

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. o'clock on Tuesday, August 15, 1995.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.),

J.P.

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

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

Mr. L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.), (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Minister of the Civil Service)

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

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)

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

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

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

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

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)

Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)

Mr. D. CARTER

Hon. R. N. QREINIDGE, (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

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Hon. R. St C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport)

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 Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session. The Minutes of Tuesday, August 8, 1995.

MINUTES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Minutes of Tuesday, August 8, 1995 have been circulated and are taken as read. I beg to move that the Minutes be confirmed.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

PAPERS

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Duties, Taxes and other Payments (Exemption)(No. 14), Order 1995.1 am also commanded to lay the Civil Establishments (General) Order, 1995 and the Civil Establishments (Teachers) Order, 1995.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the White Paper on Education Reform for Barbados 1995.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishments (General) Order, 1995 and a similar Resolution to approve the Civil Establishments (Teachers) Order, 1995.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, re Land Tax Bills.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS during 1995 many land owners have received land tax notices, many arrears and interest and many such land owners have been incorrectly billed in the claims:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge Government to take urgent steps to ensure that the method of billing employed in the Land Tax Department be soon reorganised and improved as to eliminate errors from their computation and to ensure that correct billing systems are in place,

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, questions 14 to 16.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question No. 14:

To ask the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs;

1. Will the Minister of Finance state whether a decision has been taken to sell Four Square Sugar Factory?
2. If such sale has been agreed with the Minister, state whether tenders were invited and received and which tender if any has been accepted?

Question No. 15: To ask the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs:

1. Will the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs state whether there has been a change if* the policy of Government in relation to fiscal concessions for the importation of motor vehicles by returning nationals of Barbados since September 6, 1994?
2. If there has been such change, will the Minister state the new policy and any reasons therefor.

Question No. 16: To ask the Prime Minister and Minister responsible for the Civil Service:

Will the Minister of the Civil Service state if any temporary posts have been created in the public

service since September 6, 1994 and if so how many, the designation and job description of each of those post, the salary and other terms of service attached to such posts and* any journals in which advertisements for such posts appeared and the date of publication?

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of reply to Question No. 10 and I hope that the Member for St. John will be in his seat when the reply is given.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, under Notices of Motions for the adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance, I delivered to Your Honour the Speaker, a notice dated August 14, 1995 this morning requesting Your Honour's permission to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House today on a definite matter of urgent public importance and that notification, as I understand it, has been received. I wait for Your Honour's ruling in the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, your request has been received. Although I do agree that the matter is definite and urgent, I, at this time would have to refuse your request because I do not believe that the matter, although as I said it is of importance and of course it relates to public importance, it is not urgent. It is a matter that has been raised in this Chamber for some time and I will refuse at this point your request.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we get to Orders of the Day, I move that standing orders 6,16,18,20,42(5) 43 and 44 be suspended for the balance of the day's sitting.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I wish to express my deep and profound concern over this continuing matter of suspending the Standing Orders of the House almost at each sitting of this House since this session started.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came to this Honourable House the suspension of standing Orders was a rarity and only to accommodate Government Business after appropriate discussion with the Leader of the Opposition. What is happening now is that the purpose and intent of the Standing Orders are being frustrated because those standing orders provide a specific time of the day for Private Members' Business. I think, Sir, that you are running into the problem where we are not recognising and

giving adequate space and opportunity to the Opposition in this Parliament I certainly have no difficulty whatsoever, Sir, CHI any day that the urgency of Government Business is such as to merit the suspension of Standing Orders. I fully agree that that should be done under those circumstances. In the absence of those circumstances then the Standing Orders of this House should not be suspended purely as a routine thing that is happening now.

Sir, I do not know if there is any occasion that I have been in this House in the past 9 months when standing orders have not been suspended. It makes it impossible for Members of the Opposition to plan their programme for Parliament and they do represent people in this country as well as the Government Parliament is a place for all, not only for the executive. I sincerely hope that after today that Standing Orders which effectively obliterate Private Members' Business would not be suspended unless there is a genuine case. 11.30 a.m.

I can assure the Government that on no occasion would I wish to try to obstruct the Government when the Government is faced with getting through its business as a matter of urgency. I believe the same kind of courtesies should be extended to the Opposition where their time as set out in the Standing Orders made under the Constitution of Barbados will be preserved and not obliterated on a regular basis. It is a matter, Mr. Speaker, of grave concern to me. It is a matter which I recognize that you would not normally intervene in because these are matters which you normally leave to negotiation between both sides of the House. But I am quite sure the frequency with which this is happening ought to be of concern to all Members of the House. We must always remember that one day you are in Government and the next day you are in Opposition and, therefore, these principles that I address are things which we should all agree on and recognize the importance of preserving the rights of the Opposition at all times.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I cannot recall anytime when the Standing Orders were not suspended on a matter of public urgency.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Are you going to tell me what I can remember? Are you in my head now?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, Honourable Members. On what do you rise, Sir?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. If you read the records of Hansard, you will see that it was unusual for Standing Orders to be suspended and this is a habit that has grown more and more in the House.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has come to the second point that I was going to make that when the House goes on recess I am going to have a survey conducted of sittings in this Parliament between 1986 and 1991 when the Honourable Member was in this House during the period when he was a Minister and you will see how many times the Standing Orders were suspended.

The third point I wish to make is that he has submitted that the Standing Orders should only be suspended in cases of emergency to accommodate and facilitate Government Business. Now what we have before us today is a Resolution for \$4.8 million to provide some help for the poor people in this country who suffered terribly in the flood of August 3, 1995 and he obviously does not consider that a matter of urgent emergency. You do not You are heartless.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You are misleading the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is misleading the House on which point. That you are heartless or what?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: He is totally misleading the House. The fact that whether Standing Orders are suspended or not does not prevent Government from dealing with its business. So that is utter nonsense that he is putting across to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, could we press on with the business of the day? Please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am willing to press on with the business but I am going to deal with this matter because it is an attempt to grab headlines. We know that we have to do something urgently for Weston. We know that the House is due to go on recess and he said that he understands the Standing Orders can be suspended...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is still an Honourable Member.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: He is still he.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Come on. Please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as far as I can remember, I moved a motion...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, that is right.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I believe that we should shed a little calm on this issue of the Suspension of Standing Orders. It used to be customary when the Standing Orders are being suspended that the Leader would assure the Opposition that their rights will be looked after.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of privilege, Sir. At 11:10 a.m. today while the bell was being rung in the presence of the Clerk, I went over to the Leader of the

Opposition and explained to him because he asked what we wanted to do. I told him about the Resolution for Weston and so on. He said that he would facilitate us. He then asked me what about Private Member's Business. He wanted to speak on the Resolution moved by the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central and I said to him that I will try to accommodate him to speak on that Resolution. The one little difficulty that he and I had was that Carew's funeral is this afternoon. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East asked if the House would be suspended or something. I did not give an assurance on that. But I assured the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that we will try and accommodate his speech today in Private Member's Business because it was only his speech. So to suggest that the rights of Private Member's Business somehow were going to abrogated or denied today I find offensive. If the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central had been here at the time or had even asked the Leader of the Opposition what about Private Member's Business and did the Acting Leader of the Opposition give you any assurance, the matter could have been settled. We were making arrangements for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to contribute to the Private Member's Resolution subject to the exigencies if he had to go to Carew's funeral. What matters of principle? You are a nuisance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable Members, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was making the point, Sir, that it had been customary when the motion for suspension was being moved that the Acting Leader of the House would put in the usual caveat as part of the movement. That has not always been done. I formed the impression that the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central who could not have been within an ear shot of any discussion which the Honourable Member for St Thomas and the Leader of the Opposition or any other Member, because I saw the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central striding into the House long after Your Honour had so distinguishably said prayers. So he could not have heard.

It seems to me however that the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central's position cannot be simply put away as vexacious and frivolous. He is an Honourable Member of the House and I formed the impression that he was saying that he was concerned not that the Standing Orders will be suspended today so much as he is concerned that it seems to be proforma and I think that is not an unreasonable position for him to take as cautionary word for the future. I cannot find any difficulty in that and I would entreat the Honourable Member for St Thomas acting in the capacity of Leader of the House to bring that level of tolerance which he continues to claim he has to matters dealing with the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central. 11.40a.m.

I recall when the Honourable Member was one of three on this side that he used to spend as much time quarrelling about matters that make this particular matter look like a mountain, Sir, because as one of the "three blind mice", as they were called affectionately by their own people, he used to be walking across the golf course, and in those times he used to regard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in a much different light. I wish him to continue in that vein and I do not think we should start off with the Honourable Member trying to deny a member of the Opposition the right to raise a fundamental issue of principle as perceived by the Member. It is a point of principle, Sir.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. Earlier today you ruled on a matter raised under Standing Order 18(2) pertaining to a motion to have the House adjourned to deal with a definite matter of urgent public importance. Sir, you ruled that the matter was not in order and therefore none of us on this side is the wiser as regard what that matter you ruled on pertained to. None of us on this side has had the benefit

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: He has ruled that it is not a sufficiently...

Aside.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: ... not urgent, which is the point. None of us on this side has any knowledge as to what this matter involves and I would just want to enquire what now is the status of that Resolution that was brought to your attention, if the matter has now died, Sir, or if you have given permission for that matter to be publicised.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chair cannot give permission for matters to be publicised. The Honourable Member, quite within his rights, sought leave to have a matter raised under the Standing Orders and I have stated that the Chair will not accept this particular matter as so requested.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege, if you will permit me, I did write to you, Sir. My correspondence with you, based on your previous ruling, has by and large been confidential, but I lifted that injunction some time ago and therefore I will undertake to give the Honourable Member a copy of my letter, because I will be making it available to the public. That is my right. I am a public servant, I am not a servant of any individual, and what I do must be transparent and available to the public for scrutiny, so I will make the letter available to him within another couple of minutes in case it would ease his conscience, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, there is a motion before the House. Let me make one observation before we move on to the motion, and I speak in respect to the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central.

I would like to assure all Honourable Members here that this Chair has always tried to be fair. In the matter relating to the suspension of Standing Orders I have always insisted that there be some sort of communication between Members - the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business - to ensure that the rights of the minority are always protected. This has been the practice here always with this Chair. I remember clearly there have been many occasions, including the last meeting of Parliament, when Private Members' Business had been discussed, so I believe it is not fair to give any kind of impression that the rights of the minority are not being allowed to be addressed because of the suspension of Standing Orders. Provision has always been made for Private Members' Business to be heard.

The question that those Standing Orders so mentioned be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Hon. G. W. PAYNE, Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, His Hon. R. D. MARSHALL, Mr. G. CLARKE and Mr. J. M. EDGHILL - 11.

NOES: Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, Mr. B. M. TAITT, Mr. J. O. TUDOR, Mr. F. J. STUART and Dr. R. C. HAYNES - 5.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Order of the Day. Order No. 7.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable Chamber is now in Committee of Supply. 11.50a.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1995-96 No. 5 - \$5 821 880

Head 28 - Ministry of Home Affairs - \$4 821 880

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a Resolution to appropriate \$5 821 880. The Resolution is really in 2 parts. Part I deals with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Head 28 and Part II of it, Head 35, deals with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, on August 3, Barbados was subjected to torrential rains for a considerable period of time. There was widespread damage throughout the Island and, in the days since August 3, the relevant Ministries have been engaged in collecting data with a view to assessing the financial impact and the financial consequences of the heavy rains that we had on August 3.

I wish, first of all, to compliment the public officers in the various Ministries, especially the Ministries of Housing and Public Works, who have worked unstintingly and, in some cases, beyond the call of duty to provide the information which I shall later in this speech give the House as to the quantum of damage in the various categories.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what happened on August 3rd at Weston, not necessarily throughout Barbados, had been characterised by those with greater expertise in those matters than I, as a flash flood at Weston. Perhaps it is as well that I put this matter in its historical context starting with the CBC Television News on the night of August 2. Fortunately, I happened to see that telecast and the country was alerted to the fact that in the 5 hours subsequent to the telecast we could expect lightning and thunder and some flooding in low-lying areas.

Speaking from where I live at Neils, near Haggatt Hall, the lightning and thunder started about 3 o'clock in the morning and persisted for about an hour and a half and there was intermittent rain. Throughout the night, no radio station broadcast to Barbadians any change in their expectations or any change in the forecast from the previous night so that at 6:15 on the morning of August 3, on VOB, even though the rain was falling quite heavily there was nothing in the weather bulletin at that time that suggested that the whole of Barbados would have been in for severe flooding as occurred later on in the day. So Barbadians went about their work and their business in the normal way.

However, I must say that when I was on my way to work passing through Belle Gully I saw an unusual

amount of water in the road coming from Howells Cross Road into the junction and it was swirling about. I was going to the chiropractor and when I tried to go through the back of the Hospital, that road at the back, I had to go through fairly high water, and then I couldn't get onto River Road because there was another area in that road that was flooding. I turned and went around the other way and got to the chiropractor.

Later on in the morning, about 10 o'clock, during the Cabinet meeting it was clear that the rain was persistent and when I checked with CERO there still was no indication from the Met office that we were in for severe flooding. Fortunately, the acting Head of CERO at the time, Mr. Lorde, had earlier that morning made sure that all the other agencies of CERO had been alerted. The Supervisor of Emergency Services was out of the island and the CERO Secretariat was manned by the Deputy, Mr. Lorde.

When the CERO Secretariat mobilised itself, all of the agencies which comprised CERO came into action. It is believed that the Central Emergency Relief Organisation itself comprises 2 persons. That is not so. The Secretariat of CERO comprises 2 persons and in addition to those there are 2 clerk-typists and a maid. The organisation itself embraces all of the disciplined forces, the Police, the Defence Force, the Fire Service, the Ministry of Education, various voluntary organisations, persons in the private sector and so on.

The Heads of Organisations met, as is the practice, at the CERO Headquarters in James Street in the old National Bank Building. That is where they are located. Mr. Lorde was there, the acting Chairman, the Permanent Secretary at the time in Agriculture - he had only been transferred 2 or 3 days before, Mr. Goddard - senior officers of the Police, the Defence Force, the Chief Shelter Warden who is the Chief Education Officer, all of them, were there. Additional help was sought for persons to man the telephone systems. Officers from my Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs, were sent down and assisted in taking calls and writing up the necessary information and assisting in the detailing of the various response units.

There was a lot of flooding and there were reports from all over the Island about flooding. In the morning, I think it was sometime after 11 o'clock, it was reported that there was a serious problem in Weston and as soon as the information was confirmed attempts were made to deal with the problem at Weston.

Let me explain what the problem at Weston was. I am not sure if the gully... There is a deep gully east of the village of Weston with trees growing in the gully to a substantial height and certainly when I visited on the Friday, the day after the flood you could see from what the flood had left, the height of the water and over that gully was a bridge almost like we are in here today between these two desks there was a bridge that spanned the gully with two culverts underneath. Somebody, I do not know who, that is a matter to be investigated, somebody at some time blocked the gully area near to the culverts with huge boulders and it appeared to me when I went up there that it was blocked on both sides with these large boulders therefore blocking the free passage of water through the culverts because there was a back up of water and the gully stretches as far as the eye can see and it is deep so you can imagine the depth of water. I am sure the gully is as deep as in here, probably. But that amount of water backing up for miles probably and in due course the dam broke down and there was a torrent of water that went through a narrow channel and went virtually in line with Douglin Road and destroyed everything in its path including a wall house. 12,00 noon.

I saw a boulder on the Friday a little higher up. Now, all of the preliminary reports - I have one here from an environmental engineer - I was given an oral report by MTW and all of the experts are saying as of now that the real substantial and proximate cost of the disaster at Weston whilst that backup of water in the gully which caused the bridge to collapse and swept everything in its path down the hill and destroyed the village and the homes of many people and indeed caused a life to be lost

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the police and the Defence Force were mobilised to go to Weston. The Police got there first but there was a problem with the police. In Holetown, I think we all know that there is every chance whenever there is heavy rain for that area to flood. But, on this occasion the situation was worse than ever before and I will give the House the benefit of my observations backed by the observations of three persons actually living in Holetown. You normally get the flooding in the Sunset Crest area but on that Thursday the water levels were unusually high and the water backed up against the new complex at Holetown Police Station and the Post Office. The Court did not suffer any damage but the Police Station suffered damage, the Post Office suffered damage. We could not let the staff work there in the immediate aftermath. Even the new roof leaked like a sieve but one of the problems was the mud that was in the Police station up to, I say, the height of two feet They had to get pressure hoses to shoot out the mud out of those offices. Now, what happened was that even though a senior police officer was put in charge of the operations at Weston, from time to time he had to try to get back to Holetown to see what

was happening there because the Superintendent's office was a mess. All of the offices were a mess, all the cells, everything, so they had to have one eye on what was going on at Hometown and the other on what was happening at Weston so that if anybody did not always see the Superintendent at Weston he was certainly at Hometown. But nevertheless an inspector was put in charge of things at Weston.

