THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 23,1995

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday May 23, 1995.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B A., Dip, Ed., (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P.
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Rons.), M.P.A., LLJB. (Hons.)
Mr. L. A. WEEKES, G.C.M., J.P.
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.), (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Sir Harold St JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., MA.
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business) (Leader qf the House)
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.), LEC (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. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B., (Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing)
Mr. J. M. EDGHILL
Mr. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.
Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER, JJ>., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Mr. H. F. LASHLEY
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B.
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Health)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)

Prayers were led by Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session,

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 1995.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of proceedings of the Honourable House of Assembly of April 25,1995 which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an observation. I observe that the Minutes indicated that a motion relating to the Vagrancy Act was passed. I have pointed out, Sir, on previous occasions, that there was a patent defect in the procedure relating to the

alleged passing of that particular item, and I am simply repeating it I have given all opportunities for the matter to be corrected and I would certainly wish that we could find a way of correcting it.

I am conscious, Sir, that if the procedure is not corrected, and I wish to pursue the matter, I would have to bring a substantive motion. I do not wish to do that, Sir, especially so early in your Speakership. I know that you, Sir, are very keen on ensuring that all of the Standing Orders of this House are observed scrupulously, and especially now, as I have read in the newspapers of your elevated position, assuming that the report is correct, that you preside over the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I certainly would not wish to have any blemish or blot on your record, Sir, so I hope that you will be able to find a way of dealing with this matter without my having to take that extreme position. But I have to indicate that the record is patent and I may have to pursue the matter in other ways if a solution were not found.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I humbly suggest, Sir, if I may. May I address you, Sir? I humbly suggest that without prejudice to any ruling which might be made that this set of Minutes be deferred pending Your Honour's disposition of the matter raised by the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member *for* St. Michael South, I would like to make an observation myself on your observation. What I recall is that this Honourable House had, in that particular session, agreed and a decision was made and so we moved on. I do not know if you are now asking this Honourable House to go back on a decision that had been made. As far as I know this is impossible, according to the Standing Orders of the House. I had made a ruling and this ruling was based on the agreement of the House and I am surprised that the Honourable Member would want to raise this as something relating to some defect in the Minutes.

Let us proceed, please.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I would not want to leave my Honourable Members unhappy in any way, so in spite of the ruling that has been made, I would make another observation.

This matter was raised during our last session and I think I gave adequate time for it. A decision was made and I made a ruling on it I do not see it possible now, especially when we consider the Standing Orders, that this matter could be raised as anything reflecting on the proceedings of the House at that particular point. A decision was made by the Chair.

Of course, the Honourable Member says that he does not want to bring a substantive motion but I honestly do not see that there are any grounds for it because if we are to go back on what transpired then, what had happened was that the Leader of the House, of course, had made a proposal and there were no objections from the Honourable Members. A decision had been made. I believe this is what you are referring to?

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to have a protracted debate on this. I do not know who the other Members are to whom you refer. I assume you mean the Members of the Government side but I want to reiterate for the record of this House. 11.30a.m.

I wish to make it clear that before my entry into this Chamber on that day, the Leader of the House, from her seat, shouted to me and told me that the Chairman of Committees was not in his seat and since we were going to go into Committee immediately, she was going to propose another Honourable Member, the Member for St. Michael North.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: From your seat, we conferred. We never went behind the Speaker's Chair *or* anywhere else. Now, Sir,...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not complaining. I am making sure that the facts are before the House. I had no objection to the individual she was proposing. However, while I am entitled to consult with the Leader of the House on the individual she proposes, I cannot agree with the Leader of the House to infringe the Standing Orders. Therefore the fact that somebody has consulted or has not spoken cannot mean that Members have approved a procedure which is in flagrant breach of the Standing Orders of the House.

I wish to say that, as Leader of the Opposition, I do not intend now nor have I ever done it, in the past, to agree to a procedure which either by law or convention or a rule, a Standing Order is in conflict with the procedure that is to be adopted. I am saying that is what happened...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. When this matter was raised, there Was full ventilation of argument and you ruled. The matter has just been raised again by the Member for St. Michael South and you have ruled. I understand that you have ruled.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Because you did not use the word rule does not mean that you have not ruled. If you have ruled, how can you open debate on it?

