sir, I would like to see some money set aside for the development of communities in this country. The support given to the Amateur Swimming Association and the other groups, I would like to see this support extended to groups like North Stars in St. Lucy who are setting about to build a pavilion and a community centre out of their own funds.

Sir, I believe whenever you have groups who are prepared to finance their own projects that the Minister and Government should be prepared to make a small donation

whether it is \$10 000 or \$20 000 or \$100 000, to a group like that who are prepared to go out and fund-raise to build a project that normally other communities would have been asking Government to finance. When we get community groups who are prepared to do things like that, the Government must show its goodwill by contributing something to that group. 2.25 p.m.

Today I am asking the Minister of Sports to show that he is committed to the youth in this country, to show that he is committed to community groups who are prepared to uplift their communities and I am asking him to make a pledge to the North Stars Cricket Club for the excellent work they are about to do.

As you know, Sir, we are at the top of the map and we are starting a trend. We are hoping that when this pavilion and social centre is finished other groups in Barbados will follow pattern and that the business community will be able to relate to groups, along with the Government's commitment. There is evidence that groups are prepared to help themselves if Government is prepared to put the framework in place so that these groups can move on and do whatever they have planned.

I am a bit worried that today we are speaking about the Amateur Swimming Association, an Association that has constructed a new pool. We must ask ourselves whether the pool at North Point, St. Lucy could not have been better utilised. We are asking whether the organises and the planners could not have looked at that pool and consider the uses of that particular pool.

I know that there are some people who might say that rural development is not important, but in the 70s and in the 60s when you had the wisdom of the late great Errol Barrow, who would have encouraged investors to construct a pool like that, we must ask ourselves if in the 60s and the 70s the wisdom was there to construct an Olympic size pool, why should we stand here today and not give support to make sure that that pool is back in operation the way it used to be 10 or 20 years ago. All of this is part of what we talk about rural development.

You see, Sir, when we talk about rural development, it is infrastructure like this that we speak of, I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North will look at this pool and realise the importance of a pool like this and would do everything in his power to make sure that we get back our Olympic size pool in St. Lucy where the students of St. Lucy Secondary, the students of Selah Primary and all the other schools in St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. James and even St. Andrew and St. Joseph would be able to utilise the pool once more at North Point.

Mr. O. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I would like first of all to commend the Swimming Association for the work they have done since 1988 in making sure that this pool meets international standards. As you will recall, Sir, years ago swimming and pools and so on were the exclusive right of the upper class and the middle class. I am very glad to see that the Swimming Association has reached out to some of the schools within the urban areas, but I would want the Association to look at some of the schools within the rural areas. I believe that this will help to promote this sport within the country. For example, where I represent we have about five schools in the St. George area and I think the Swimming Association can do well in promoting swimming in the rural areas.

I also want to make the point, Sir, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East talked about the fee that was set at the national gymnasium. That fee was set by the last Government.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, The Government set no fees for Statutory Boards. The Honourable Member can get on with the debate without trying to ascribe blame.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The fee was set during the last term of office. It has not yet been reviewed, but I would hope that the Ministry would review that fee in light of the fact that the Barbados Volleyball Association, the Basketball Association, the Football Association want to use that gymnasium. We are well aware of that and I have always felt that the fees were set too high, so that despite the fact you have an attractive gymnasium many sporting organisations are debarred from using that facility, and therefore I hope that the Ministry of Sports will, through the Board, review the fee, especially in light of the fact that the Barbados Volleyball Association will be hosting the Caribbean championship in July. Special arrangements can be made to help that sporting organisation.

I also want to say that I hope that other sporting organisations will come forward and ask Government for similar facilities. I believe that lawn tennis has been given some help and I think that other sporting organisations can benefit from the facilities that Government is extending to these sporting organisations.

Thank you,

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise on this occasion to address the Resolution before us. I am not just looking at it as a piece of land being granted to the Swimming Association, I am looking at it as a part of the sports tourism thrust for Barbados.