I want to be frank with the public. I am not going to come in here as Minister, because it is a tradition and a custom, pull the wool over anybody's eyes. The police readily admit that in respect of their taking control at Weston they were not as efficient as they ought to have been. Let us get that straight

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: there was no stealing or anything but in a situation like that you need somebody to go in and take command and be in charge of all the operations. The fire service were trying their best but they had their problems because they were in Weston and they had suffered some kind of water damage and mud damage and so on but it was not until about 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon that the police really took charge of the area by this time MTW was already there - quick response. Several Government Ministers and agencies and people from National Housing, the Defence Force were there. But ideally there could have been in place a little earlier if we did not have the problem of trying to get through the water at Hometown to get to Weston so that when people complain you have also to understand that there were difficulties in getting to Weston by the traditional Highway 1 - the coast road - so you would have had to make a detour and then of course by the time it was publicised that there was a major disaster at Weston the people started to flock to the area and made traffic control and crowd control more difficult than would have been the position normally so that even though the police readily admit that their operation at Weston was not as they would have wished there were mitigating factors which we must appreciate. I do not think that anybody appreciated that the police had 6 vehicles damaged by the flood that very day. Right away 6 vehicles were unserviceable and that would have reduced the police mobility obviously. 12.10 p.m.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, in Hometown we had problems with the new property. But I am also concerned with 3 houses on the other side of the road above the church and between the church and the gas station. These houses I saw on that Friday. They suffered terrible water damage and two of the owners lost their cars. Their cars were parked in the garage. The water backed up so high in Hometown that it flooded back onto the landslide, took their

cars out of the garage and put them wherever the water wanted to put them. I saw one come from out of the garage and down into a garden bed across a culvert. That was the strength of the water in Hometown. So two cars certainly are written off. When you went through the houses, bedrooms flooded with mud and all kinds of things.

Now I wish to interject here that those residents told me and I have seen correspondence from one written I think it was early last year that when the Complex at Hometown was being developed new pavements were put in on the left hand side of the road as you travel north. That is on the same side as the Complex. Okay, that was intended to be a benefit to make the area more safer for pedestrians. But the height of that pavement I would say is not even 5 inches from the road level and inside of the pavement there are little openings that are no more than 2 inches high by about 6 or 8 inches wide. So you have the pavement and in the pavement you have what I call these little flukes to take off water. Impossible! You only need some debris to get up against some of these and no water will go through. The residents who suffered warned by letter and orally the experts at MTW and whoever is responsible for the contract that that was going to cause a problem. Indeed, there was a little flooding in that area last year and they pointed out then that that was the cause. The water could not find a proper way to the sea so it backed up.

Now I am not going to offer any legal advice. But I feel that something has to be done about that and the Government in my view has to compensate those 3 persons who suffered. Well, I am aware of three households. There is one down further near the river apparently. But those details are at the Ministry of Housing. But I am talking about the ones that I saw. There is no doubt that all of them that were damaged as a result of the backing up of water in Hometown have to be compensated.

Mr. Chairman, Hometown and Weston were not the only areas which were subjected to the ravages of the flood. Very little public attention was paid to Woodbourne in St Philip. I was able to get to Woodbourne on Friday, August 4th. I know the area well. We could not get through in a car coming from Four Square from either direction. If you came from St. Patricks going to Four Square, you could not get through up to 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon or even later than that on that Friday. The earliest time that you could get through on the main road in Woodbourne was the Saturday. Now let me explain the scene at Woodbourne. As you go from St. Patricks to Four Square when you pass the BNOC installations on your left and you go around the bend, you come to the area which was flooded. There is a depressed low line area and all in there as far as I could see was water up to about 5 feet ground houses. One gentleman from the Defence Force was marooned in there for 3 days and the water was so high that he had a wire fence around his house and to get to

him we had to get a dinghy and the dinghy went over the wire fence and was not punctured. So you can imagine how high that water was. Now a lot of damage was done.

Since my time is limited, let me just give Honourable Members the figures. Mr. Chairman, we have to help the poor people in Woodbourne too who suffered damage and in all of the districts. I am only giving Some of the areas where we had the damaged: Woodbourne, Holetown, Meadowvale, St. James, Gills Terrace in St. Peter, Ruby in St Philip. We had a lot of road damage in St George and we have to repair. So we have Parkinson Field, Bottom Close, Taitts ^Hill, Bay Land, Bank Hall, Brighton, Middletown, Byde Mill, The Mount - all in St George South and North also Salters, Springvale, Cleavers Hill. There is a road in my constituency, the worst place in Barbados, called Forty Acre and all over the tale is of substantial damage.

For road construction and repair services, we are providing \$1 million. For improving drainage which initially will mean the cleaning of wells, \$500 000 will be provided. Reconstruction of homes and general repairs and so on to people's homes, we are providing \$2.270 million and we are leaving some funds in for land acquisition \$217 800, some work in tenancies \$100 000. The Welfare Department which has to respond now, we are providing with \$103 000 and the repair to Government property/Courts in Bridgetown, Holetown and elsewhere, Post Office - \$96 000. Even though we have funds in this year's Estimates *far* additional equipment for CERO, there is still other equipment that is necessary and we are providing \$234 880. The bulk of that equipment is to provide standby generating power for CERO. There are other small bits and pieces but the main component of that \$234 880 is the standby power for CERO. 12.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I will make further statements during the debate.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, as I speak under the influence of deep emotion, I crave your leave to permit me some latitude on this one.

Mr. Chairman, as the facts are, today Vernese Sands is without a son, Eula Blackman, Gregory Blackman and the other Blackmans are without a brother. Before I can proceed I would like to start by extending, on behalf of my family, the party of which I am a member and on my own behalf, deepest sympathy to Mrs. Sands, Eula Blackman and Gregory Blackman on the occasion of the passing of Neville Blackman, also known as Dennis Blackman, alias "Carew".

I am asking your latitude, Mr. Chairman, for the reason that it was not five or six years ago when Neville Blackman undertook a career as a calypsonian that I knew

him, nor was it five or six years ago that the people of Weston and St James came to know him as Carew, for we in St James have known Carew for years.

He came to the St. James area about 1952 or 1953 and I first met him as a small boy as he played football on Trents pasture for Maple, playing left wing with more flair, panache and style than he sang calypso. He kept himself physically very well and played football up until he was about 51 years old. He got the name "Carew" because there was an opening batsman playing for the West Indies known as Carew, not the Carew from Trinidad but another Carew from St. James, whom he made his mentor.

As I said, he distinguished himself in the 60s and 70s as a member of Maple Club, who incidentally, Mr. Chairman, is going to honour him through a fund raising event this Saturday night at the Sunset Crest Beach Club.

I became close to him when he and I worked in the same compound at Richmond. In those days Carew worked at the Technical Institute in Richmond Gap and I was a teacher at St Leonard's Boys' School in Richmond Gap. In those days, whilst I was living in Holetown, whenever Carew passed on his Vespa he stopped and offered me a lift, and I took the lift There were weeks when I rode on his Vespa as many as four times a week and he would bring me straight down to work at St Leonard's Boys' School in Richmond Gap and he and I would talk as I rode on his Vespa. As fate would have it, his Vespa would have been one of his most precious possessions. He has never been a rich man and, Mr. Chairman, I was very grateful to him, for even though I was a school teacher going to teach at St Leonard's, I was not too poor great or puffed up to accept a lift as pillion rider on a Vespa. I can assure this Honourable Committee he was an extremely safe rider. He took no chances.

He was a humble person who demonstrated respect for everybody he met. If he were alive today to come in here, anybody he met he would address by "Good morning, Sir", "Good afternoon, Sir", "Good morning, Ma'am", "Qood afternoon, Ma'am". He was extremely well brought Up, and as I express my sorrow and sympathy to his relatives I want to congratulate his mother in particular for having reared him with the qualities of humility, honesty, community mindedness and sincerity. Today we mourn his passing.

At the same time too, Mr. Chairman, we had another occasion when a Mr. Roger King, who was rescued eventually and taken to hospital, sustained severe injuries by having lost three fingers, and I would like to convey best wishes to him. By the time I got to the hospital I was shocked to know that he was discharged so speedily. He was really discharged very speedily and I am very sorry about his plight.

Mr. Chairman, this grave catastrophe on 3rd August has evoked the best in Barbadians, who have responded not only with feelings of compassion for my people in St. James, but have responded with direct assistance in the form of donations of clothing, food, medicines and money. Mr. Chairman, you would have had to be in St. James on 3rd August this year to see how those roaring, angry, raging waters overcame an entire community, which up until then was closely knit and was a community which, despite suffering the occasional inconvenience from swells from the sea, had very much gone unaffected.

There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that the work so far done by the engineers who have been advising us must be work that we must take at face value and I believe by now the whole of Barbados has formed a judgement in conformity with the expert engineering advice from which we have benefited, but expert engineering advice can never bring back Carew, Mr. Chairman, can never give back Roger King three fingers, can never in the short term remedy a situation where up until now the devastating effect of this dislocation at Weston is still very much being felt.

Before speaking directly on the financial aspect of this supplementary vote, Mr. Chairman, I will want to single out particular persons who are deserving of special mention and whose help proved very valuable in circumstances that were more than trying. For the record's sake, a youngster called Roger Worrell was the first to publicly aim Barbados to what had been happening at Weston, and I believe even though he was quite dramatic in his presentation when he called the radio stations to report the catastrophe, even though he was clear, cogent and dramatically conveyed what he had to say, people may have had doubts about his veracity. Nonetheless, he was the first to alert Barbados to what had transpired in his native district.

Then too there are persons like Inspector Eucklyn Thompson who commandeered operations in the early hours of the catastrophe. The police at Holletown did the best they could. There is a Mr. Vernon Worrell from the Ministry of Community Development, who up to now is continuing to perform and who has been extremely supportive of the people at Weston. There is a youngster called James Browne, whose rank, profession and occupation is that of land surveyor but who is a voluntary member of the Red Cross, who would have gone without food for four or five days to make sure that those at St. Alban's Junior School, which was used as an emergency shelter, themselves had food. 12.30 p.m.

Incidentally, he is the son of the current Ombudsman. There is a Mr. Ralph Boyce who, as Chief Education Officer, ensured that as much as possible could have been done and then other persons such as Judy Thomas and

certainly a young engineer called Bentley Norville and others did their best in those circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, all of Barbados experienced severe flooding, but in my own constituency, these areas were battered. Of course, Weston was battered beyond recognition that day, but these other areas also got a battering: North Cemetery Lane, Road View, South Cemetery Lane, Road View, Lower Carlton from the bottom of Lower Carlton No. 2 to Lower Carlton No. 4. Holletown and Sunset Crest, with damage to the Police Station and the Post Office, Jamestown Park, Seaview Road, Greenwich and Morgan Road

Mr. Chairman, this devastation of St. James necessitates not just all the voluntary contributions which public spirited Barbadians have so far given to the residents of Weston in particular, but this devastation of parts of St. James requires a measure of governmental support which this supplementary which is before you seeks to give.

Even now, Mr. Chairman, we are still getting reports of persons inconvenienced by water that has built up in holes and is harbouring mosquitoes. Even now we are getting reports that the coast at Weston has been so badly struck that expert coastal engineering is going to be required to restore it.

Even as I speak, Mr. Chairman, persons in St James hard hit are still counting their losses. Fortunately, the National Housing Corporation has responded very well and has been able to offer shelter to persons who have had to be housed in the government school at St Albans Junior. These persons await the opportunity to have their way of life properly restored to them.

Mr. Chairman, out of this whole episode, a number of considerations are being taken into account by this supplementary provision, and I take it that the principal purpose of this supplementary provision is on the assessment of the flood damage that occurred on August 3 this year to vote funds to bring back to persons affected a sustainable level after grave adversity had almost devoured them.

Even though we know Weston was hardest hit, Mr. Chairman, and even though today we mourn the loss of a loved one who has made a contribution to this country, I would want to extend my own concern and sympathy to those at Woodbourne, St. Philip, whom I understand were also severely and badly hit.

Mr. Chairman, both the Rules of this Honourable House and my own emotional state at this moment, speaking as I do on this occasion, forbid me from continuing and lingering any longer. I thank you.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to lend voice too to this debate. It is regrettable, Sir, that we come to ask this House to vote funds in these circumstances. It is not a regular debate on funds for just resiting people or improving their standard of living. It is because of an act of God and, I could mention, maybe because of the carelessness of persons known or unknown.

Mr. Chairman, I too went down to Weston on August 3 in the evening to see what was happening down there and on reaching Weston from the Highway 2 road, down St. Alban's Brick Hill, when I saw what had happened to those people a lump came to my chest, I visited that area the night before and where I reversed my car a church was standing where I was. On Doughlin Road, there was a huge, pink, wall house and the only thing that remained there were 2 steps.

As I said, to hear it on the radio and to see it on television was not all. You had to be there to feel the loss of those people. I was able to witness a real community effort by people. It was not just the haves and have-nots separated. Everyone was pulling his or her weight. I, myself, joined people in knee deep mud to salvage their possessions from their homes.

Mr. Chairman, I managed to find out that there are only about 3 houses in the area that were insured and I am going to talk about insurance. There are some insurers who come on the air waves and they go to the newspapers offering the general public all kinds of policies. They offer these grand policies which I would say are not well dressed in that you buy something and when the time comes like now when the people need insurance coverage and their claims go in they might hear that they are not covered for flood. These are the kinds of things I hope we can look at in the future where insurance is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, if I go from Weston and further afield - I know that other parts of the country were affected - I would want to add that a lot has not been done where the cleaning of debris from the wells and gullies in Barbados over 2 and 3 years are concerned. There are a number of private companies in Barbados that had contracts with the past government for the cleaning of these gullies and wells and I have noticed that the wells and the gullies were not cleaned. I would hope, Sir, that very soon or I can say, I know, Sir, that this present government will make sure that they send the manpower out there, give contracts to people that will do the work and who would not just keep the money and not work.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to this House that I am sorry that the flood brought loss of life to one person, but I would also like to say that it is at these times that a country must come together, not only the community of

Weston, St James but the whole country, and tend support to these affected persons. I thank you. 12.40 p.m.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition regrets the circumstances which have given rise to *the* need to bring this Resolution to the House and feels the pain of those residents of Weston, St James and Woodbourne, St. Philip at the traumatic dislocation into which their lives have been plunged by the events of August 3.

We also condole with the relatives of Mr. Neville Blackman, better known as "The Great Carew" on the occasion of his sudden and tragic passing in circumstances that make for a very pointed irony since it all happened at a time when the cropover festival that brought him to national prominence was very much at its peak.

The events of the 3rd August were unusual in many respects but in fact Barbados has known many floods in my life time. In fact in my adult life I have seen the flood of 1970 and the flood of 1984 and more recently the one of August 3rd. What I find worrying is that whenever there is a flood in Barbados one hears the same complaints, the same complaints about the failure to keep grills clear and keep drains clear and to clean wells and that kind of thing. It is as though we like to complain about these things and every year these things take us by surprise. I think the stage is now reached where we have to face reality that in the second half of the year there is the risk of heavy rainfall in Barbados. That is the pattern that has developed and that Government and communities have to take steps in a united effort to reduce the impact of flooding in Barbados.

So far as Woodbourne in the constituency of St. Philip South is concerned, as long as I have known Woodbourne it has been a flood prone area. I have myself talked to residents of the area who remember a very serious flood in that general area as long ago as 1936 and their view is that the rain only has to set up, as they say, and the area gets flooded.