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will make an observation on the Honourable Member's observation. I believe the Record will show that I made a ruling in the last sitting. I believe that we are all Honourable Members here and there are matters that we could discuss simply. To me, this is no big matter that we cannot have it resolved right here and now. That is why we are having this discussion.

I should like to refer to the Honourable Member for St. John who stated that it was a flagrant what of the Standing Orders?

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: You would not agree to any flagrant...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I should like to say is that the Records of this House would show that there have been many occasions when a simple matter which required the agreement of both sides, that no motion was put and it was always taken that with this agreement there was no need to put a motion. The Records of the House, the Minutes of the previous sessions will show that there was no need for any motion to be put

If we are to go by what is being said now, I believe we could therefore go back and say that a lot of what was done was against the Standing Orders. If there is one thing I know I can refer to safely is to the Minutes of all those previous sessions because I have read every one of them. There were very many occasions when the Chair actually said, if this be die will of the House, then so be it and we pressed on. That is okay.

It was a similar situation where I sat here and I heard the Leader of the House ask a question of the Leader of the Opposition and I understood from the Leader of the Opposition's response that...

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, no, no. I was here. The only person who was not here was the Honourable Member for St Michael South.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD: I should like to make a further observation, Sir, and I do not wish to prolong this matter. May I say again we are not raising this matter in a contentious way. We are seeking to find a solution to it

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us talk about it calmly.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The particular problem is that the Standing Order specifically states that in the absence of a presiding officer and another officer is being elected that a particular form should be followed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could I ask you a question...

Rt Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The form is a motion that the particular Member do take the Chair of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER:...while you are on your feet? Would you agree that, over the years, that when there is consensus that it was not necessary to put a motion?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If there is consensus, Sir, on a particular matter that is not contravening the Standing Orders, you may proceed according to convention. But the Standing Orders specifically state that that particular motion should be put This is not a question of the agreement or otherwise between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition because no one was objecting to the particular person becoming Chairman. But it is the procedure that must be followed. The Standing Orders are quite clear on this, that a motion must be put.

Mr. SPEAKER: The procedure was not in any way, not followed. It has to do with the election of a Member. A motion is put obviously, if there is consensus, the Opposition and the Government agree and there is no need for a motion. That is what the Chair ruled on. I sat here in the Chair and I heard it So there was no need for any motion.

Furthermore, I should say that the Honourable Member, when all this was going on, was not even in his seat.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Sir, all of that notwithstanding, whether I was in my seat or not does not make a wrong procedure right The Standing Orders are quite clear and patent. A ruling... Sir, I would not wish to go down that particular road.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, let us proceed, please.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: It was your error, as Leader of the House, in not putting the motion.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us do it orderly, please.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I have the Standing Orders. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South. Standing Order 5(3):

> "Whenever the absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker is announced by the Clerk, the House shall, by motion, elect a Member then present to take the Chair. Such Member be invested with all the powers of the Speaker until the presence of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is announced by the Clerk or until the end of the sitting, whichever shall first occur."

In that Standing Order, there is no reference to the Chairman of Committees. The matter that we were dealing with relating to the absence of the Chairman of Committees.

Standing Order 5(4) continues:

> "The Chairman of Committees shall preside over all Committees of the whole House."

5:

"In the absence of the Chairman," this is the

circumstance that we were dealing with:

> "the House may elect any Member then present to act as Chairman of Committees."

You do not have to elect. You do it by acclamation or by unanimous agreement which is the same thing.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The discretion was exercised by those Members who were here, by consensus. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South came in late. He raised it after the House had been debating the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: This is spinning top in mud.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been in here 20 years and the Honourable Member for the City cannot put me to sit down. Never could and never will.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Attorney General is supposed to advise this House. What the Attorney General just said I cannot allow to go on the Record, as if I accept it at that.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He must be.

11.40a.m.