It is all right to talk about getting involved in sports tourism, but you have to have the product, you have to

have the facilities. I remember when the sports tourism programme started there was concern that we did not have the necessary facilities here to facilitate the growth of sports tourism development. I am therefore thrilled by the efforts of the Swimming Association, under the guidance of Mr. Foster, I am glad to see they were able to raise enough funds to get involved in this project, because it means a lot to Barbados. We can now accommodate swimmers from across the world and we have an opportunity to keep that pool active.

I want to say though, Sir, that it is all right to have the facility, but we need to have efforts made internationally to ensure that swimmers come here, not just through the efforts of the Swimming Association, but through the efforts of the tourism personnel. I am happy to see now that under the leadership of the Member for the City, where there was a linkage between the Foreign Service, Tourism and Industry, that we should be able to get even more efforts being made to have teams come here to use our facilities. However, Sir, this is only one activity, which is only one effort.

I am not satisfied that enough has been done over the past ten years to address the facilities. For example, there are calls for better hockey fields, I think they are talking about astro turf. There are calls for better facilities for basketball. We have the better facilities now, Sir, but the unfortunate thing about it is that now we have the facilities it seems as if we cannot pay for these facilities. I am not going to condemn the persons who request fees for these facilities, since this is an expensive undertaking, I think perhaps the vision of having the facility was a bit blurred. There was need for a facility, but I am not sure we needed a facility of that size. We cannot accommodate a facility of that size with the overhead expenses that we have to carry on an on-going basis, so therefore we have a serious problem where Government has to look at subsidising the efforts being made at that gymnasium. The Government has to make up its mind it is going to subsidise the efforts in the gymnasium, or the gymnasium will become a white elephant, but I am happy to see that the facilities are there. Now efforts have to be made to bring teams to Barbados.

I hope I am not stealing anybody's thunder. I understand that the gymnasium management is looking at marketing the gymnasium, 2,35 p.m.

I would hope that, in looking at the marketing of the gymnasium, that consideration will be given to bringing a lot of basketball teams here. I recall that when hockey first started as a sports tourism event there were only 2 teams but then, for the efforts of Mr. Cozier and Mr. Mike Owen, they were able to spearhead approach into the

United Kingdom; and in the following year, they moved from 2 teams to about 60. Now we have a lot of hockey players coming to Barbados accompanied by other visitors from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

This example should be followed, Sir, and I am imploring the people involved to impress on the officers overseas that promotion of Barbados is not just taking a few brochures, giving them to a few travel agents, going and standing around at a few travel affairs and wining and dining a few tour operators. That does not end there. This is not the beginning and end of tourism.

We are in an era where we are looking at special events tourism and they have to understand that it is all part and parcel of their job because the extra tourists are going to come from these special events attractions in Barbados. It can be done, as I have pointed out, with efforts made in the Hockey Association. So I am hoping that during our term in office we will step up the sports tourism exercise which we started back in 1983. At that time the people involved such as the Honourable Sir Harold St. John...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: ...The Honourable Member for Christ Church South, also the Member for St. Thomas and former Member of Parliament, LeRoy Siset.

I am hoping that we can revitalise that thrust now that we are back in office to ensure that the gymnasium is kept in constant use, to ensure that this swimming pool here is kept in constant use.

Sir, I also want to say that while sports tourism is good, we have to look at community sports. This is why I want to take the opportunity to plead for the same consideration to be given to such teams as Crusaders up in the Parish Land area...

*Aside.*

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: We have people such as Sylvester Clarke and Collis King associated with Crusaders. Those who never heard about it, it is too bad for them. These gentlemen have a good pavilion, but I understand that they have some difficulty in getting electricity. They used to get some from the school during the last Government, but I understand that apparently the Principal got a little scared and was wondering whether he should still give electricity. I see no reason why he shouldn't give it, but whatever the situation is, I would want that to be addressed to make sure that if possible they can be facilitated in getting the necessary electricity along the proper lines and procedures.