In spite of that fact, wise decision-makers in Barbados gave developers permission to develop that area, perhaps to walk away with thousands of dollars in their pockets and leave the residents of Woodbourne to face all the inconvenience in an area that has been known to be flood prone from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.

I think the stage has been reached where, when planning permission is being given to some of these unscrupulous developers that more comprehensive surveys will have to be done and more account will have to be taken of the folk knowledge available to the Town and Country Planning Department. There are people who live in these areas, particularly the aged who can provide useful information that can assist those persons who have to

make planning decisions on what the content of those decisions should be.

I do not think we can continue to rely on people whose experience does not go beyond exposure to university training, whose lives are locked away in books and who treat with unpretending scorn the folk knowledge in the villages of Barbados on these questions.

I heard the same complaints in a place like Ruby Park and in Atlantic Park in St Philip South which was very badly flooded on that afternoon. Fortunately by 9 o'clock the night all of the water had run into the sea but residents in that area were totally trapped in their homes as result of serious flooding. Of course all of the old folk in that area felt that that area is in the path of a natural water course and they are aged people in the area who advised against allowing that area to be developed because of the risk it would pose to property owners.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that we have to take cognisance of these things and we have to rely more on the knowledge available *from* the old people who live in these areas. We can no longer continue to capitulate to the urgings of developers who are interested only in money making and who really do not care about the distress in which they leave people.

Only last week I had to deal with a matter involving a developer, I believe, in Kingsland where a man was sold a lot. When he began to dig his foundation he thought he was going to the under world and it emerged that the area was just filled in. It was really a gully that had been filled in and really was not fit for development at all. These are the issues I think we have to address as we focus on the events of August 3rd. I do not think we are going to be able to cure the flooding problem entirely. After all it is a matter beyond our control. We manage it now better than we did say, 30, 40 years ago because there is more knowledge available to us, more equipment, we are able to predict better.

We have been able to use scientific knowledge and so on to bring us closer to keeping the matter under control but flooding is a worldwide problem. We see it in Bangladesh very often. We have seen serious flooding in the United States. It is not a problem peculiar to us so when people complain about these matters sometimes one gets the impression as though there should be no floods here, that the Almighty is a Barbadian and we turn a blind eye to the fact that these things are essentially beyond our control but we have to use the knowledge available to us to keep the inconveniences down to a minimum.

So far as the Resolution is concerned I should just like to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that there has been some pockets of fairly serious road damage in

Ruby Park as a result of the flood and I should like that attended to.

Of course I should take this opportunity to compliment the Barbados National Oil Company which was on the scene on the morning of the 4th August and I was able to talk to senior officials there and get their assurance that they stand ready to compensate the residents of Woodbourne for any property, crop or vehicular damage occasioned by any oil spills and so on. I think that generally speaking the nation tried its best in difficult circumstances. I think that the Government is acting quite appropriately in responding with promptitude to the emergencies of this national situation and I can only hope that the monies voted will be spent sensibly and that we bear in mind that we are still in the heart of the rainy season and that because that flood took place on August 3rd it does not mean that all is well. I know that many of us have been steeped in the geography of June too soon, July standby, August comes as it must, and so on. That is not true. We had a very bad flood in October in 1970. So we are still very much in the heart of the rainy season and not only must we take curative action with respect to what has happened before on August 3rd, but we must also spend some of this money taking preventative action against what can happen for the remainder of this season. 12.50 p.m.

So I want to basically say to the Government that I commend it for the promptitude with which it has acted in this matter and I want also to commend the Central Emergency Relief Organisation for its efforts during the period. I myself was in constant communication with them and cannot complain about the accessibility of its officials and of course their politeness and the quality of their support. I did not have the difficulty as the Honourable Member for St. James North whose anguished and exasperated cries I was hearing on the radio that he could not see CERO at all. That was not my difficulty. So I think that I have said what I wanted to say about this Resolution. It will have the Opposition's support and I am sure that we all hope that we do not have a tragedy of anything like the one we had on August 3rd in the foreseeable future.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have to be very careful how I speak about damage to roads by water in this House. The last Tuesday I spoke about my constituency and told the Honourable Member for St. Andrew about the damage that the showers of blessing did to my constituency after September 6th. Two days after, Sir, I suffered the fate of having to go through water up to my waist and hearing about the damage, and having to suffer the pain to know that the people of Weston had to live through terror. When I say terror, Sir, when you are home and you have a situation where a bulldozer without

wheels can demolish your home and park outside of your door and causing houses to be removed from the spots where they used to be and to be placed 50 yards away, Sir, you can understand what the people of Weston had to go through.

That is why I honestly believe, Sir, that the boulder that is next to the community centre should not be removed *from* that spot. But a park should be developed in Weston and that boulder should be kept there so that whenever people pass through Weston they will reflect so that whenever you do things without the permission of the Town and Country Planning it shows the effect it can have on the lives of others. I feel that the appropriate Minister should develop the area and have a nice park and keep that boulder there. I do not believe that it should be removed. Sir, many times we have heard complaints from the Town and Country Planning Department and we have ignored them. But I am saying to you, Sir, that if you go to Weston and you see the damage, you would appreciate that we need to support the Town and Country Planning Department.

Sir, the problem at Weston did not only deal with houses. It removed a church and that is worrying, Sir. Could you imagine what would have happened a night when a church service was going on? What would have happened to the people of Weston, Sir? Poor People, Sir. You know whenever you are talking about poor people, it affects me, I am one. I am saying, Sir, that we must look after the interest of the people of Weston because they are people like me.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I am happy to hear that CERO is trying to do their best. But I still feel that after a week or so that every single person should have been resiled and they should be in homes.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E, KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that every single person should have been resiled and they should have been given a home. That is important, Sir, and I want to know if all of the houses have in gas so that people can cook their own food and also if all the houses have in water and electricity because we are dealing with poor people. I find that when we are dealing with poor people we tend to drag our feet. It is not how many houses were built The important thing is that we have a crisis today and you have to deal with it

Sir, I have to be worried about this because I heard reports about flooding in Holetown and I saw names of all rich people and the poor people that were affected I did not see their names. But, Mr. Chairman, we have to go back there and I am saying that those who need to investigate what went on they must do it not tomorrow, but it should have been done yesterday. We should have been getting a

report of what caused the flooding in Weston because it caused a life.

Can you imagine losing a man like Carew? Mr. Chairman, Carew was a gentleman. If there was one thing that I will always remember about Carew, it is that when I went into the Conquerors Tent this year he saw me and he said, "Mr. Kellman, I am glad to see you". You know that I am junior to him and I was always taught that when you see someone older than you that you refer to them by "Mr." or "Mrs." but you do not expect the same thing to come back to you. But so humble was the man that he said, "Mr. Kellman, I am glad to see you". We lost someone like him, a man who knew how to respect people and, as I said, at a time when we are complaining about people not having respect and so on.

I am also saying, Sir, that I can sympathize with the police at Holetown because I know they had their problems. I am aware that some youngsters in Holetown had to use a Moses to remove equipment from the Police Station and also from the Post Office. Sir, I am also aware that the type of flooding that happened in Holetown some people will say that this is the first time that we have had so much rain and that is not true. There are serious problems in Holetown that we have to look at, Sir. There are areas where water used to pass that it cannot pass anymore and we must ask ourselves when people are doing development if they do not think about the natural water courses that they have in Barbados. I believe that these are things that we will have to investigate.

Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, there are people who were affected also in Holetown. I am aware of the residents of the three houses he spoke of and I hope that those people will be compensated and I will hope that all of those who have suffered losses in those and other areas will be compensated too. 1.00 p.m.

I am also saying that my people in St. Lucy suffered in September 1994 and they have suffered in 1995. The roads are in a deplorable state and I would like to believe that my people in St Lucy will be paid some attention. I would not hope that two days from now there will be another flood to attract somebody's attention to the condition of the roads in St. Lucy or in Barbados as a whole.

I have written the Honourable Minister and I know that he would do something about the roads. I know he has it in his records, because it is not the first time I have written him about them and I know that the Cabinet will give him the necessary funds to make sure that the roads in St. Lucy and Barbados will be repaired. I expect that we will get something happening soon, Sir, because I cannot keep quiet any longer. I cannot keep writing letters about the roads in St. Lucy and they are not being repaired. I

will have to make it public and I will have to do everything in my power to make sure that the Minister has enough money to do the roads in St. Lucy.

I also would like to say I am very sorry for what has happened to the people of Weston and I hope that all the problems highlighted in this Assembly today will be solved soon.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, apart from what transpired on 6th September in St. Lucy, I am not aware of any flooding in St. Lucy in terms of what the Honourable Member has spoken about. The Honourable Member is giving the impression that Government has not addressed the problems with respect to relocating those people who were affected by the flooding promptly. I would just like to say that the officers in the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Public Works and the National Housing Corporation have been working overtime to ensure that everybody is relocated and that the essential services, like water and electricity, are included in the homes to which persons will be resited.

The question is, after the floods, what? The Honourable Member for St Philip South in speaking about the irony of Carew's death referred to the fact that it happened around the time of Crop-Over. He also made the point that every time there is a flood comments are normally made about resiting persons and nothing is done.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: You said the statement is normally made that every person should be resited. Those were your exact words. I wrote what you said.

Mr. F. J. STUART: On a point of order, Sir. What I said was that every time there is a flood we hear repeated the same complaints about clearing grills, drains and so on, and that the time has come for a united effort at this time of the year to deal with those issues. I never talked about resiting at all. I never used the word "resiting". I was not on that theme at all.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The biggest irony in this whole episode is that the death of Carew could have been avoided if the last administration had done exactly what the Honourable Member for St. Philip South was referring to in his speech. On occasions like these one should not point any blame at any particular Government for their failure to do what they should do, but the real irony in this situation is that in December 1991 there was flooding in Weston and the Democratic Labour Party administration knew about the damage which was done in Weston to those six houses, one of which was Carew's house, together with John Moore's

bar. Subsequently, there was also flooding, again in September, and the then Minister of Housing visited the area and promised Carew and five other people in that area that their houses would have been resited. That is the irony of the situation.

Asides.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The then Minister of Housing visited the area and promised Neville Blackman, the Great Caiew, that his house would have been resited. He did not get the support of the members of his Government.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: On a point of order, Sir. I do not know...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Why do not all of you get up and read out all the Cabinet Papers they ever had? What went to Cabinet that a Minister promised somebody something and we did not support him? What foolishness is the Honourable Member speaking, Sir? The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member on an occasion such as this gets up and tries. .. The next thing you will hear is that the members of the Democratic Labour Party killed Carew. What foolishness! This is not the kind of debate where an Honourable Member should be getting up in here talking foolishness! This is not the time for that I am disappointed in the Honourable Member.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, if as the Honourable Member, the former Minister, had stated at the time, if his assurance to the people was carried out, and if it was supported by the Government at the time, Carew would have been alive today, because he stated at the time that the six houses located on those lands would have been resited. If my memory serves me correctly, the Advocate newspaper on 23rd September carried the firm commitment and the firm promise of the then Minister to resite Carew's and the other five houses. This is a lesson to Government, Mr. Chairman, that when a professional expert opinion is given on matters as serious as this, it is the responsibility of Government to follow that professional advice. 1.10 p.m.

The Coastal Conservation Unit at the time stated in its advice to the then Government that these houses should have been resited and that no further houses should be built in that particular area. That Government, the last Administration, did not heed that advice.

Mr. Chairman, it is the intention of this Administration to follow the advice which was given on that occasion and it is also the intention of this Administration to follow the advice which has been given in a preliminary report by Errol Clarke Associates who are part of a team presently doing a consultancy with respect

to the drainage system in Barbados and we are hoping that that final report will make some solid recommendations which this Government will be able to implement.

This Government will certainly...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order in this House, please! Members have an opportunity to reply to what is being said. We are in Committee and members have 15 minutes to speak. I think it is highly disrespectful of the Chair for this cross-talking to continue. I am asking that you cease that. If you want to speak, you have 15 minutes in which to do so. I am not tolerating any cross talk. I will call the Speaker to put you out no matter which side you are on if this continues.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: As I was saying, this Government...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I wonder if the Honourable Minister who is the executive of the Ministry in this matter would inform this House whether these funds are sufficient to deal with the very serious problems affecting the poor people in Weston.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that that is relevant to what I was actually talking about. As I was saying, this Government intends to follow the recommendations of the experts.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. This is a matter affecting the lives of people and someone has died. I am asking the Minister who is the person responsible for carrying out these works, whether these funds are adequate or not. Is he so callous or so indifferent that he would not inform this House as to whether he can adequately perform the functions with the money available or whether he needs more money?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order is not taken.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the Honourable Member should be asked to withdraw the words "callous and indifferent".

When I opened the debate I said that as of now the information that we have collected in the last few days suggests that as of now what we need is \$4.8 million.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point of order was not taken anyhow so just continue.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, this Government intends to follow the expert advice in situations like these which relate to relocations, to the unsuitability of any particular area for the siting of any houses as it relates to places like Weston.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed as I said earlier somewhat shocking that a government could have ignored the advice of the Coastal Conservation Unit at the time when this important..

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is behaving as if he was not the Minister for a year now.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: It is indeed shocking, Mr. Chairman, that the former Government could have ignored the advice of the then Minister of Housing in not ensuring that those houses, including Carew's house, was relocated at the time.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: As a matter of order, this House should record that if anyone is to bear any responsibility whatsoever for that flood or for the death of anyone it would have to be the Minister who is responsible for public works in that area. These floods did not start last year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point of order are you rising, Sir?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am making my point. Let me make my point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot make your point. It is not even a point of order.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may sit. You can say it in your speech. It is not a point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you very much.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to repeat for the benefit of this House that Weston has always been an area prone to flooding.

In December 1991, there was a serious flood and the residents of Weston cried out.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am disturbed that someone who is seised of that information and held the office of Minister of Public Works for a whole year and did absolutely nothing about it, and should be ashamed, could come in here now blaming other people...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what point of order do you rise.'

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: The point I am making is, this is a serious matter affecting the lives of people in Barbados...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: ... and this House is now being told by the Minister that he had all this information for over a year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have no point of order. Let's continue.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, there was also flooding in the area in September 1993. The then Minister of Housing made a recommendation to Government that the houses be resited. He visited the area. He spoke to members of the Press and from my recollection the Advocate Newspaper of September 23 carried a statement by the then Minister that these 6 houses including Carew's house would be resited, and Government did absolutely nothing about it.

This is information that was brought to us only last week. I go further...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has been Minister for one year. Will the Honourable Member tell this House instead of misleading the House... By not telling the House what he is to correct - the mischief, he is misleading the House because he is leading us to believe that for a whole year as Minister of Housing he was aware that these houses were to be resited and he did nothing.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, as I said, this information only came to my information last week.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is further misleading the House and/or is confessing to incompetence. Being a Minister for a whole year and only last week after the flooding he got information about houses that were to be moved when a promise was given by a Cabinet Paper. Shame on him!

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I am calling for a record of the earlier statements the Honourable Minister made when he indicated he knew from a year ago and now he is saying for one week. 1.20 p.m.

In point of fact he indicated he knew from a year ago. Mr. Chairman, what I am asking for is a copy of the record of the House which can be made available to the House right now. All you have to do to clarify the matter is to ask for the record to be made available to the House and then we will see the exact words the Member used.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I said this information came to me a week ago stating then that the said Minister made recommendation to the Government which information was not followed. I have not dealt with the question whether or not, this information was submitted on Cabinet Paper to the Cabinet at that particular point in time. The Honourable Member for SL Michael West is probably aware of the fact by his being in the Cabinet.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, I am not aware of any such thing. I state for the record, categorically I have never heard of it, cannot recall ever having seen anything at all. Had I seen it if I had been Minister of Housing for a day, I could not have done like the Honourable Member for a whole year.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I said, and I am again repeating to this House, the former Housing Minister made a recommendation that they were to be resited and the Government of the day refused to follow the recommendation of the Honourable Cabinet Member. The relevant information I will present to this House after the resumption.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, seconded by Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House be now suspended until 2:30 p.m. today.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it should revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House now reverts to Committee of Supply.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a very brief intervention in this matter. Sir, in ancient mythology men were supposed to be created by certain elements and those elements determined the paths of their lives. Some were created, speaking mythologically, by fire, some by the wind, some by various elements and I think it is reasonable to say that my good friend the Honourable Prime Minister can truly be said to be

a creature of floods and therefore, Sir, I believe that under his direction there should be some measure of efficiency in dealing with this issue of floods in St. James and elsewhere.