He got up on a point of order and spoke very piously to the Speaker. What the Attorney General just said is patently incorrect. It is patently incorrect to get up and read May's and then say it is a discretion, that you do not have to put a motion. A motion of acclamation is a motion. The motion has to be put and the issue, without prejudice, is that no motion was put.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, let us proceed, please. Order please. Let us proceed. Let me say to this Honourable House, my entertaining discussion in this matter has nothing to do with the Speaker being able to say no or not. I feel it is a matter that we could easily resolve and since it appears that we cannot easily resolve it, a decision has been made by the Speaker, in the previous sitting, and the decision stands relating to what had happened and I do not think we are any worse off for listening to the various points of view. Let us proceed, please.

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

PAPERS

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

> The National Insurance and Social Security (Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995;
>
> The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No.7) Order, 1995; and
>
> The Betting and Gaming Duties Order, 1995.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the Society With Restricted Liability Bill, 1995.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

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

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

1. To ask of die Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister state when the sites and services programme will be commenced by the National Housing Corporation at Gall Hill, St John, in the area identified for that purpose and how and when the Corporation proposes to dispose of the housing lots in that programme?

2. To ask of 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?

3. To ask of the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister state to which construction companies and on what basis and terms including price contracts to construct or complete construction of houses at Cane Garden, St Thomas, have been awarded by the National Housing Corporation?

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Society with Restricted Liability Bill, 1995 be read a first time.

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to announce to the Honourable the House of Assembly, the appointment of Mr. Carlston Boucher to be the Permanent Representative of Barbados at the United Nations.

Mr. Boucher, now Ambassador Boucher, is an economist by profession and his most recent appointment, before the talcing up of this appointment, was that of special representative to the United Nations at New York and Geneva for the World Bank. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ambassador Boucher has been with the World Bank for several years going back to 1972 starting out as a research economist and moving through country economist where he had responsibility for the African Regional Department, South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, moving up to be a Deputy Special Representative to the United Nations and later on in 1983, as Senior Economist, Strategic Planning and Review Department. 1987 to 1990 he became an adviser in respect of External Relations Department and then in 1990 he became the Principal Economic Affairs Officer, Operations Policy Department, International Economics Division until he became the Special Representative up to this time.

Ambassador Boucher had been an employee of the Government of Barbados between the years 1957 and 1972 when he went to the U.N. During those years there were various assignments in the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Finance among others. He has also been very active in the United Nations Inter-Agency System on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, on the Co-ordinating Committee on Policy and Operational Questions, on the Organisational Committee and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

Ambassador Boucher has been equally active in several inter-governmental bodies, Sir United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, 1991, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva in 1987 and Copenhagen in 1992; United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992; the International Labour Organisation Governing Council 1993; United Nations Conference on Population Development in Cairo in 1994; United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados, 1994 and the United Nations Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit which was held in Copenhagen in March of this year and also on the Preparatory Committee for United Nations Conference on Women, the fourth such Conference which is to be held in Beijing, China in September of this year.

I think that the work experience of Ambassador Boucher, Sir, shows us that he will bring a new competence to the post of Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations. 11.50a.m.

Now that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Barbados has been designated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business, Sir, it is clear that the perspective of this eminent economist will put Barbados in a very special position at the United Nations. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that when it became known among the hierarchy at the United Nations that this appointment was going to be made it was received with much joy and much approval. In other words, Sir, it has been exceedingly well received and at the United Nations there is great expectation of Ambassador Boucher in his new post.

I do believe, Sir, that his connections of the past 20 years will serve the Ambassador well, not only in respect of the work that he will do for Barbados, but I think that it will redound to this region, meaning the Caribbean

region, that we would have a person of this repute and this peculiar kind of experience at the U.N. It will mean, Sir, that we will not have to waste time running in somebody who has no previous experience at the U.N. and particularly, as I have said, I am keen to see how somebody who has been working in one aspect of the work that the U.N. does will now bring that experience to another aspect of the work that the U.N. does.

I am sure that I speak for all Members when I say that we would all want to wish this son of the St Philip soil and I believe that this appointment has been received exceedingly well in St. Philip as weU as the whole of Barbados, that we want to wish this son of the St. Philip soil well as he goes forward to take up this post as the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations.