I am also concerned about Parish Land where there is a beautiful facility, one of the best facilities in Barbados, built again by the Barbados Labour Party under - and I saw the name of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph on the plaque on the wall. Sir, this pavilion is another good example of providing facilities for sports. I am worried that you have a playing field bigger than Empire's grounds and yet it is my understanding that these gentlemen applied for BCA last year and they didn't get it because they said the ground was being shared between Parish Land and Thornbridge.

Through my efforts, Sir, Thornbridge and Parish Land have amalgamated and they have applied again to BCA, but would you believe, Sir, that just because some guys decided that they were going to fight with some people in Parish Land - it is just as if people down in Bank Hall had fought near Empire grounds or some boys in Dayrells Road had fought near Wanderers. It is my understanding that the BCA has refused to put Parish Land in the BCA. That is my understanding, Sir. It may not be a correct understanding, but if that is not the correct understanding, perhaps at another time they will want to say why.

I am making the point, Sir, because it is not fair that certain communities should be treated that way, whether it be by Governments or whether it be by associations of that kind. It is totally unfair. There has to be a sense of justice in this country whether it is coming from Government, a political party or it is coming from an association. This Desmond Haynes syndrome must not be allowed to permeate down through the BCA to affect the people of Parish Land who by and large are decent law-abiding citizens.

I want to see a resolution of that matter in the interest of fair play and justice where you have a pavilion built with public funds, one of the best pavilions in Barbados, one of the best grounds and good players and being denied entry into BCA. It must not be allowed to obtain once they have met the criteria.

After all we are seeing here, it would be to no avail if we don't have the cooperation of the relevant sporting bodies in Barbados. There must be some system, I believe, Sir, where these sporting bodies can be called to justice when these kinds of unfair practices... There should be some system of retribution for them, Sir, some system where they can understand that there must be fair play and justice in this country.

I want to say too that we have another ground in Inch Marlow, a beautiful piece of ground opposite Chancery Lane. I understand all you have to do is to acquire it, add a nice little pavilion and that is another good ground for the people in that area. It is important that we

have community sports so that the youngsters can employ their minds in doing something that is productive, so that they can have self-esteem and thereby avoid getting involved in devious behaviour the kind which they are trying to suppress. We have to work at it from the end of building their self-esteem while at the same time we discourage this kind of behaviour. This is not going to happen unless we have a coordinated approach which recognises that all of our citizens should be given fair treatment and to have access to the necessary facilities so that they can actualise themselves and be a credit to this country, Sir. This is what I am talking about.

Sir, I am therefore happy to see this Resolution here today. I think it is a step in the right direction and I am happy to see that it is this Party that is doing it because this Party started with the sports tourism track and I am hoping that we will step up efforts and we will show Barbadians of all walks of life that they can fully actualise themselves in that Barbadians can feel a sense of pride in an era when negativity is spreading and when people are only turned off by negativity; but they are not realising that there is a lot of good in Barbados so the good must be allowed to shine. Therefore, once we have the facilities our youth will shine, our people will shine, and this would be a better Barbados. 2.45 p.m.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I really did not wish to prolong this debate and shall seek not to carry it beyond what is necessary. I would like to applaud the Honourable Member who just sat down on his speech to the extent that it was related to his constituency. I thought that when he was speaking of his constituency he was particularly pertinent. It was only when he ventured out into the wider areas that he may have become a little confused and as a result it may be necessary to put the record straight.

I do not think that it makes a difference to whom the credit is given for the creation of sports tourism. I really look forward to the day when Honourable Members would have passed the barrier of blameworthiness or credit attribution where they seek to reinvent the wheel and determine when Good Friday actually comes. The truth is...

*Aside.*

Mr. B. M. TAITT: There are some Honourable Members who believe that Good Friday could come on a Wednesday. Sir, I will not therefore respond to some aspects of his statement which, full as it was with

hyperbole, may have been inaccurate. I would prefer to deal with those aspects of his speech which were positive as he spoke for some need to be recognised by the regional and national institutions that the communities are not going to survive unless they participate in the development of the communities. To the extent that the BCA is doing what the Honourable Member said, he can rest assured that this side will support him in any effort to get the Barbados Cricket Association or any of the national institutions in Barbados to recognise the communities.