Now, I want to make one or two observations. I recall, Sir, that in 1984, as a result of the floods in St Peter I did a lot of research at that time and made documents of this Honourable House a whole lot of material relating to the ancient contours, relating to a whole range of hydrological studies done in the areas of St. Peter and in the St James North and it seems to me that it is a matter of regret, despite all of the work that was done by myself and the records are available in Barbados, some can be found, Sir, in the Barbados Museum, some in the Library and elsewhere that nothing has been done to look and see what are the fundamental causes of flooding in the coastal areas of St. Peter and St. James.

I hope to urge on the Minister not to accept any hasty report that has been handed to him identifying a cause as being due to a particular bridge or something like this. The matter is far more fundamental than that.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to study this matter ten years ago recognise from the ancient contour maps and from long standing hydrological studies what are the fundamental problems. The fundamental problems cannot involve for example Highway 2A but it can involve any development between Highway 2A and the coastal area of Barbados in the North because the fundamental reasons relate to two factors, the influence of modern agriculture and non-agriculture in the area of the entrapment of water and the many things that went with agricultural development in the higher areas of the region. These relate, Sir, to the change, for example of doing things like the traditional cane holes to new forms of mechanisation. Cane holes, if you may recall were about 3 feet square and 1 foot deep; this means for a given service area this would be 9 square feet which automatically is multiplied several times for the purpose of catchment of water, along with the hundreds of wells surrounding well-kept fields that have now been choked up and have not been attended since those days when there was more active cane agriculture in the area. 2:40 p.m.

Wells that relate to the fields that have all been choked or unattended. They have been allowed to be filled up with debris and so on and then there is the whole question of the lack of hedge rows around the fields. Sir, I do not know whether or not you are familiar but some were of khus-khus grass and others were of guinea grass or such mixture. Those things held the din so that when you had a flood the fields themselves acted as entrapment areas. Now when that kind of vast acreage above those lying areas have been translated into a different kind of activity, whether it be golf course activity or any other kind of

activity which does not hold water in the same way that those traditional forms of activity held water then you have a problem.

Then there is the question, Sir, of the more extensive surfacing of roads with the smoother surface resulting from using the present tarmac on the roads. So that the under layer of water will move along the roads with tremendous velocity compared to what it would have done in the days when those roads were not paved.

Thirdly, Sir, and very important is that when you put structures that create further impediment to the passage of that water into the ocean, the net result of this happened in St. Peter. The problem there was of course that the highway was built across the area of flow to the sea without sufficient large culverts or whatever to allow the water to pass under and we had the flooding.

Similarly, Sir, when you take the significant reduction in the possibility for catchment and you add to that more effective conduits by the new way in which we build roads, then you will see that the water is no longer spread out as it falls. What happens is that it forms like rivers and comes down the hills and any area below that is likely to get flooded. It is not only in St. James or St. Peter. There are many other areas of Barbados like this and that is why it is the responsibility of the Minister of Transport and Works to recognize that that is the problem and that he has a duty to make sure that that water as it comes down from off of the hills is not funneled into any single area in that kind of volume and with that kind of speed. That is the problem. That is a fundamental problem and I do not care what kind of ad hoc engineering report that you bring to me because that is just dealing with the symptom, not the problem. A broken bridge, Sir, is only a symptom of the problem. A big rock being washed down the hill is only a symptom of the problem. That is not the fundamental problem.

Now I am not an environmental engineer, I am not a structural engineer, I am not a hydrologist or any of those things. But I believe that I am blessed with a modicum of common sense and sufficient scientific knowledge to have investigated and looked into this problem. The way to deal with it fundamentally is to go into the higher areas and provide for more effective catchment of the water, and you will avoid flooding all over the place. If it is not done, you are going to have flooding here on the South Coast sooner or later.

Sir, my constituency of St. Michael South Central as you know also has been a flood area for a long time. But unless the sea rises significantly we will not have any problems in Halls Road because I make sure that I keep behind as many people as possible to ensure that that canal is kept relatively clear. So that on the day when there was a certain person going around St. Michael South Central expecting Halls Road to be flooded, my people at Halls

Road told me at 430 in the afternoon - "Doctor, there is no point worrying. The water has dropped by 12 inches in the canal". Once the water has dropped by 12 inches, you know that the sea has not risen and you know that you will not have any major problem of flooding in the Halls Road area. They have learnt from experience how to respond to these things and they know how the water behaves in that area. Because that water in Halls Road comes from all up from St. Thomas right from up into the country and only becomes a problem if the canal is not kept properly or if the sea rises to a certain level then we will have a build up of water.

So that I am advising the Minister not to pay one cent to any experts that tell you that the flooding is due to a big rock falling down or a piece of a bridge breaking off. That is not the fundamental problem. Tell them to bring to you the old contour maps of Barbados. Tell them to bring the old hydrological studies of Barbados in that area. Tell them to come and point out to you where all the wells were. Tell them to explain to you why it is that the catchment on the higher areas no longer takes place and tell them to come to you with recommendations as to how you can reduce the water coming down in a concentrated form and at a high velocity in a particular area.

Sir, this has all been discussed in considerable detail in this Honourable House before in 1984 and a lot of work has been done on this. I will submit to you, Sir, that the same kind of problem that you have at Weston now is the same kind of problem that you had in St. Peter. When you attribute the St. Peter situation to the bridge, that is only part of the problem but the problem is arising high up there. It means that when the Town and Country Planning Department is granting permission for any kind of development in those higher areas they have to be looking very closely at the area of drainage as well and make sure that that water is spread out in the way it used to be spread out before in the higher areas and it is not allowed to come down to the lower areas with that kind of volume.

Now, Sir, I have given the House the benefit of my advice in this matter. I am suggesting to this Honourable House that the significant part of the remit to the various professionals should not be relating to the immediate incident that "caused the flood", but whether there are fundamental reasons for it because that is what you have to deal with. If you do not deal with it now, sooner or later, God forbids, if we get a lot of flooding in this country in the course of a hurricane where the tides would rise on the one side and the water will come down with velocity on the other side, the people caught in between in the low lying areas are going to be in a lot of problems.

Last night, Sir, I heard a little bit on a TV programme where someone was talking about the problems of environmental planning for disasters in relation to the developmental process and that the two go hand in hand

and that very often the net returns on developments in the long run can be significantly eroded if you do not plan for the consequences of disasters in terms of the amount of money you have to spend over the years to correct the mistakes of development. One of the experts on the panel was advancing that particular theory and I fully agree with him. I think that what is happening here is that we have to lode seriously at that whole area and you can only solve the problem if you get down to the problem of looking at those old contour maps. I am talking about those of 100 or 200 years ago. I believe they can be found in the Museum of Barbados. You will see exactly the reasons why you are getting this flooding down there and relate the present development to it. 2.50 p.m.

Now, Sir, I recall some years ago when a hotel was being built between Ocho Rios and Montego Bay in Jamaica. Everybody told the experts - the engineers, the architects, the whole lot of them - that it was foolishness, that the first big flood they get the hotel was going to be washed away, and nobody listened. They built this big, expensive hotel - the name I will not call right now - and with the first flood the hotel was virtually washed away. They then had to spend about ten times as much money building retaining walls to prevent more flooding, and they still get flooding even now in the hotel. If they had listened to the people or had looked at the old contour maps, they would have seen that the hotel was being built right at the estuary of an old river, that had become filled in, that comes straight down from the mountains and discharges there into the sea. That is what is happening in that area. That is exactly what is happening between Speightstown coming right down towards the Holetown area, and the programme and the remit of Government to the experts must be how can we stop this water from coming down.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that that contribution I have made has tended to encapsulate, or put in capsule form, a long debate that took place in here on this issue some time ago and relate it to the present situation.

One final point, Sir. I think the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was way out of line, on a day like this when a funeral is taking place, to attribute blame in that kind of way, and he is still way out of line, Sir, by failing to inform this House...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is misleading the House when he says that on a day like this I attributed blame. I never attributed blame, I stated the facts as they are. I did not attribute blame to any person.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: To bring those "facts" to light is in bad taste, let us put it that way. He said so, it is not out of order, but it is in bad taste. That is the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. That is his position.

The second point, Sir. I view this matter even more seriously than the Honourable Attorney General. I listened to him very carefully most of the time. He spoke with great passion on this matter. He feels that this matter should be remedied and remedied decisively and I believe it is the responsibility of the Minister of Public Works and Housing to tell this House whether he has been given enough money to help all the poor people in the area. Many Members in here have complained that they have problems in their areas. I know, for example, in the Bush Hall area, in the constituency which His Honour the Speaker represents, there are many areas that require urgent attention, and I want to know whether money has been provided to assist those persons in the constituency represented by the Speaker of this Honourable House.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you cannot stop me from speaking at the time when I am putting a case on behalf of His Honour the Speaker. Are you preventing me from putting the case on behalf of His Honour the Speaker?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time has gone, so I am asking you to wind up your presentation.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Can I start the second 15 minutes now? Anyhow, Sir, the point is this. Will the Honourable Minister tell us whether the allocation is adequate for the job that he has to do?

Thank you very much.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, clearly I would wish to join with all of the other Honourable Members who have expressed regret at the turn which this incident of flash flooding took, especially in relation to the Weston district, resulting in the death of one of Barbados' great sons, and I would also wish to join in condolences to the family of the late Carew.

Mr. Chairman, the Attorney General as Minister of Home Affairs spoke before coming to the House about CERO, but I believe his speech today adjusted any wrong impression which might have gone out I recall reading the article in one of the dailies which left the impression that CERO was a disadvantaged department, but I think today the Attorney General put CERO in a much greater perspective to indicate that it is in fact a guiding agency for those agencies that are in place that would provide the fuel and the elbow grease and the wherewithal to operate during the time of an emergency. CERO is more a system than it is a department and it has a guiding principle and a guiding group which was increased to two on advice from the people who deal with disaster preparedness in the Caribbean.

Disaster preparedness has been a very important aspect of Caribbean development during the last 15 years, and here again strange enough it is the Pan American

Health Organisation that has been in the forefront of developing the capacity of Caribbean countries to deal with disasters.

I listened to the Honourable Member who has just sat down and one has to agree that his recommendation about searching for the causes is a valid one. I have heard him on it before. The question of dealing with the preventive aspects of flooding, as opposed to seeking to cure at the point where the flood is raging at its highest, but that notwithstanding the Honourable Members on the other side, according to the newspaper reports, have commissioned studies - I think the Attorney General has said that as Minister of Home Affairs he is getting an official report, I think I heard him saying he had a preliminary report or an interim report - he likes interim reports - and the Honourable Member for St. James North also indicated, according to the newspapers, that he had commissioned - I am not sure if it was a private report or if it was a constituency report - but he too had commissioned a report. 3.00 p.m.

No doubt, we will hear in due season the conclusion of those reports, although the newspapers seem to have rushed to judgment as usual. I think that it would be helpful for the society if good information could be put into the marketplace as early as possible to preclude wrong conclusions dogging this issue forever here after.

I believe that if subsequently it is discovered that someone has dammed the gullies or a particular chasm which has caused the destruction, that such person or persons would be accountable in due course. I was struck by the novel argument which was attributed to the Attorney General that the persons were going to be able to sue on the basis of a phrase, which I am even now afraid to repeat, it was such a novel description of what may be called the Rylands and Fletcher Principle, because it was a gathering of water as opposed to a gathering of fire. I found it to be novel.

Suffice it to say, Sir, as a really keen observer and student of the law, I found it to be a novel concept of the Rylands and Fletcher Principle and I suppose that by analogy if a large enough quantity of fish were gathered on a particular property and subsequently let loose... I think that the possibilities of this analogy are endless.

In the context of that, I want to pay tribute to the people who work in the Ministry of Transport and Works. The officials in the Ministry of Transport and Works who some 2 or 3 years ago finally agreed that we should examine the lowlying areas in the Bank Hall/Mottley Land/Garden Land area, an area which precedes the lowlying area which the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central referred. It is probably not well known, but, almost invariably, as the rain would start to

fall, the people who live in the Mottley Land, Bank Hall, Garden Land area would suffer from tremendous flooding.

About 2 or 3 years ago, the engineers at the Ministry of Transport and Works together with some other people and myself agreed that there should be a correction of the canal system that moves from Bank Hall through to Roebuck Street and links up with the canal system in the Constitution River.

Mr. Chairman, during the flooding which occurred on August 3, I am pleased to say, that even though we had a rise in the level of waters around the area that the widespread discomfort and the destruction which formed a part of their lives was not experienced by the vast majority of residents who live in that area because the canal system designed by the people in the Ministry of Communications and Works seems to be functioning as we all anticipated that it would function.

I think it is a tribute to a combination of factors, the public sector, the interest of the people themselves, the interest of the representation. We were able to solve a particular problem and I hope that this will happen in the Weston area as they seek to examine how to prevent or preclude a repetition of the disaster which we had.

The disaster covered other areas of Barbados and we have to be very careful that we do not allow ourselves the luxury of feeling that where a disaster strikes in one area we can afford to ignore what is happening in the other areas. Because the Great Carew lived in Weston and because the devastation in Weston was so swift we must be careful not to forget that there were other areas of Barbados that suffered, albeit not as devastating a blow as happened at Weston, but nonetheless, places like Woodboume, as my good friend the representative for St. Philip South has said, and other areas suffered.

Mr. Chairman, there is one aspect of this which I commend to the Government that it give some consideration to. For too long we have allowed ourselves to fall prey to the utterances of certain persons who have not had the experience of either living in a developing country or indeed living in an island community and they have lulled us into believing that certain types of employment ought not to be engaged in because it is not productive. As a result, where we have a large amount of unemployment in Barbados we still suffer from time to time the result of not having people doing certain kinds of work.

I will give an example, and then, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you will understand what I am speaking about a little better. Many years ago, about 5 or 6 years ago when I had responsibility for the Ministry of Health it became clear to us one day that the anopheles mosquito could possibly re-emerge in Barbados after many years. In the Graeme Hall Swamp it had been discovered, you might

recall, Sir. As a result, we had to find a technique for dealing with and ensuring that this very dangerous mosquito did not re-appear in Barbados.

We were dealing with the Graeme Hall Swamp which, as you know, Sir, from an ecological point of view, is a very fragile part of our heritage and finally it was agreed that we would employ a group of "labourers". I believe there were 11 or 12. It was subsequently reduced to 7 or 8 after they got the vegetation under control. But their responsibility would be to use the most primitive implements to ensure that the waterway was kept in a state of readiness, so to speak, at all times.

I believe they continue to be employed. I don't know if the same people, but the point is there is a small crew that has been working within the Ministry of Health exclusively keeping the Graeme Hall Swamp at a certain level to ensure that there is no environment for the development of the anopheles mosquito.

Now, Sir, when the time comes for the high level international agencies and other experts to advise a country on how to grow and develop, the first thing they recommend, and the home-grown experts readily accept, is that such non-productive labour as those working in the fields, those working and apparently doing nothing should be cut back as quickly and as urgently as possible. This is the way to economic salvation.

The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that in countries like Barbados we should examine our technology for keeping our environment pure. We have unemployment at a high level and we should develop a cadre of persons whose responsibility at the relatively low skilled levels would be to maintain the open arteries if you will of our environmental and ecological system.

These persons, you will remember, form part of what used to be the Parks and Beaches and then the NCC. And anyone who remembers Spring Garden before NCC and Spring Garden after NCC, anyone who walks on Spring Garden as I do practically every morning can recognise that these are really economic investments we are making and not "made work" situations we are creating. 3.10 p.m.

It is necessary for us not to over burden the system with unnecessary levels of this type of activity but I think we must maintain a reasonable balance. I have always argued that the NCC is properly a part of the investment in our tourism development in this country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute to wind up.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And in that context every year, for the last 15 years, no matter which Government is in

office we have heard, during the rainy season, that the wells are not being cleaned. We go out to contract and it does not matter. It helps us not to cast aspersions from one side to the other, we do not get the wells cleaned, the cane holes cleared, the culverts cleared, the gullies cleared. Mr. Chairman, unless we are going to approach this business of keeping our systems open to allow for free flow of water and other aspects of our ecological balance, unless we take the steps to approach this in a managerial way, to look at what is really required and to make the necessary investment and at the same time help to solve our unemployment problem. Unless we are prepared to say to the international agencies or whomsoever will may come, that this forms part of our investment and therefore is not a methodology for wasting public funds, we are going to continue to have this system of flow and counter flow problem and solution and near solution.