Thank you, Sir.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with great regret that I rise to indicate to the House that the family of Members of the Democratic Labour Party join in sorrow with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South must have borne during the past few weeks after the passing of his mother.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not know the Honourable Member's mother, Eunice Carlotta Sandiford, and based on the eulogy which was read by the Vicar General of Barbados on behalf of the Bishop of Barbados, it was clear that many Barbadians of the Member for St Michael South's vintage had very fond memories of her hospitality and fond memories of the home and the surroundings in which they played or jaunted, or did whatever else they did as yourig men. The eulogy in a sense was a very touching occasion, particularly as many of our older Barbadians pass on because in it was once again the seeds of the story of another great Barbadian woman who sacrificed much personally so that her own children could be better than she was in terms of their academic achievements, in terms of the lifestyle that they lived, in terms of the way in which they were empowered and given opportunities to contribute to the development of Barbados. I am certain that she must have been a very proud woman to know that of all of the youngsters that she had around her home came many eminent Barbadians, including the Bishop of Barbados and others from the North of Barbados, and that in addition to that that her son rose to the position of Prime Minister of this country and served with great distinction in that office. That must have been a very proud achievement for her and for the members of the Sandiford family. In addition to that, she had a daughter who is a senior manager in a public corporation and has worked in that corporation for many years who is a very hard working, meticulous and efficient individual; and a son who resided in Bahamas for most of his life and was a law enforcement officer there. So that all of her children have given great public service, not only to Barbados but to the Caribbean as a whole in different ways. There was a time when CBC was truly a Caribbean station before the advent of satellite and other modern technological equipment and, therefore, the impact of her daughter in the programming and projection of the lives of Caribbean people would have been significant.

So that we shared the loss as all Barbadians which the Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Member for St. Michael South experienced. We wish to say to him that we know that those fond memories which he would have had from the closeness which he would have enjoyed with his mother and for the many kind things that many Barbadians must have said to him consequent on her passing will be strong in his memory as he continues to contribute to the development of Barbados.

On behalf of the members of the Democratic Labour Party family, the members of the Parliamentary Opposition and my own family, I extend to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South our deep sorrow and regret after her passing and ask for the usual Resolution of the House to be passed and sent on to the members of the Sandiford family. Thank you.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Resolution as introduced by the Honourable Member for St. John and to say that we from the northern part of St James knew Mrs. Eunice Carlotta Sandiford to be a hard working individual who made enormous personal sacrifices not only as we say in Barbados, parlance "raising her own family" but offering considerable help to the friends and peers of her children when they were very young. She would have hailed from the North of St. James and would have manifested the virtues and qualities for which many Barbadians of that era would have known the qualities of being God-fearing, qualities of humility, qualities of industriousness and that capacity that Barbadians of that era had to improvise in the interest of thrift and in the interest of ensuring that they could make ends meet even when battling against tremendous odds.

I take it that the Book of Proverbs in the Bible, Mr. Speaker, Chapter 31 always ask us - "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is above rubies." - and I am sure that my constituents in St. James have no difficulty in joining me in considering Eunice Carlotta Sandiford to be indeed a virtuous woman in line with the qualities that she manifested throughout her entire life. Her very last words to me moved me, Mr. SpeaHr. I saw her across Lower Carlton link road and I spoke to her between 1990 and 1991. Her last words moved me when she said, "It

is not easy being a Prime Minister's mother". She went on to tell me that she internalized all the problems and stresses that her son had. She told me that wherever he was she was with him in spirit and that it was extremely difficult for her, late in *her* life, to withstand the type of problems and stresses that I believe every Prime Minister would have, because in a situation where expectations of people are extremely high, and some people do not always see their expectations met, they turn loose on the Prime Minister. I believe that even though there is a political divide in here, we should be conscientious enough to admit that our political opponents are often as stressed out as we are and on humanitarian grounds we would have to concede that this game of politics, as people call it, is not the most easy or the most pleasant. She told me that she really walked with a strong sense of empathy for her dear son, the Prime Minister as he then was. 12.00 noon

Mr. Speaker, I want on this occasion to have the record reflect that the Members on this side of the House are joining me in extending sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Benn family, the Gibson family, the Greaves family, the Gill family and of course the Sandiford family, who all belong either to the immediate family or to the extended family.