I speak, Sir, from a position of a constituency with which Your Honour is not unfamiliar in which we have been able, with some success, to get a pavilion operating and where more people from outside of the constituency now use the pavilion - I speak of the Passage Road Pavilion - than the people who actually live within the constituency. We have no difficulty with that because we always knew that its use would be more regional and national than parochial. It is important that when these pavilions are built in their respective constituencies that they be used effectively by the constituencies and the national organisations. We are therefore very happy that our pavilion in Passage Road is being used by all and sundry.

We every now and again have to remind the National Sports Council that it was built primarily for the people who live in the vicinity of the two constituencies of the City and St. Michael West because occasionally we get the feeling that we are being squeezed out. Here, I am sure I have some latitude to speak for the Honourable Member for the City, maybe the only latitude which she gives me.

*Aside.*

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On the question of the pavilion the Honourable Member for the City and I have collaborated regularly.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted though to establish beyond any measure of doubt that the facility of the Gymnasium has been described by the Honourable Member as possibly having a blunder in the size of the Gymnasium and I really hope that we will not have that kind of discussion again.

The facility of the gymnasium itself is not under any question. The fact is that the Gymnasium is a creature of the Barbados Labour Party enhanced and emphasised by the Democratic Labour Party. We must not discuss items like the Gymnasium in those terms. I think we should discuss the particular issue as to the sports organisations and how they use them.

I am not going to attack the Government on the Barbados Volleyball or Basketball Association not having the opportunity to play because of the cost. I think that they need to seek an accommodation with the Government. I think they need and the Government needs to find a methodology because it is not in the interest of our country for us to revert to the YMCA. If we are going to move forward in the development of sports we cannot revert to the YMCA for basketball, I think the Government will have to find an accommodation to assist the Association but the Association will have some responsibility. The Association and all the associations have some responsibility.

It seems strange that we on this side do not take the opportunity to jump on the bandwagon and run down the Government for not doing anything for these sporting organisations. But at the end of the day we are discussing a methodology by which we are going to succeed in the country.

First of all, as a national institution, sports in whichever aspect must be recognised by all of us as an integral part of the development strategy for Barbados. Once we accept that then it follows that we must provide proper up-to-date facilities for all the sports in this country.

The gymnasium constitutes an attempt by us after the Chinese Government was generous with the Government of Barbados. We have a responsibility to maintain the Gymnasium at a certain level and a certain quality. We need to do that by ensuring that its use is not bastardized. The cost of running the Gymnasium is high but if we recognise it only in terms of the actual dollars and cents we are going to have a problem. We have to recognise that sports constitutes an integral part of our development process and therefore we on both sides have to decide what contribution we are going to make to the development of sports and how we are going to make it.

Now, Sir, noone ever comes in here with a dollars and cents question on education. Noone comes iji with a dollars and cents question on the public markets. We expect them to be used properly. We expect that the amount of money expended on them would bear some relation to the productivity, but we never discuss markets, schools and health in terms of money. We should not discuss them in terms of profitability.

The Gymnasium requires a certain expenditure and it requires those who use it to make a contribution but we have to decide as a people what we are going to do about sports. The Associations and especially the Basketball Association should seek an accommodation with the Minister and make a proposal to the Minister and the Minister should demonstrate, and I hope when he speaks

will indicate that he intends to demonstrate, a capacity for dealing with the issue in the total national interest.

I get a little concerned about this situation where people start suggesting that they are going to have to go back to the YMCA because the cost is too high. The cost of running the Gymnasium is a cost to the country. Therefore finding ways to offset part of that from the national Treasury is reasonable. I am therefore not going to get involved in trying to win very spurious votes or praise or whatever by jumping on any one side or the other.

I expect the Minister to take a serious position on this. But I expect the Basketball Association and all the other associations to take a serious position as well. The cost of running the Gymnasium is going to be high but the benefits to the country will warrant whatever the expenditure is so long as that expenditure is kept within reasonable bounds.