These are things which require some? study. They are not to be undertaken wantonly but I think that there is a case for a careful examination of all the areas in Barbados that require this kind of approach so that we can use the skills which are available to us, help to turn the economy in the right direction by giving some people employment and at the same time help to avoid some of the disasters that remain lurking in the background for us if we are not careful.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to lend my support to this resolution. I would like to say that those of us who went to Western can understand why it is necessary at this time to bring this Resolution to put resources at the disposal of the Ministry to clean that site and also to help other areas that were drenched in Barbados because of the flooding on August 3rd.

I would also like to say, Sir, that the workers from the Ministry of Transport and Works, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of the Attorney General and Home Affairs and other Ministries that were involved did a tremendous job in helping to clean the area and to make it tidy. I believe that although it is a low lying area it might not be feasible to remove all the homes at Weston but as I understand it there are about 16 to 19 houses that were completely destroyed within the area that need to be removed immediately, which the Ministry of Housing is presently looking at

I would like to pay tribute to those officers who have worked extremely hard over the last two weeks to ensure that we have statistical facts, to ensure that the area is clean, and to ensure that those persons who were put in shelter have now been given accommodation. I understand today that the last person was given the key to a house so that by next weekend all the persons who lived temporarily within the shelter will be removed. We are happy that the Ministry of Housing has worked extremely hard to ensure that those persons are now resided in new homes.

I would also like to say, Sir, that throughout Barbados there are a number of persons who were affected. For example, Sir, the Attorney General, the Minister of Transport and Works and myself went to the St. Philip area of Woodbourne and we saw a number of houses that were actually floating in water.

Woodbourne is a low lying area and there are other low lying areas that I believe were affected, for example the Charles Rowe Bridge and Salters in St. George were flooded and it seems to me that whenever there is a small drizzle of rain problems will occur. These areas are indeed prone to flooding.

Hooding has always been part and parcel of Barbados. I think we will not be able to get away from flooding but we have to minimise as much as possible the losses that flooding can bring to a country. I believe that the Member for St. Michael South Central had a good point when he said that we need to go back to some of the old methods of putting wells and cleaning wells and culverts and so on, we will have to look at that I believe that the wells in Salters, St. George have not been cleared for decades, including wells in the cane fields. We need to concentrate on this. Some people feel that because we have had droughts over the past two years we should not clean the wells but I believe that the drought has hardened the soil and sand in the wells so that when floods come the paths are blocked up. So we have to continue cleaning and clearing the wells. It has got to be an on-going process.

There are other disaster areas which must be looked at There are a number of people who believe that they can place their homes wherever land is available. Now there were people who were resided from Halls Road, St. Michael many years ago. Halls Road is an area that is prone to flooding. Today I am seeing more and more people putting up homes at Halls Road. This is against the law and I feel that it should not be encouraged.

I also want to say, Sir, there is a demand for house spots, even in your area, Sir, there are a number of people who are going against the law and erecting homes. We have to insist because when disaster comes then they turn to Government or to the authorities for help. 3.20 p.m.

But again because of the demand for houses and people are not getting the house spots that they need, they go and put up a house anywhere. There are about 30 homes at Thyme Bottom, Christ Church in your area, Sir, and it is a disaster area. We were told years ago that these homes should have been removed. Now I wonder if we are going to wait until a disaster comes to move these homes. Whenever the authorities make the pronouncement that homes should be removed or that it is a disaster area, Government should move quickly in resiling these homes. So that in your area, Sir, we have to do something

because it is a disaster area. We cannot wait until an aircraft blows up in that area to resite those homes. We must not wait until there is flooding to remove the homes. We must not wait until a heavy down pour of rain comes again in Weston or Charles Rowe Bridge because again the wells have not been cleared there for years. So we should move swiftly.

An Honourable Minister made mention today of the fact that four homes in Weston, St. James were to be removed and that is a fact. Only a week ago before the flood I was told that these homes were to be removed. But we only knew about it then. So again we will have to be very careful and try our best to resite and move fast on these things.

I also want to say, Sir, that in my own constituency a lot of mud, sand and debris have been washed into the roads. Now, Sir, St George has the worst roads in Barbados. We have the most tenantry roads and we have the worst roads. I believe over the next couple of months because of the fact that we are due for a lot of rain we are going to find that a number of roads will need repair and we have to do something very quickly because a number of people will not be able to go to work and a number of people will not be able to leave home because of bad roads and so on. The Government has to find money to repair these roads because there are some homes in St George between grass and we have to do something about this because it is very important.

I also want to say that I believe the time has come when Government must take a serious look at the number of old people who cannot afford to repair their homes. I have gone to a number of homes and I must say that in one instance you could find many holes in the galvanize sheets in this house. There are a number of people who will be drenched over the next couple of weeks because they do not have proper roofs over their head and there are a number of cases occurring today where a number of people cannot repair their homes adequately. Despite we may be comfortable in our homes, there are a number of people who go to sleep night after night without adequate shelter. We need to do something very quickly about this and I would like to appeal to the Ministry of Labour which has the responsibility for the Home Help and National Assistance Board to do something soon. There is the need for this. I know that we have the resources but again community groups should be involved in identifying those persons who, need adequate housing, and help those persons. We cannot do all. We do not have the resources to fix all of the homes in all of the country area but I believe that more has to be done. I am not sure if the answer is Local Government or what because the Local Government resources would have to be found.

I am concerned and I am sure all Honourable Members are concerned about the number of persons who

have inadequate houses, inadequate furniture in their homes and roads leading to their homes. So more has to be done. I am not sure if another levy would assist, because I am one of those persons who believe that a temporary Transport Levy should be introduced to at least help fix some of the roads within the countryside. We owe it to the people and we have to do something about it. Therefore, I am calling for continuous well cleaning, drainage to be free, more culverts should be opened and better surface and so on. We should not wait until another flood or heavy down pour of rain to get the problems fixed. So I will support this Resolution. I thank you.

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am extremely grateful of the latitude this debate has taken. The last Member who spoke, the Honourable Member for St. George North, mentioned about the old people's homes that need to be fixed. Mr. Chairman, there is a home in St. Lucy that a mahogany tree fell on since September 6th and I must support the Honourable Member for St. George North on this issue which I have written about and nothing has been done about it where a mahogany tree fell on a pensioner's home. No action has been taken to remedy the situation up to now, Sir. I have reminded the Chairman on many occasions and nothing has happened. We must be serious when it comes to our pensioners, Mr. Chairman, and we cannot have a situation where whenever we have a heavy down pour of rain our pensioners must be hiding and dodging to get away from rain falling on their head, Sir. I feel, Sir, if it means that we must vote more money in this House to look after our pensioners, Sir, I will support that measure. That is why I will support any measure that comes before this House to help the people in Weston, but I also feel that the problem at Half Moon Fort was before the one in Weston. I would also like to see that problem solved as well as the one in Weston, Sir. Thank you.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, the veracity of certain comments which I made relevant to the failure of the last administration to follow certain advice from the then Minister of Housing was questioned. I just wanted to refresh my memory by looking at the files within the Ministry which records the decisions of Cabinet. I would like to state just for the record, and I am reading from my notes, on July 22, 1993 the then Minister brought to Cabinet a Paper recommending that the residential tenancies on Government owned lands at Weston, St. James be terminated and that these tenancies be resited at Orange Hill, St James or wherever available and that the occupants of the respective lots - (There are 11 lots on the site.) - be responsible for their relocation costs. This obviously was subject to modification based on the degree of hardship. 3.30 p.m.

This matter was referred in July when it came to Cabinet and then in September the then Minister toured the area. On September 22, 1993 his visit was recorded in

the newspapers of the day and I think in the *Advocate* there was a detailed story with a headline quoting the Minister, in which the Minister stated in no uncertain terms that the houses would have been relocated. Obviously the Minister was aware of the fact that having brought the Paper to Cabinet in July, and having had that Paper deferred, it would have been definite and he indicated that the Ministry would have been following the advice which was rendered by the Coastal Conservation Project Unit at the time. People like Carew were given the assurance that his house would be resited at Orange Hill, together with the occupants of the other five houses in that area, including some who were not legal tenants. This is to the south of the Fire Station right on the beach. It is an area that had been recommended by the Coastal Conservation Unit for public access to the beach, among other things, and it was declared as an area totally unsuitable for housing.

I would hate to think that the fact that Carew - Neville Blackman is his real name - is a card carrying member of the Barbados Labour Party was the reason why this was not followed up, because when the matter came to Cabinet in December of the same year Cabinet did not agree with the Minister's recommendation. All they did was to agree that a beach access window to the sea be provided at Weston, St James, subject to further investigation that a defined area be allocated to the fishing community, a coastal management pilot project be implemented at Reeves Bay, St. James under the purview of the Coastal Conservation Project Unit, and they stated that with respect to two houses, which were unoccupied at the time, notice would be served on them. They failed to follow the recommendation of the Coastal Conservation Unit, even though they knew the dangers at the time that afflicted those...

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy talking about the poor, those poor persons who occupied that area. I did not say that the last administration should be blamed for the death of Carew, we had a lot of rain. There was a lot of water on that day. I would not even say that the bridge was responsible. There was a lot of water on that day, there was unusual rainfall, but one would not deny that if there was not the type of damage that took place what happened to Carew would not have happened, in addition to the fact that if he had been removed by the last administration Carew would have been alive today.

We intend to tackle this problem with respect to the wells and the water courses swiftly. I am glad that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West mentioned the difficulty with respect to the clearing of the wells and the problems which have been faced by successive administrations year after year. There are several contracts which are done for the clearing of wells, and

notwithstanding these contracts and the dissatisfaction of the Ministry yet there has been a renewal of these contracts and these people are being paid every year to clear the wells, without the type of results we would like to see.

I would not like to cast any blame on the well contractors as such. I think that they are somewhat inhibited by the legislation as it is. As it stands, these contractors only clean the wells which are near to the roads occupied by Government. The amount of wells which they are responsible for total about 2 500. My understanding is that there are about 10 000 wells in Barbados. There could be more than that. The wells which are cleared by MTW through these contractors do not include wells on private lands, on plantations or lands in the private tenancies and developments. The problem with that is that these wells are privately owned and if Government decides to go to clear these wells, Government opens itself to an action of trespass. It has happened before, where Government went in and did some remedial works and the owner of the land threatened to put the Government in court. An opinion was sought from the Attorney General, who did confirm that they were liable to pay, and Government had to pay compensation.

Now, the answer to this is that Government obviously would have to amend the legislation to ensure that MTW and the private contractors would be able to go in and clear the wells without there being any threat of a law suit. Since the floods on 3rd August we have been working very hard to ensure that we get this legislation in place very, very shortly and I will be bringing this legislation to Cabinet very, very shortly. In addition to that we plan to bring to Parliament as well flood prevention legislation. I think it was in 1951 there was a Prevention of Floods Act, Cap. 235 of the Laws of Barbados, which gives the Minister the power to declare certain areas flood prevention areas, but somehow or other no areas were designated and what has been happening in the past is that Government has been going in and doing remedial work in certain flood prone areas and as soon as these remedial works are completed, then you see squatters all over the place.

What we need to do is to ensure that certain areas, like Weston, Ellis Village in the City near the Constitution River, and from what I have heard about Woodbourne it is a pity that development there was allowed to continue, because just what the Honourable Member for St Philip South said, I heard. When I first went there an old gentleman said that he was surprised on returning from overseas to see houses on that spot I think what we need to do - especially with the amount of development that is taking place, and the disregard that developers have for poor people in this country - is to protect the people of this country by having the relevant legislation where we will have certain areas declared flood prevention areas, or flood prone areas. 3.40 p.m.

In this case, we will not have circumstances like what happened at Weston visited upon us again and we would not be able to accuse anybody of being responsible for any person's death. I don't think that was the intention. I am just putting the facts as I saw them as outlined to me last week when I asked for the file relating to this particular matter.

It is hoped that we can move very swiftly to have these matters sorted out and you can rest assured, Mr. Chairman, that legislation will be coming to Parliament very shortly in these 2 areas so that this situation would be remedied.

The Honourable Member for St Michael South Central seems to be asking a question all the time directed to me with respect to whether or not these funds are enough to cover the emergency occasioned by the flood. I don't know if he is asking this question because he thinks I cannot answer. If he can answer that question I would shake his hand, but I would like to say that this supplementary takes into consideration the information which came to us in the short period of time since the flood.

The flood occurred on August 3rd and today is the 15th and it has been extremely difficult to get all the facts in. The Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Public Works, the Welfare Department and CERO have been working very hard. Only this morning we got a report from the Coastal Conservation Unit, not included in the amount which has been voted for, for \$800 000 to cover remedial work in both Weston and Holetown.

To answer your question specifically you have to understand that it does not make sense asking for a supplementary to cover something that will not be done in this financial year. For instance, the remedial work which must be done with respect to the drainage from what has been submitted to me is over \$1 million but it is impossible with our manpower resources to do \$1 million in remedial work as a result of the flooding between now and the end of the financial year.

This is not all of the actual damage in terms of dollars and cents occasioned as a result of the flooding so we will have to come back. If we spend that \$500 000 between now and the end of the year you can rest assured that we will have to come back for a supplementary. This represents the amount of work that we can do almost immediately. We have to resite persons in the*Weston area. We have to move people out of the water course.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member is asked to wind up.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: There are a number of houses that must be rebuilt We can only give you a fairly

reasonable estimate at this particular point in time. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, when I made my last intervention there were 2 points which I wanted to make which time did not permit me to make.

The first one is, as the Honourable Member for St. John reminded me, that during the flooding what is now serving as the polyclinic at St. John was in fact flooded out and there were people in that polyclinic when the medical staff abandoned the polyclinic. There was at least 1 woman critically ill in there who had to be rescued by the residents of the area. The land where the present polyclinic exists is prone to flooding and is dangerous and in fact it is for those reasons that we had made the recommendation and committed to creating a new polyclinic. The reason for having a new polyclinic in St John is now I hope crystal clear to the Government.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The point is that the Honourable Members on the other side without prejudice to their own prejudices should examine the concept of the new polyclinic as part of the requirement for the development of the country.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. The Development Plan for 1983-1997 calls for expenditure on St. John in the years 1997-98 and this Government therefore is not departing from any particular financial course that was set for it The Democratic Labour Party did not plan to spend any funds on the St. John Polyclinic before the year 1997-98.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We are not discussing what the Democratic Labour Party plans to spend because the Democratic Labour Party is in no position to spend a cent. I am saying that the Government of the day has a clear responsibility as it has re-ordered priorities for other areas of the so-called Development Plan which the Honourable Member just quoted to re-order the priority.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. This Government is therefore according the same kind of standing and priority to the St. John Polyclinic as the previous Administration did.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am pointing the Honourable Member's attention in his capacity as Prime Minister and Chief Executive responsible for the finances of this country. He has now a prior responsibility, in the light of the experience which we have seen with the flooding of the condemned building where the people in the polyclinic now operate, to recognise that that priority has now been moved to a higher level and to exercise that humane capacity which he wishes all Barbados to believe that he has and

move the polyclinic forward. They had to satisfy the international agencies.

The second point I wanted to make...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. I would not like to say that the Honourable Member is misleading the House, because he is in the position of a reporter in that the Honourable Member for St. John has told him about flooding in the area of the St. John Polyclinic.

We have been co-ordinating all the activities with respect to flooding on August 3 and while I know that the Honourable Member normally is a very truthful person and seeing that the Honourable Member for St John is not here, he really would not be able to verify or to confirm what he has said; but we have been in close contact with people with houses surrounding that area and we have received no record whatsoever about flooding, so I think that the Honourable Member unwittingly is misleading the House.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, Sir. If he knows where the polyclinic in its present existence is located, it is not approximately near any actual housing. The housing is on the periphery of the swampy pasture where the polyclinic currently rests. The Honourable Member would do well to lode at it.

I don't want to spend time on that, because the other point I want to make is much more important in my view. Anyone who watches the OJ. Simpson trial has an opinion as to who is guilty and who is not guilty but, listening to the Honourable Member's presentation of information concerning the movement of houses from Weston, if one had no other facts, if one were not seised of the circumstances at all, one could readily accept that here was a wicked government in the face of flooding that refused ^to move Carew and company from the path of the marauding and dangerous waters that would come down from Weston.

Now, Sir, a more careful examination of the facts surrounding that issue, as I recall it, had nothing whatsoever to do with flooding. It had to do, and let the record show that the Cabinet was told that it had to do, with coastal conservation. It had to do with the fact that these poor people, two of whom were described as squatters, were living on the seaside and it was being recommended that they be uprooted and carried to live in Orange Hill. When the paper came to the Cabinet, the other Cabinet Ministers wanted to know why this set of people, including John Moore who had been at that spot from time immemorial, should be uprooted from the coast and carried to Orange Hill. It was the people themselves who were railing against the decision to move them, and the Cabinet of the day sided with the people. Far from any situation where the people were going to be disadvantaged, the

Cabinet of the day took the position that if these had been people of a certain kind that no one would have moved them. 3.50 p.m.

And therefore since 2 of the houses were not occupied that we would abandon those and for the persons in the other three houses or so an alternate arrangement could be made unless they could be provided land of a suitable location along the coast and that John Moore's shop should remain unless further and better information could be brought to show why John Moore's shop should be moved.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That would be the best reason in the world. I do not know why anybody would feel that we would go and move the only vote that we would get in Weston. And Carew's father, whereas Carew may have been a card carrying member of the Barbados Labour Party and poor Carew is not able to verify that and in the absence of verification by Carew himself I do not accept. I treat with reserve any information given by any Labour Party person that seeks to defame Carew by suggesting that he was a card carrying Member of the Barbados Labour Party. I do not accept that at all. But I can now state categorically and provide evidence, if necessary, that Carew's father, and we have photographic evidence, was among the first ten persons to accept membership in the Democratic Labour Party. So it just goes to show that we all have family ties in Weston.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am told now from reliable sources, a senior member of the NDP is now saying to me that he has reason to believe that Carew had deserted the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I will finish shortly. I think the record should show that the movement of those persons was stopped by the Cabinet for humanitarian reasons, to wit, that these persons were being uprooted from the seashore where they had lived for some considerable time because the officials were suggesting that they should be moved and we had no clear indication as to what would happen to the land once they had been removed and the talk of a window to the sea was like a rider but we had reason to believe, and let me put it in the record, that as has happened with people on the West Coast before who were poor and defenseless that they were uprooted and/or cajoled and/or moved aside to a different place to wit, higher up in the hills and other people were able to come and build more prestigious and different kinds of dwellings almost in the same identical place. So that no one anticipated and no one was required to consider the question of flooding as part of the rationale for the

removal of any houses from Weston. The Honourable Member should be pleased to know that any accusations intended or otherwise styled, the Democratic Labour Party would have been totally inappropriate in the circumstances and in particular they were not true.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, one brief point. I would like to ask the Honourable Member for St Thomas whether he would consider the appointment of a Select Committee of Parliament to assist in the supervision of these disbursements and so on, which would include all three parties.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The sure answer to that is that Cabinet will be appointing a sub-committee to monitor the relief that is being rendered to the persons who were affected.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member must remember that Aaron Truss was a Cabinet Minister of Roods in St Peter and did extremely well. Ask the Prime Minister.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, since I did not give way, all of that should be struck from the record.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a few observations by way of winding up. First of all let me thank all Honourable Members who spoke. A number of sound and interesting comments were made, contributions tendered. I thought I had to say this. The most balanced speech of all on the other side was that of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South. He made a very important point. We keep complaining, the complaints are perennial and there is need for better planning of developments and the use of the knowledge of folk of the area.

He admits also that we cannot cure the problem of flooding totally because it is an international problem and it is the result of other phenomena of an atmospheric nature. But I think it is fair to say that we have it in our capacity in future to plan to avoid the worst effects of flooding. And by way of a suggestion it is not a cabinet decision and the time will come when I will have the opportunity to deal with it. I feel that as early as March, after the Ministry of Transport and Works and the plantation owners and other persons who have need to clean the wells, for some system to be worked out between the public sector and the private sector for the cleaning of wells, as early as March. Contracts should be advertised so that early on in the new financial year work can start well in advance of the onset of the rainy season. It is important to clean the wells and the water courses.

I entirely agree with the contribution of the Honourable Member for St Michael West that the people who are cleaning the wells and water courses must be seen as economic investments. My concern with his proposition

is that it has taken him three years to be converted to that point of view that I uttered from there during the structural adjustment time and which only found sympathy on this side with the Honourable Member who used to sit here, Mr. Robert Morris, who supported me. The Honourable Member had it in his capacity as a Member of Cabinet, when they agreed to the IMF programme to have asked the IMF not to deal so harshly with the NCC workers and so on.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member has been the Minister now with the Cabinet for a year in times of prosperity, still no IMF programme, and the NCC workers are still on a three-day week.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They had planned, Sir, from 1993 to 2000 in their development plan. Training services - \$400 000 in 1994-95 when they went out of Government. It is here, Sir, page 257. But you see, Sir, they were following a pattern that started in 1986 when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was the Minister of Finance. 4.00 p.m.

I asked a question in here, Sir, about what had been cut When he was Minister of Finance, he cut \$38 million. The question that I asked was so long that it had to be sent as a separate document to be stuck in the Question Book. Now, Sir, he cut drainage. He cut the Soil Conservation, Scotland District Project by \$563 000. The Rural Development Programme was cut by \$300 000 and drainage by \$816 000, all of those and to date...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I just wish to draw to the House's attention that there were no floods in 1986 and 1987.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: But having had the experience of 1984, instead of giving money for flood prevention he cut it He cut everything like National Housing, the Police, and I have all kinds of problems in trying to fix up police stations that he cut by over \$1.5 million, Sir. It is all here, Sir. He cut police vehicles by \$400 000. I am serious that we have to plan for flood prevention properly. It has the benefit that if there is a flood you would have done the planning and you would have prepared to some extent to relieve the worst effects of the flooding. It also has the advantage of cleaning the gullies. It has the advantage of creating employment and enhancing the ecstastic beauty of Barbados. I really would like to see from May to August a core of people all over this country in every parish working and cleaning up the country and the other people cleaning up the wells and so on. But all the gutters we have to clean. We have to do

it because it is even more to it than that. Cleaning the suck wells and water courses is critical also to our accumulation of water. If the suck wells do not draw the water into it, the water goes out to sea and you lose the benefit of the heavy rain.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The argument about that is that it helps bind the soil and prevents erosion into the sea. But some of those systems that were used by our forefathers, Sir, are still appropriate today and should be recommended. So even though the Honourable Member for St. Michael West has made a case for the employment of unskilled persons in clean-up and environmental protection, it is a pity that he did not convince the Prime Minister when he sat over here that that should have been the policy. But he can be sure that this Government will do what has to be done.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to mention that I have a duty to say it in here because I did say it on the radio on Sunday, but I have a responsibility to Parliament. We are preparing also to do some institutional strengthening at CERO. I spoke of a report that I had from CERO about the re-organisation of CERO and the need for additional support staff. I have the report here, Sir. There is also one I have from the Barbados Defence Force with their recommendations and we are going to try and synthesize the best of both reports and create even this year additional personnel to assist the Secretariat in the job it has to do. Unfortunately, CERO has been referred to as Central Emergency Relief Organisation and to that extent its name would suggest a response agency, whereas I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was trying to suggest that it should be a disaster preparedness agency without saying so. It has to anticipate, plan ahead and also respond.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: You did not say that. That was beyond his ability, Sir. I am grateful to him for admitting and being so truthful, Sir, that he did not have the competence to make that suggestion. We will turn CERO into a more proactive...! detest that word and that phrase about this point in time. Everybody says that nonsense. I think it is wrong too. Somebody tells me that at Granville Williams in his book "Learning the Law" mentioned it and said that it is wrong.

We will be working on a new organization which will enable us to respond and to prepare for all types of disaster and enable us to respond more efficiently and effectively when there is a disaster. I can say that as of now CERO is mobilized in the event of a traumatic situation later on. It is portended that we shall have heavy weather from about

9.00 o'clock but all of the agencies have been mobilized since early this afternoon.

I just want to make one final point, Sir. All Members of the House have a role to play in CERO. You should have got packages.

We used to get them every year. I am not sure if all of us have paid the attention that we ought to. The recent events ought to encourage us to revisit our roles because we have functions to play as part of the CERO programme.

I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 28 in the sum of \$4 821 880 stand part.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that, Sir.
4.10p.m.

The question that Head 35 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE HIGHWAY 2A PHASE 2 AND CLERMONT ROAD/CANEWOOD ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to acquire 81 parcels of land for the Highway 2A Phase 2 and Clermont Road/Canewood Road Improvement Project.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a Resolution, Order No. 4, for the compulsory acquisition of land at St James, St. Thomas and St. Michael to improve Highway 2A. They are both related, but due to the fact that the latter Resolution was not ready at the time when the Resolution under Item 4 was brought, they are done separately. Notwithstanding

the fact that they are done separately here and are being called separately, I would ask that my brief remarks with respect to the acquisition contained in this Resolution under Item 8 be applied to Item 4 as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados in 1992 obtained a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank in the sum of \$19,2 million for the reconstruction and the realignment of three roads - Highway 2A, Clermont and Canewood Roads. This is a project which was first conceptualised by the Barbados Labour Party administration prior to 1976.

Phase 1 of this project has already been completed and Phase 2 includes the stretch of road from Warrens to Lancaster, the construction of a bridge, the construction of 25 structures [mainly culverts] and two realignments, one at Redmans Village and one at Lancaster. The bridge has been almost completed, 18 of the structures have been completed, the work on the St. Thomas Roundabout has recently been started and it is expected that the work on this highway will be completed by the end of September. The Canewood Road has already been completed. Clermont Road has not been completed, it is hoped that as soon as work has been finished on Highway 2A the workmen will be able to begin the works with respect to Clermont.

We did not have a problem in proceeding on Phase 2 before the actual acquisitions were completed, but we are doing with Clermont what we did not do with Highway 2A, in that with Highway 2A we went in before we did the acquisitions. I do not know if that was a policy of the last administration, but what we are planning to do as part of our policy before we actually do the works, and we are doing this with the Bridgetown project, we recently did it with Six Roads and all of the projects we will be dealing with we will be first going the route of the acquisition...

Asides.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: ... and paying the people in the ordinary course of business as funds become available, but I think we have been improving on this in recent times.

Actually, with respect to Highway 2A there were 148 parcels and there were three persons who objected. We managed to complete these by private treaty, which means that we have additional lands, after the roads have been completed, to dispose of. In one particular case there was a lady who complained that we were going too close to her house and she wanted Government to take over the entire house. We managed to complete that by private treaty and she has been paid in full* The Shamrock matter has also been settled and they have been paid in full. The question of payment with respect to Mr. Trevor Clarke in Warrens Bottom has been resolved. We did encounter some resistance from the people in Clermont. The residents of that area come from a completely different background to

the ones we encountered with Highway 2A. We do not know if that had anything to do with the obvious objection, so it is very important that we move at this particular time to do this acquisition before the Recess of Parliament so that Government will not encounter any penalties as to the late start to this project

There are still one or two problems which we have to resolve, but these more relate to Highway 2A. The persons who designed the road near Cockade House, near Bennetts, made what I would consider a very big error in the design and there have been a number of complaints. So far we have not had any accidents, but it is felt that the error is so grave that we will have to make a change to the original design or have the design corrected. At the moment, the officials within the Ministry are dealing with the corrected design and it is hoped very shortly that this will be remedied, but it obviously will involve... 4.20 p.m.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The error is that when you drive on the road there is an incline. You are travelling on a new highway and when you are going in a northerly direction you cannot see when you reach a certain stage anything coming from the opposite direction. I do not know the technical term but this is being corrected.

In addition to that, the design did not call for any street lighting and this problem is being addressed. It is hoped that we will be able to correct this problem very shortly. We are at present having the officers within the Ministry do a costing of what it would take to include this element in the whole operation and it is hoped that when the road is finally opened the question of street lighting will not be a problem.

There was also a minor problem with respect to the unavailability of pipes. This is a matter that we came and found. The Barbados Water Authority had miscalculated and the pipes were used elsewhere, but I am informed that this has now been corrected so that very shortly...

Asides.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I can only tell you what reports I got from the Barbados Water Authority. This problem has been recently corrected and we are hoping that that is all there is to the problem. The Canewood project was originally designed to be completed about 100 metres from the Jackson Junction. However it has been decided to extend the road to the junction and to examine the possibility of improving the main road either side of the junction. This will involve further acquisition of a

number of parcels including whole properties. The design work is in progress and estimates will be prepared and submitted before the end of this year.

I would also like to say that on a tour of the Clermont site, that is, the site from Queen's College to Warrens, we have noticed that the design could be improved tremendously if at the junction between Clermont and the road leading to the highway and the supermarket, that if straightened, would involve an additional acquisition because as it stands what the original design called for was to allow that road to be widened and remain in the same direction in which it is at the moment

It is fairly obvious from looking at it that that needed to be corrected and it is hoped that the design for that will be completed very shortly and the additional acquisitions will be in place very shortly.

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I beg to second that.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution on road improvement for Highway 2 at Clermont

I am a resident of Clermont and there are 2 things. One, being a resident in this area and secondly being a member of the Government I get numerous calls from my neighbours about the condition of the road at times, The member for the constituency of St Michael North and myself earlier this year walked that road together looking at the road because of complaints from people living in the area.

Clermont Road is a very busy road in that traffic coming on the highway use it as an access road when they do not want to go around by the traffic lights, comes through that side on the way to the West Coast It is a road that carries a lot of children coming from Jackson and Lodge Hill and Warrens on the way to Queen's College Secondary School. Also there are a lot of domestics working in the area who have to walk that road and when the rain falls the road holds a lot of water. There are a lot of pot holes in the road and when the traffic passes these people have to be stepping in the mud to get away from the water.

I see that there are intentions of widening the road and I am quite sure or hope that when that road is widened it will have some walkways that people will be able to walk on.

Another thing, Sir, about 4 years ago we had some heavy rains in the area and the Meadowvale residential district flooded. Again on August 3, the St James South

side, Meadowvale and so on, had vast amounts of water in the area and flooding in the area. Four years ago, I remember that the fire service had to be called in to pump water from at least 3 homes in the same Meadowvale area. As the Minister said, it happened again this year.

Sir, I am really welcoming this new improvement to Clermont Road and I am quite sure that the people of the area would be satisfied and contented. Thank you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, during the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Minister responsible for Public Works there was a mention of a miscalculation of the amount of pipe needed at the Barbados Water Authority. I would like to ask the Minister if the contract has been awarded for the pipe to be used on Highway 2 as yet

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the contractor who is building the road and that road I am referring to is Highway 2A because I do not know if it was by accident but 3 days before the flooding on Highway 1 the bridge was opened so that those people who had problems travelling on Highway 1 were able to use the road on Highway 2 going to the constituency of St. Lucy. So I would like to congratulate the contractor for his foresight in completing the bridge at the right time.

I would also like to congratulate the contractor for doing some very good work on that highway. He has proven to be a good contractor and he has proven to Barbados that the faith that the Democratic Labour Party put in him has turned out to be good judgment

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to find out if the reason why the road leading from Clermont to Queen's College has not started as yet has anything to do with land disputes and if there are still land disputes come September if the contractor will be blamed for not completing the road on time. 4.30 p.m.

You see, Sir, I have been seeing articles in the newspaper stating that the road is not being completed on time and blaming the contractor. There are other reasons why the road may not be on time and we still hope that once he has been given the privilege and the right-away to do the necessary things, and once the land has been acquired, the road will be completed on time even though there have been delays.