Now, Sir, the people involved in swimming have demonstrated through their own activity that they have a commitment to the country. It was not always extended in all directions. I am glad to see that more and more it is coming into all directions and so I join with my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, who asked that the powers that be in swimming would try and get the talent wherever it is.

Everton Weekes would never have become a world-class cricketer if he had to depend on some of the organizational approaches which we have come to know in present day sports in Barbados. He came from an organisation called the BCL that relied almost exclusively on the commitment of ordinary people. Yet he was able to bring great credit to this country which has never been sufficiently responded to by the country itself, in my view, but nonetheless, efforts are being made.

The point I am making, Sir, is that we may, in fact, have swimmers who do not belong to any particular group. 2.55 p.m.

I should like to see the Swimming Association take steps to find the better swimmers and the best swimmers wherever they are and making the training available to them. I say that with a rancour but I say it quite seriously because I have noticed, in this country, that decades have to go by before equity rules. That is not acceptable to me as a person, it is not acceptable to the Democratic Labour Party and I hope that the Swimming Association will fight to find people at the other institutions.

The \*O' Level Institute will never be able to put up a swimming pool, St. Leonard's School will never be able to put up a swimming pool. St. Lucy Secondary will never be able to have a swimming pool, although the

Honourable Member for St. Lucy correctly suggests that we should not let the swimming pool at that institution at North Point in St. Lucy go abegging,

But the point is that some programme to allow all those who have talent to participate has to be worked out. If you look at other aspects of sports, you will see that the runners who have brought us credit did not necessarily come from the recognized schools. We therefore have to start looking for swimmers in some of the places least likely.

I do not have any particular axe to grind. I am not a swimmer. It is not a sport with which I am very familiar. But the *modus operandi* is one with which I am very familiar. I hope that the St. George School, for example, Princess Margaret, St. Leonard's and all of those kinds of schools will have an opportunity to be tested to find out if they have the capacity and the ability to participate in swimming. Because if we are going to give these generous terms to the Swimming Association then these generous terms must be applied across the board, nationally.

I am not accusing the Association of anything, Sir, I am just making a helpful suggestion, as to how it can broaden its mandate to arrange for the best people in the community to participate in the sport which we are now here assembled trying to assist.

Mr. Speaker, it is still not recognized that Cuba has become great, not only because of its defiance of the United States over a long period of time, but because it early recognized 2 aspects of its national life that could be important; health and sports. The Cubans have been very successful in their promulgation of health and sports and the two tilings are inextricably related. I expect that the Minister of Sports, through his Ministry and the Departments will seek to enhance and to make further progress in the development of sports, We cannot have partisan sports.

The one area where we are certain there can be no partisanship is in sports. Witness the number of Bs and Ds who are angry about the dropping of Sherwin Campbell. They do not divide on political lines when it comes to that. As a matter of fact, sports is one of the areas that binds us. And therefore you can speak with impunity when you are discussing sports.

This whole question of sports in Barbados can use Cuba as a good model. Sports tourism is not something that you are to hold to your breast. It is something in which I have always believed. When I was Minister of Tourism, I worked with the officials to push this concept! We should have an idea, based on the most disciplined examination as to how many tennis pros, how many tennis enthusiasts are

interested in travelling. We should know where they live. We should be able to zero in on them. We should be able to market them. We should also know how many runners, how many swimmers, how many whatever. That is the basis on which we should determine how many swimming pools we are going to have.

We cannot market the swimming pool through the same process that we market the other people who come for tourism. We have to develop people who know and who learn specially to communicate with those who will use the swimming pool. If the Barbados Swimming Association needs assistance, it is the National Tourism Authority that has to help it seek people out. The two Ministries have to work together so that, at some point, we will know for example that there are people coming from the various colleges.

The tourism people who will work promoting ordinary tourism will have no idea of how to contact the various colleges. You have to develop this, as a specialty, where people will, in fact, be consulting with the coaches, discovering what leads a particular coach to want to come to Barbados. We have to be able to sell the use of our swimming pool.