I hope, Sir, that the appropriate Minister will do the necessary to make sure that there are no more stumbling blocks in the contractor's way and that the unfair criticism that he has been getting will be stopped. Thank you very much.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the representative for St. James South, the Clermont Access Road is in fact one of the boundary lines of my constituency. This road runs through part of Prior Park, Meadowvale Heights on to Glydor Gardens, down the hill to what has traditionally been recognised as Clermont. Many people are not aware that the development of Prior Park runs all the way on to the Clermont Road, so a lot of people describe Meadowvale Heights as being in Clermont when in fact it is, physically, part of the Prior Park development. That happens not only to be the Constituency that I represent but it is the area in which I live.

Now, it is the widening of this road that I really want to compliment the Minister on. It is a marvellous project. That area is one of the fastest growing developments in the Island. In 1991 and just before, Meadowvale and part of Glydor Gardens did not exist. With the last elections in 1994 parts of Clermont have grown, new developments have come in. The Meadowvale Development of 60 houses, I think it is, is now complete and all but a few houses occupied. The same thing applies to Glydor Gardens. That road, therefore, originally accommodated a smaller residential district, that of the smaller Clermont with very few houses. With the expansion of residential districts in that area, including at the bottom of the hill, Warrens Park North and Warrens Park South, a large number of people now use that road as a major access on to Husbands and Queen's College on to Highway 2A, on to Highway 1, on to the University Hill. It has become a widely travelled road, not only by people living in the area but by people using it as a link or feeder road. Increasingly, it gives contact to the rest of the areas that I have described and large vehicles and heavy duty vehicles also use it. This road was not originally intended to accommodate this sort of high volume traffic. I urge the Minister to bear in mind, that when proposed residential developments come on stream there will be a number of attendant problems related to transportation and access.

As a matter of fact, and I am speaking purely in a parochial context in relation to this matter, at the bottom of the hill very close to Warrens Park North, there is a drain that has a cover that was never fixed and whenever cars pass over it, it flaps continually and in my view an open drain of this type poses some sort of threat and really is a nuisance to the people who live there because it means that every time a motor vehicle goes over that drain there is a lot of noise. People in the district, some of whom may be sick or sleeping, people who are at home, or little children, are constantly subjected to that noise. I know that part of the plan is, and I have been able to speak with the engineer on this, that that drain will finally be fixed and sealed and properly done so as to mitigate and even remove this nuisance.

It is also important to give adequate drainage to this road because that area is prone to heavy flooding,

particularly the area of Clerview, which is in St. Michael North but Glydor and Meadowvale are in the constituency of St. James South.

On Thursday August 3rd, when we had the very heavy flooding there was a call from Meadowvale indicating that there was heavy flooding in the area. Because of the threat posed to Weston, Meadowvale was not given the sort of high priority and attention that it should have been given. As a result we had people trapped in houses at Meadowvale and outside of the development people could not get in, with people having to park on the main Clermont Road and wade or swim in. I did a tour of that area on the Saturday immediately following the flood and there were people in Meadowvale who lost everything, particularly people living on the eastern side of the Meadowvale Development. The water in meadowvale rose to at least 6 feet I am told and residents of the area who were in the region of 6 feet tall were the ones who had to go into the houses and bring out women with babies and helplessly watch cars floating away.

Even up to that Saturday morning, I did try to get some help for them. Several residents who had two-storied buildings were still completely flooded on their ground floors with silt covering all of their furniture their entire floors. They lost their stereos, videos and other electronic equipment. Meadowvale is really one of the disaster stories of Thursday's flooding but this is not widely known because everybody focussed attention on Weston. I know therefore that the Minister has in mind that when the road is repaired and widened for the Meadowvale development to be saved he will try to correct all of these problems.

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that I am so far off the mark if I try to draw to the attention of this Chamber and to the attention of this country that part of the problem in Meadowvale has to do with the developers. Sir, my understanding is that the company which developed Meadowvale has now gone into receivership and many of the requirements of the Town Planning Department for development of that area were never met. Several of the wells that are existing are blocked and therefore those drains did not take off the water and that is why there were so many problems with flooding when the rain came.

In addition to that, the developer had intended to continue another phase of that project and had built an access road. After that company went bust, no attention at all was paid to dealing with that road by this company, or part of their settlement of accounts. As a result where the road was to run there now exists large dug out areas, perhaps as much as 8 feet wide and very deep. Whenever it rains that area collects water and becomes virtually a swimming pool and on Thursday the third, it collected so much water that eventually it overflowed its banks and that is part of the problem that helped to aggravate flooding in Meadowvale. In consequence, the Ministry of Health and

the Environment had to go to the area and pump off and oil and treat the water there to prevent mosquito infestation and so on but it does form a very serious problem for the people who live in Meadowvale Heights because quite apart from the health risk of the infestation of mosquitoes and so on, there is also the problem of flooding and loss of property, damage to homes, and so forth and the problems of access when it is raining as well as the problem of drainage.

I think we also have to address this matter of how to deal with developers who put people in such positions. There are stories of them all over Barbados, of people who go to developers who want to make quick money and develop in such a way that maximum benefits are not realised by the home owner who is left to endure problems that the developers leave behind. 4.40 p.m.

In fact, the story at Meadowvale is that the developer even left behind his doberman pincher guard dog and that the residents of the area who were not afraid of it were forced to feed it. This type of conduct is part of the culture of developers but is adverse to the interests of the community and we have to look at this if we are to protect the interest of the citizen down the road. But to speak to the immediate issue of the development of the Clermont Road, I think that I should also point out, Mr. Speaker, that on the northern side of that road there is a large number of well-developed and mature trees. I would hope, as the Minister who has the responsibility for the Environment, that when the road is widened not only could we have some kind of foot path along that very busy road which is high in pedestrian traffic as well as vehicular traffic but that some thought will be given to the preservation of those very beautiful and very valuable trees.

Mr. Speaker, every development and every policy decision has the potential to impact either positively or negatively on our citizens and I would wish to commend the Minister for the positive impact which the development of this road and widening of this road will bring to the constituency of St. James South, but to remind him of the negatives to which I have spoken and that we must now as a Government address. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, the last two Honourable Members of St. James South and St. Michael West Central had the good fortune to speak before me and so made a number of points that I would have wished to make in relation to the Clermont Road. But, Mr. Speaker, as representative for that constituency of St. Michael North, I can say with certainty that the residents of Clermont will

be happy about the breaking of this news and the fact that something will be done about this road in the very near future.

I have had to endure a vast number of complaints from residents of Clermont including the Honourable Member for St Michael West Central who is a constituent of mine about the condition of this road. It has done tremendous damage to vehicles. It has caused tremendous inconvenience to pedestrians in the wake of any flooding especially the last that we had and, Mr. Speaker, I received numerous complaints from people who tried to walk the road shortly afterwards and were severely inconvenienced. It has been a tremendous nuisance to the residents of St. Michael North and, particularly, the Clermont area.

I hasten to congratulate the Minister for being so speedy because in September of last year it was a major issue to the residents of that part of the constituency and I hasten to congratulate the Minister for moving so hastily. I will just add one or two precautions because I would want to see a road put in place with sidewalks. At present it is really extremely dangerous. It is a road, Mr. Speaker, that is now carrying a large volume of traffic passing over it. It is now an accomplished access road of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and therefore in the absence of any proper sidewalks to protect the pedestrians it is still going to be a source of some danger. So that while it is commendable that the road will be repaired and expanded, I would really like to see that adequate sidewalks are also put next to that road since this was a request made to me by the constituents.

Mr. Speaker, with your leave, I would also wish to make a related point as this is a road which is tangential to a highway. I really would wish to make one further point in relation to the highways and it is this, Mr. Speaker, I believe that an Honourable Member in this House previously made this point but I want to repeat it I think the time has come when we are going to have to look at the question of minimum speed limits on the highway. It is now becoming extremely uncomfortable to have to travel on the highway with drivers cruising at around 30 or 40 kilometres per hour seeing a large number of traffic behind and have no intention whatsoever to hurry even if you toot the horn where you appear to be a nuisance. But the time has come, Mr. Speaker, where we have to look at enforcing a minimum speed limit on the highway because if we do not do that we can just stop calling it a highway and call it an access road. Coming from the airport to the west coast and having to drive at 15 or 20 kilometres per hour is defeating the purpose for which the highway was built. Therefore, I think that it is time that we look at the question of minimum speed.

Those are the points basically, Mr. Speaker, that I wanted to make but I wish to really congratulate the Minister because this is a move that will go down very

well in relation to St Michael North, I wish to add my support to the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Two very brief points, Sir. It would appear to me that the present administration is struggling to complete this capital project, not to mention the complete absence of any other capital projects of their own as indicated in the recent Central Bank Report. But perhaps the Honourable Minister of Public Works can tell the House what is the actual cost of these acquisitions before the House today and what is the total cost of all of the acquisitions in relation to Highway 2A.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Honourable Member to let us know what is the cost of the measure before this Honourable House, what is the cost of these acquisitions relating to Highway 2A and the third point the extent to which the delay in the acquisitions has impeded the progress in completion of the highway. We know, Sir, that there are problems with the highway where work had to stop during crop season and various other factors that impeded the completion. But I would like to know the extent the delay in acquisitions has impeded the completion and secondly the cost of the acquisitions. One cannot just come to the House with a whole long list of properties to be acquired and not extend the courtesy to this Honourable House of indicating the cost of it. Finally, if the Honourable Member can tell us what is the outstanding amount, how much money Government currently owes persons whose properties they have acquired in the past. Fourthly and finally, when is he going to get down to the business of making sure that there are adequate sidewalks between Oistins Town and Bridgetown, a rapidly developing area that is highly compromised because of the lack of sidewalks in the area.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I just rise to support the Resolution and to say that I hope that this Resolution will enable the project to be completed more speedily. It was absolutely essential that we brought it today rather than delay it until after the recess because that would have financial implications for Government. 4.50 p.m.

The Minister did mention the roundabout at St. Thomas Church and I hope that the contractor* will take into account the fact that when you leave the churchyard area, having regard to the new configuration of the road going down to Sea View, Reeves Hill and that part of St. James there could be danger for people crossing from the side of the church on to the highway, there needs to be some realignment of that part of the road that takes in

piece of Ridgeway Plantation to ensure that the safety of people attending the church is not compromised. I am making a public appeal to the authorities to look at that with a view to some realignment, either in the church wall or in the road, to make sure that when you come from the church, with the wall on your left...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will raise it elsewhere of course, but I thought I should express some little concern, because the roundabout is being constructed now.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke of the wise decision of the Democratic Labour Party, or words to that effect, to award the contract. The matter is still before the courts and so I am not going to pronounce, all I would do is remind the Honourable Member that part of this matter went to the Privy Council and has been pronounced on by the Privy Council.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is a most important part, that is not a minor part. The major part was whether a decision of Cabinet to award a contract in exercise of a statutory power was reviewable, and the Government fought it for days. I said the matter is still before the courts. The essence of the case is before the courts and there is no doubt in my mind, if anybody reads that Judgement from the Privy Council carefully, that they have said what should happen. Read it carefully. As a lawyer I can say that I can deduce from a judgement where the judges are indicating that the parties should go.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We are bound by it. We must all remember the key element in this whole matter is that after great reluctance to reveal to the court the Hansard of what was said in here, it is now available to the court and I have no doubt, because Members must remember when the affidavits were filed at first...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have no interest in it. I did that before, but I will declare it again *ex abundante*. I did represent the contractor up to the stage of preparation of the case for the Privy Council. I am not involved in the case, I do not see the file, I have told the Solicitor General do not ever send the file to me, because if it comes on my desk I will send it back without looking at whatever is on the cover. I represented the Williams side of the matter, but the point I want Honourable Members to remember is that when the affidavits were first filed, and I suppose that led two Judges of the Court of Appeal to talk about the skimpy nature of the affidavits, because the whole of the speech

in here could not form part of the affidavit, because the Speaker at the time had not given permission for the Hansard to be released and used in evidence. Now that the Hansard can be used in evidence, it will be a matter for the courts to determine whether the language used to justify the award of the contract...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: There is no test that you have to get past, because the parties agreed. Do not forget, after the Speaker released it the parties agreed and it was used. The Privy Council referred to that in their Judgement, the fact that the Hansard can now form part of the evidential basis in the case.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I will bet my house. All I have, a house, I will bet.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member is known to have had a horse that did not get out of the gates.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is not true, Sir. He is confusing me with the Deputy Prime Minister's father who had a horse called Sir Grantley, ridden by a jockey called Walter Husbands and it never left the starting gates. Obviously Sir Grantley did not like Husbands on his back* Mine is a different situation, some of mine would start and run, but run last.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: I am grateful for that correction, Sir. The point is that the Honourable Member, on the occasion that he was willing to bet, knows that from time 'to time he will lose. I have in my possession a note signed by him where he did exactly what he is doing now, Sir, He bet me and he lost comprehensively, so his willing to bet does not move me on these issues. The Honourable Member will confirm this.

The point I am making, Sir, is that we will have to wait and hear the Judgement when it comes on the substantive issue, but the substantive issue to be decided, and I hope that it is eventually decided with all of the deliberation that is possible in these matters, because there are very interesting issues to be decided in law. But I would be willing to take a small wager with the honourable gentleman, Sir, on the issue, because this one will probably have to go all the way to the Privy Council as well, and I really cannot imagine that they will be able, having found that a Cabinet is reviewable, and I think it is important for the record to state only when functioning as a statutory functionary, and this is the reason why I got involved in the debate because I have noticed that one or two of the persons who hold themselves out to be columnists in Barbados, while writing about this matter, have been

writing in a very expansive and thoroughly ignorant way about what the Privy Council has decided, and they have left the public to believe that anybody can just get up any morning and put the Cabinet in court and you really cannot review policy. The grounds on which the Government and the Cabinet can be found to have acted ultra vires are well known to those who know them and it would be interesting to see how they will be able to demonstrate and furthermore prove. Are they going to call witnesses of the Cabinet Minister? If the Honourable Member is suggesting that reliance on the statements allegedly made in the past and recorded in Hansard would be by itself sufficient that would be worth seeing. 5.00 p.m.

It would be worth seeing what manner of argumentation will bring that particular piece of evidence into the full contemplation of the courts to the extent and exclusion of all else because if I remember correctly the Honourable Member pleaded mal-administration - that is my word... The Honourable Member pleaded bias and improper motive and frankly the statement of a Minister on the Floor of Parliament to the foundation of his policy can hardly be praised in aid of some argument of bias or irrelevant consideration.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I have no quarrel with that, nor will I have no authority to argue the case. I just enjoy, I have to confess, the intellectual challenge of this particular area of experience and I would be keenly interested to see what kind of argumentation would be put forward by those who have succeeded, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in this case, as representing the people concerned.

The Attorney General has withdrawn from the case and I believe he genuinely has withdrawn from the case and any advice any young lawyers might seek from him will be purely on academic grounds. I don't believe that the Attorney General will lend himself to other than an academic consideration of any point that might arise. He is not precluded as Attorney General from explaining a concept which he had before in relation to the particular issue. So he argued the case and he can be called upon to explain to persons who have relieved him how he managed to have arrived at that particular point

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: And then what would I do with the money? Have the same problems you had? You were earning so much money and you still were not as happy as you are now. You don't need any money. Ask my friend...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, I am learning also, and enjoying it, but I think we are going a

little far away. I have given you a lot of latitude because I believe the Honourable House is being informed.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know from experience that as soon as we get into the areas of large sums of money we would lose you, Sir, because you are not accustomed.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is very true, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to join with the Honourable Member for St Lucy in congratulating the present contractor or the persons who are carrying out the contract because I don't know if they are going to be void or voidable but it would be fascinating...

When the highway is open and the courts hold that the contract is void, they will have to hold that it is voidable because they cannot hold it as void then, of course, there will be a whole new ball game so the Government may have to end up paying the contractors who did not get the work and those who did the work. No doubt the Attorney General will advise the Government on the best way to proceed in that regard.

I wish to congratulate the Rayside people for the magnificent work which they have been able to do in very difficult circumstances. When one travels on Highway 2A as it now stands - I have not yet driven across the bridge so I don't know what it is like - but one cannot help but be impressed with the quality of the road. I would ask the Minister however to pursue the possibility of having the highway lighted. It is very difficult, all things being equal, to travel on that highway at a speed that is reasonable after the sun has gone down. It is difficult, especially since not everybody in Barbados who drives on highways is accustomed to driving on highways or drive like they are accustomed to drive on highways. It can be very dangerous and I believe that people who are coming from the airport who would have been driving in relatively well lit roadways, who would, as it were, exit onto the new highway, unless they continue with that kind of lighting or something similar they are going to have some difficulty.