We are not going to market that swimming pool only by the Swimming Association, although they will have to play a pivotal role. We have to help them by providing them with resources. The Tourism Authority will have to provide the swimming authority with some resources, so that it can get to the various colleges and it can bring the teams into Barbados. If this is done over a sustained period, it would not be long before Barbados as a training facility will be well-known in the areas where this is important.

The way that is done, Sir, is fairly systematic but it requires a lot of commitment, a lot of work and it takes some time. If the Ministers are hoping that they will be able to use this facility as part of the thrust, then, they must find out the mechanism by which you can get into California. The facilities for training in California will far outweigh the facilities in Barbados. If we are going to use Barbados therefore, we have to use some other ruse to get them to come here.

But there are swimmers, in certain parts of the United States, where it is cold, all year round. In Canada it is cold all year round, Sir. Let no one fool anybody that there is any summer in Canada. Sometimes the summer lasts for a day. It is cold all the time. You have to find the Canadians.

We have to start finding the Europeans as well and we have to bring them here to swim and to use the facilities. When all of this is done, and it is not going

to happen in 6 weeks or 6 months or even a year, it has to be in some ways very elemental. You have to start. You have to lay a plan, you have to include it in your marketing programme and you have to go at it.

We have moved from where we were, to where we are. It is interesting, I was away for the test match, thank God, I was working in Washington, doing something. I came back and I saw in the newspapers that the Australian spectators were jumping up and down. I was very pleased. Not that the Australians had the right to jump up and down for the occasion, but that they were Australians. Because it means that the seed that was sewn 3 or 4 years ago has started to shoot up.

Australians are coming to the Caribbean to participate in the Australia - West Indies tour. That is good. We have to do more of that. We have to ensure that, whenever we have Pakistanis, Sri Lankans - I came down on a plane with a Sri Lankan who had heard the score and he told me that the Sri Lankans are going to beat the West Indies. If we have the kind of policy which the selectors have been following, in some regard, perhaps the Sri Lankans will beat the West Indies. But I took the opportunity to tell him that he was a little dreamer. The fact is too that if Sri Lankans are going to visit the Caribbean, we have to arrange for 500 Sri Lankans to come. Let no one doubt that there are people living in those places that have enough money to be able to come on a trip. It is for us to identify them work it out and market them, maybe on a one on one basis, in terms of the kind of literature we send.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I went into a little detail on this but I feel very strongly about these things, that they do not come out of gestation in weeks. It takes years to plant some of these ideas. We, as serious Parliamentarians, cannot look at the results in terms of a few weeks. It takes time to plant these seeds, to water them, to see them grow and what all of us hope for is that we will get the benefits eventually. 3.05 p.m.

We have no difficulty on this side with supporting this Resolution because we think that it is a step in the right direction. But in light of the intervention of some of my colleagues on the Other Side, it was necessary to plant some more seed on the playing field which they were levelling. They were levelling it, Sir, with instruments that were not quite accurate. They did not have a spirit level. They had a level but it was not a spirit level.

I want to say, in regard to the pavilion, in Parish Land, I think that all of us have a duty.

*Aside,*

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You can swim far and wide if you know how to swim. Do not look at the Speaker and quarrel about me. The Speaker knows what he is doing. If you can swim you know how to swim. The Honourable Member will learn. When he is in here 24 years he will know how to swim.

The fact is, Sir, I think that it is imperative that we support the concept of bringing more community sports to the Parish Land area. It is very easy to get a wrong reputation and it is very unfair and the Sports Press and the rest of the Press have a responsibility to ensure that we do not inflict unnecessarily and unfairly on Parish Land and surrounding areas any reputation which it does not deserve. There is no village in this country which did not at some time in our history have difficulty. So any holier than thou attitude which anybody is going take with regard to that area of Barbados is mere hypocrisy. There are no worse people in Parish Land than there are in any other part of Barbados. I recall very well when I was growing up that there were areas of the environment in which I lived that were regarded as bad. I remember when Carrington Village had a reputation that was considered by many to be just short of hell and we have lived to see all of that has changed. I think that the Press has a special responsibility to be careful how it reports. Not that it should not report, but to be careful that by its emphasis it does not mislead. There are good swimmers in Parish Land who have not been discovered and I think that the country has a responsibility to discover them as well. I hope that all will be well in Parish Land. I know it will be well because the pendulum swings one way and it will swing back another. There are no worse people. Wherever the dope goes it creates a problem. I have some down by me. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I wish to thank Honourable Members on both sides for the comments that have been made. They certainly do not warrant response in the sense that they do not directly relate to the Resolution which relates to the leasing of land at Wildey to the Barbados Swimming Association.