I also am very interested in the fact that we had agreed to... I thought that the contract for Canewood carried the road all the way to the Jackson corner and I was really amazed to hear the Minister say that it went up to a point about 100 metres from the junction with Jackson because earlier when he said that the highway was completed I was about to jump up and say no it is not completed there are still areas of difficulty after you come from the eastern part.

There is a short piece leading up to Jackson where I had read in the newspapers that there was some difficulty with the acquisitions along the way and I wonder if he could explain that. The newspaper carried the story purporting to come from officials in the Ministry indicating

that they were having some difficulty with acquisitions of land for the last 100 metres or so of the highway.

On the question of Clermont, the exit and egress near Queen's College. There has to be a redesigning of that. Just as you come from Clermont, if you are turning left and it is after 6 o'clock and the lights are not working fully it is extremely difficult to see a fast moving vehicle coming out of the north, going from north to south. There is a feeder left turn on to what is the main road just opposite along the Queen's College Road.

I think that when you come to design the road out of Clermont that you should examine the possibility of putting a roundabout by the school that exits into the school or goes another direction rather than a light because it presents untold difficulty when you are making a left turn. Sometimes when you are making a right turn it is difficult to tell if you should go straight and make the right turn at right angles or whether you should angle into what is really a left turn coming north into Clermont I don't know if I am making sense. It is sometimes and I have seen persons actually make the right turn in what is a left turn lane. These areas need some examination and I commend them to the Minister.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ... especially if you drive a left hand drive; but it turns out to be a benefit if you are driving a left-hand drive because you are on the other side. One day I was very frightened when as I was making my right turn I saw somebody making a parallel right turn at the same time because if anything was coming in the other direction I think the car would have been in shambles. 5.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, this project, the whole project of Highway 2A and Clermont and Canewood is a tribute to a former Minister of Transport and Works, Philip Greaves. He is now no longer here and I would like to put on the record that this ...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Canewood and Clermont. Sir, so that the record is clear the development of the Queen's College was determined during the time when I was a Minister. The development of the project...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I was not about to question where the concept came from. If it was conceptualised by Tom Adams I have no difficulty. If on their side they have difficulty determining the difference between Tom Adams and Vic Johnson, who am I not to have a little difficulty

in determining the difference between Philip Greaves and the same other two.

The point is though that Philip Greaves had a full appreciation of how this project should be developed and I would end by saying that we will not depart from our belief that it is improper, notwithstanding what the law says, that it is improper to enter upon and take possession of another person's property before that property has been properly and significantly acquired. When we went back into Government we stopped that practice because, especially in view of the fact that many people have to wait for long periods of time before they are able to be paid, we feel that there is something inherently unreasonable about the State taking possession of, and using property long before the State has acquired that land and indeed long before the State is in a position to pay for that land. We believe that the principle of acquisition before possession is one which should be adhered to.

I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South believes and perpetrated the very strong feeling that a Section 5 notice is sufficient and I hear a Minister to be saying that they had proceeded along those lines. But this is a very hefty acquisition. It has a lot of pages to it, Sir, and the Schedule runs from the First Schedule all the way to the Eighty-First Schedule. That would be 81 parcels of land that will be acquired. That means that some people will have to be eighty-first in line when it comes to payment, notwithstanding that the money is available. Notwithstanding that the money is coming by way of capital loan, it still takes long to get paid.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: They would get paid within a year? No, there is no way you can get paid within a year. There are people at Hinds Hill and people on the Tom Adams Highway who have not received their money yet, even though that was a project that was paid for from international funds. I am not casting blame. It is just technical difficulties. So, Mr/Speaker, it would be helpful if the Minister could be as articulate as possible in explaining for the public what are the ramifications of these 81 acquisitions for the people in the vicinity who will be giving up the land. I think it is useful to give some kind of time frame of what might be expected and how soon this project might come to an end, especially as it relates to Clermont because the road is extremely bad by now. It cannot be fixed. It is not likely to be fixed while this project is on the drawing board.

I know the Honourable Member, the Prime Minister, is now strapped for cash, not as a person but as a Minister. I know the Prime Minister has extreme difficulty with the juggling of these dollars while maintaining the proper image as a beneficent and kindly dispenser of good things and therefore I think it would be helpful if you can give us

some indication as to when might we expect the road at Clermont to be ready for travelling on.

I am sure the Honourable Member for St. James South would like to be able to tell her constituents that by Christmas 199? this road will be ready. If the Honourable Member for St. James South wishes to give me an alternate route so I can pass via certain ways, I would be happy to comply, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members have raised a few questions with respect to this Resolution. If I may deal with one or two matters which were raised by the Honourable Member for St Michael West. I think I dealt with the question of lighting. I did say that it was not included in the original design but we recognised the fact that the highway should be lighted and at the moment the officials within the Ministry are preparing a costing for lighting of the Highway. This should be ready fairly shortly.

With respect to the acquisition to the 81 parcels, I did say that we are doing the reverse of what the last administration did even though both administrations could be faulted for acquiring lands and paying for them after. If you may take the phase 1 of the Highway 2A and phase 2 as examples, what the last administration actually did, they went in before the acquisitions and then they did the acquisitions after the roads had been completed. What we are proposing to do is to have the acquisition finalised before we actually move in to start the work.

With respect to a wider point as to the payment we have inherited substantial sums owed by Government with respect to acquisitions in the past What we have done, as a matter of policy, is to state that we will, over the next five years, on a uniform basis, clear off those arrears and at the same time seek to advance the cost of acquisitions as long as the funds are available.

While we are on this one, the question of the three properties which I alluded to earlier are examples of this. A property at Bagatelle, the Turney property, which we have already acquired and which we have paid for, the Shamrock property and also the Trevor Clarke property. But as far as possible in the future, what we will be seeking to do is to acquire the property before we actually begin the work and compensate the parties as soon as possible thereafter.

I would also like to say that it is not always easy in cases of acquisitions to arrive at an agreement with the land owner on the actual price of the land. 5,20 p.m.

Even though the land is acquired under Section 3 and the Section 5 Notices have been done, the owners sometimes state that they are not accepting a specific

figure. As a matter of fact, there are about 5 land owners at the moment, certainly since I was the Minister, who are owed money by this Government for the acquisitions done in the past where we have actually placed what the Valuation Department and independent valuers consider a reasonable valuation and put that money at their disposal and they have actually refused stating that they wanted more money for the land. In situations like this, the money is normally lodged in an account earning interest for the land owners and there are about 5 cases like this.

With respect to the question which was raised by the Honourable Member for St Michael South Central on the cost of the acquisitions and the cost of the actual project, the cost of Highway 2A Phase I was \$14.5 million and the cost of Phase II at Canewood and Clermont Roads combined is \$19.2 million of which \$7.8 million will be the cost of the acquisitions and this will be the cost which will be borne by Government and the remainder is part of the CDB Loan.

There are 81 parcels in Clermont and 148 parcels in Phase II of the Highway 2A Project. But notwithstanding the fact that \$7.8 million has been allocated for the acquisitions it will be extremely difficult to say with any degree of certainty what the acquisitions will cost for the reasons which I mentioned. I believe that briefly those are the reasonable responses to the questions which have been asked and I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ST. JAMES,
ST. THOMAS AND ST. MICHAEL TO
IMPROVE HIGHWAY 2A

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, in moving the previous Resolution, I did state that the points which I raised relevant to that particular Resolution should apply to this Resolution. In the circumstances, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 5 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO T.A.B.
LTD. AND LIFE OF BARBADOS LTD. OF THE
PARCEL OF LAND AT THE PINE, ST.
MICHAEL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A CAR PARK FACILITY

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks approval for the lease of 1 901.2 metres of land at

The Pine, St. Michael to TAB Building Ltd. and Life of Barbados Ltd. for a period of 15 years at a rental of \$7 680.00 per annum. This parcel of land is adjacent to the Financial Services Centre, Upper Collymore Rock which is owned and operated by the joint venture partners of TAB Building Ltd. and Life of Barbados Ltd. It is part of the land occupied by the Central Livestock Station.

Sir, it should be noted that the operations of the Central Livestock Station are being relocated at Greenland, St. Andrew. The applicants sought permission to lease approximately 1 900 square metres of adjacent land to provide additional parking facilities for the Financial Centre. The applicants informed the Ministry that the existing 50 ft. building line requirement at Upper Collymore Rock as well as the need for proper landscaping between the building and the road combined to reduce the amount of land available for parking.

In addition, they expressed the need to provide for peak parking especially when large meetings are arranged. It was subsequently agreed that an area of approximately 1 900 hectares of land at The Pine, St Michael should be leased to TAB Building Ltd. and Life of Barbados for use as a car park at an initial rental of \$7 680 per annum.

Planning permission for the subdivision of the subject land from other lands owned by the Government of Barbados for the provision of parking facilities and the erection of a car park was obtained. It has been confirmed that TAB Building Ltd. and Life of Barbados are companies duly registered in accordance with the laws of Barbados. Parliamentary approval is therefore sought to grant the above mentioned lease.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 6 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE TO D & B
SERVICES, INC. OF A PARCEL OF LAND TO
PARADISE BEACH DRIVE, ST. MICHAEL FOR
THE UPGRADING OF THE TOWER HOTEL

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before this House seeks approval for the sale of 599 square metres of land at Paradise Beach Drive, St. Michael to D & B Services, Inc. for the sum of \$58 032. In 1982, the Barbados Government acquired 11 parcels of land at Black Rock, St. Michael for the purpose of road improvement. Included among them was a property comprising 1 344 square metres of land which was formerly the property of Paradise Villas Limited. A portion of this land was used to provide an access onto the Spring Garden Highway and for the construction of a well. The residual portion of this parcel comprising 599 square metres joins the property of the Tower Hotel which is owned by D & B Services, Inc.

By letter dated February 10, 1994, D & B Services, Inc. expressed an interest in purchasing the residual land which now forms a corner lot with a view to upgrading the hotel and maximizing its room capacity.

The Ministry of Public Works, Transport & Housing has confirmed that it has no further use for the residual land which was not used for the road improvement and the such well. The Commissioner of Land Tax has advised that a unit value range of \$8.50 to \$10.00 per square ft. could be applied to the residual land. A selling price of \$9.00 per square ft. was negotiated. The original land owner has confirmed by letter that she has no further interest in purchasing the small corner lot of 599 square metres. The House is accordingly invited to approve the Resolution pertaining to the sale of 599 square metres of land at Paradise Beach Drive to D & B Services, Inc. for the sum of \$58 032.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.30 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member *for St. John**

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 10 reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing:

Will the Minister state to whom and on what terms tenders have been awarded by the Transport Board since September 6, 1994, for the printing of bus tickets for the Board?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Question No. 10, asked by the Honourable Member *for St. John*, is as follows:-

Graphic Impressions Limited was hired by the Transport Board under the last Democratic Labour Party administration to print bus tickets for the Transport Board.

The said company was again awarded a new contract by the new Board on 1st January, 1995.

The terms and conditions of the new contract are as follows:

Period of award of contract	2 years
General passenger tickets	\$5.60 per 1 000 tickets
Scholar tickets Scholar passes	\$5.60 per 1 000 tickets
Waybills	\$39 per 1 000 passes
	\$65 per 1 000 waybills

No other contracts have been awarded by the Board for the printing of bus tickets since 6th September, 1994.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the Minister state whether the company to which the contract was awarded was the lowest bidder?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The contract, as stated in my Reply, covered four areas, and in terms of the overall contract Graphic Impressions Limited was the lowest evaluated bid. I do not know if the Honourable Member would want me to read out all the other people.

Under Category A, Caribbean Graphics offered the lowest bid. The Board did not consider this company due to some problems experienced in the past relating to its failure in delivering tickets. Graphic Impressions Limited, the next bid in line; was therefore the lowest evaluated bid.

Under Category B, which is Scholar tickets, Graphic Impressions Limited offered the lowest bid.

Under Category C, Coles Printery offered the lowest bid, followed by Prestige Print. The Board had never dealt with Coles Printery and the question of security was most important. Prestige Print was not considered because of the difficulties in the delivery of tickets which the Board had with Prestige Limited in the past and Graphic Impressions Limited was therefore the lowest evaluated bid.

Under Category D, Waybills, Moore Paragon offered the lowest bid, the Board had difficulty with this quotation in relation to the other bids. I will give you an example. They were \$30.73 per 1 000 as the lowest bid, as opposed to \$103.61 per 1 000 by Printex Printery. Graphic Impressions was the next lowest bid, \$65 per 1 000, and was considered the most reasonable bid in the circumstances.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Will the Minister please state whether the Minister has any shareholding or any interest in the directorate in Graphic Impressions?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, before I became a Minister, before I entered Parliament, as an attorney Graphic Impressions Limited is a company which I incorporated, and to facilitate the incorporation of the company in the late 1980s I was a director of the company in the initial period, as the Honourable Member for St. John would know, as I have done with scores of companies that I have incorporated.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I must make it very clear. I have never incorporated a company and been a director of it. Companies I incorporate, I incorporate. Where I am a director, I am a paid director, but I have never incorporated a company and become a director thereafter unless it was my company. That point of order needs to be made, because I really do not know, and I am very glad that the question was asked so the information would be available.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I have been a practising attorney for 20 years and the Honourable Member has only just joined the legal profession, so I am not surprised that he is not aware of the practice of incorporating a company and to facilitate the incorporation being a director. Every attorney, not only attorneys who have been in private practice for a long time, but the young attorneys should know of that practice in the past. The Honourable Member made certain imputations in this House as if to suggest, in this House on three occasions during the debate and during the Estimates, that I was a director of a company to whom a contract was awarded by the Transport Board. At the time I was not even aware that the contract had been awarded by the Transport Board. I cannot be responsible for his ignorance in not knowing that this was a practice by attorneys in the past. It has nothing to do with when you were qualified, as an attorney you should know this.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I ceased being a director of this company before I was a Member of this House and I never held any shares in this company. I am disappointed that the Honourable Member for St. John - and I must say the Honourable Member for St. Michael East as well - in the debate in the Estimates and in the columns of the Democratic Labour Party would tend to suggest that.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked a Question today. The Government is prepared to give the Reply now.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: How do you mean not permitted?

Mr. SPEAKER: Prweed, please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That brings us to the end of Question Time. I had indicated, Mr. Speaker, earlier today that if the Honourable Leader of the Opposition still wanted to make his speech on the Private Members' matter, although the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has gone, we could accommodate him now for the half hour. If not, we can leave it until the House resumes.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The time at which you proposed it was this morning and I was at the disposal of the Government I made the assumption that had we done it we would have done it at 3 o'clock. It can stay until after Recess. It is neither here nor there.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business. I am going to move the adjournment of the House, and in doing so I wish to thank all Honourable Members for the co-operation that they have shown the Government in this period. 5.40 p.m.

I know that most members are a little tired now and I can assure them that when the House resumes there will be a heavy dose of legislation coming on a steady basis and some fairly thick bills. What I will endeavour to do is to get all of the legislation that is going to come out to the Opposition Parties as soon as they are ready so that members will have a reasonable time to digest the contents of the legislation so that we can keep the pace of legislation moving reasonably in the public's interest.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank the staff of Parliament for their co-operation and I am sure they will look forward to the recess that will shortly be moved.

In fact, I am going to move that this House do now adjourn, until October 10, 1995 at 11 o'clock and I trust that in the interim the country is not subjected to the ravages of floods or hurricanes and that we have a reasonably quiet time between now and resumption of the House.

I wish all Honourable Members on both sides of the House a pleasant and enjoyable holiday.

Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members the motion is before the House. Before I put the question I myself would like to say a few words on behalf of this Honourable

Chair and the other presiding officers. I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their co-operation. I think when we all started here it was quite a learning experience for us but, with your help, we have got this far and I know sometimes the cut and thrust of debate may get a little heated but, of course, in this side of the world the Honourable Members here will always ensure that parliamentary democracy stands supreme.

I thank you and I also would like to wish that you have a restful time and come back prepared to continue with our cut and thrust.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.45 p.m.

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Lucy) MARSHALL, His Honour R. D. (St Michael
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