However there is this one area that I would just like to clarify relating to the payment of \$500 by National Organisations to the Gymnasium for the holding of certain events there.

The Honourable Member for St. George North was quite right when he said that this is a fee that was fixed during the term and he need not apologise for saying, by the last administration, but the point of significance is that the Associations themselves have shied away from using the gymnasium. What has happened is that there are accustomed to playing their games at the YMCA within close proximity of the bus stands and except for

national events it is very difficult to attract crowds at the gymnasium. What must be understood as well is the fact that the payment \$500 is not a fee that is made for which the Gymnasium profits, it merely covers electricity which includes lighting and airconditioning. With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to second that, Sir.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division,*

---

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House adjourn to the 18th day of April, 1995 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Seconded.

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly, 3.12 p.m.*

**CONTENTS****MINUTES**

|                                                    |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER .....</b>                | <b>1078</b> |
| Confirmation of Minutes of Monday, March 20, 1995. |             |

**PAPERS**

|                                                                                        |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER .....</b>                                                    | <b>1078,1079</b> |
| 1. Report on the General Election, 1994.                                               |                  |
| 2. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1995.                                 |                  |
| 3. The Exchange Control (Sypher Mueller International Inc.) (Exemption) Order, 1995.   |                  |
| 4. The Exchange Control (Authorised Dealers and Depositories) (Amendment) Order, 1995. |                  |
| 5. Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1994.                    |                  |

**OBITUARY SPEECHES**

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER .....</b> | <b>1079</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

Tribute to the late Kenneth G. Simmons, father of Hon. D. A. C. Simmons. Resolution of condolence to the family.

Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1080; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 1081; Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 1082; Mr. Speaker, 1082.

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Mr. B. M. TAITT .....</b> | <b>1082</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------|

Tribute to the late Mr. C. A. Eyre Hoppin, former Member and Speaker of the House of Assembly. Resolution of condolence to the family.

Mr. G. A. Clarke, 1083; Mr. L. R. Tull, 1084; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 1084; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1085; Mr. Speaker, 1085.

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS .....</b> | <b>1085</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

Tribute to the late Mrs. Denise Carter, former employee of Parliament. Resolution of condolence to the family.

Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1086; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 1086; Mr. Speaker, 1086.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER.....</b> | <b>1086</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

Suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the sitting.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

|                                                                                                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HALLS ROAD, ST. MICHAEL .....</b> | <b>1087</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1087; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 1088.

**RESUMPTION**

|                                                                                                                               |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE BARBADOS AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION INC. OF LAND AT WELDEY, ST. MICHAEL .....</b> | <b>1089</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1089, 1098; Hon. R. N. Greenidge, 1090; Mr. H. F. Lashley, 1091; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 1092; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 1093; Mr. W. C. C. Callender, 1094; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 1095.

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>SUSPENSION.....</b> | <b>1089</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>      | <b>1099</b> |
| Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 1099. |             |

**SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE**

**CALLENDER, Mr. W. C. C. (Christ Church East)**  
**CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)**  
**GREENIDGE, Hon. R. N. (St. Philip North)**  
**KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy) LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St. Michael South East) MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown) PAYNE, Hon. G. W. (St. Andrew) St. JOHN, Hon. Sir Harold (Christ Church South) SIMMONS, Hon. D. A. C. (St. Thomas) TAITT, Mr. B. M. (St. Michael West) THOMPSON, Mr. D. J. H. (St. John) TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George South)**