Hers was a life of perfect example and her family should take comfort from the very fine example that she set to all of us youngsters in the St. James area.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I endorse the Resolution introduced by the Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would wish to associate myself with the remarks of the two T>revious speakers. I did not know Mrs. Sandiford, but what I can say is that from a very personal point of view I always look with envy on those who have had the great privilege and fortune to have a mother well into their middle age. I too would wish to offer condolences to the Honourable Member for St Michael South and his family upon the passing of his mother.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I would also want to associate myself with the comments that have been expressed by my honourable colleagues in regard to the Resolution on the passing of Mrs. Carlotta Sandiford.

Mrs. Sandiford's life must certainly have been one which we seek to use in our future endeavours as a perfect example of what one can achieve by sheer dint of commitment and hard work and a strong will to succeed. *There* are *very* few mothers who have the opportunity to give birth to a Prime Minister, a King, a leader. There are very few women who have had the opportunity to have been the mother of an outstanding leader, and Mrs. Carlotta Sandiford certainly was one such lady.

What struck me very much about the life of Mrs. Sandiford is that there was an indication that she and her husband were not able to access the kind of education that is now available in Barbados, and yet a young couple with a will to succeed together, without any formal training at an early age in their life, without opportunities in front of them, were still able to produce children that were able to go on in this life of ours in Barbados, where one of them achieved the level of becoming a Barbados Scholar.

That is not an achievement that should go unheralded. Her life and what she struggled to achieve must be used as an example for others to follow, in the sense that you can achieve a lot with very little, providing you have the will to do it, the love and commitment to your family. I see her life as one of very deep commitment and the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. James North, when he referred to the concern that she still had as a mother, after 80-odd years, that she still had that love and commitment and feeling for her son, tells you of the kind of mother she indeed was.

I am asking this Honourable House to note her life. She was of course a very special mother to us in Barbados. She was one of only five mothers so far who have produced Prime Ministers in this country. She is in a select group and her life must be used as an example for other mothers, and certainly all Barbadians, to follow, providing you are committed to your children and to your wider family. There will be success at the end of the road.

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I would like to associate my family with my colleagues on the Opposition benches and my other parliamentary colleagues in expressing sincere condolences to the Right Honourable Member for St Michael South and I certainly hope that he will accept in his heart that his mother was indeed a gracious and very decent woman.

Thank you.

Mr. L. R. TOLL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I lend my voice to those that have gone before in expressing my condolences and sympathy to the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South on the passing of his mother. Like one or two others who have spoken, I did not know Mrs. Sandiford, but I knew her son for more than 40 years when we sat around the Sixth Forms at Harrison College. We established a friendship from those days which has lasted through all the slings and arrows of political fortune.

The Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South will appreciate that through the years, since we

sit on opposite sides of the political fence, we had to exchange sharp criticisms and comments from time to time. I may even have been guilty of sharp abuse - I do not think he was - but despite all that our friendship over those many years has been able to transcend all the animus that comes from political discourse in this country. I did not know his mother, but certainly by knowing him all these years, and the way I know him, the kind of person he is, I feel that I can say that his mother must have been a very good woman indeed.

On behalf of my family, whom the Right Honourable Member knows very well and *for* many years - my own wife and my children - I wish to express my personal and family condolences, and give him the assurance that at a period like this when we know of the pain of loss that the thoughts of my family certainly will be with him. I join with my colleagues on this side, and indeed in the whole House, in saying how profoundly sorry we are at the demise of his mother.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with all the sentiments expressed over the passing of the late Mrs. Sandiford. I am sure the sentiments expressed by all Honourable Members reflect the true feelings of all of us here. This House will support the Resolution of sympathy and the appropriate messages of sympathy will be sent to the family. 12.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is generally known in this country that I am a man of few words, and I am even more diffident on an occasion that has been so painful to me as this one.

I would wish at the outset to thank you, Sir, and the mover of this Resolution, the seconder of the Resolution and all of those who have spoken to the Resolution for the very kind expressions of sympathy that they have expressed on the passing of my mother, Eunice Carlotta Sandiford.

She has had a very tremendous impact on my life from conception and infancy through adolescence and adulthood. She was not bom into wealth. She was not born into riches. But she was one of that generation of Barbadians who, amidst the very trying times, sought to do the best that they could do for their children and for those who came into contact with them.

What did those mothers of that generation have to hold on to? What did they hold on to? Certainly, in her case it was an abiding faith in the mysteries of life and in the potency and efficacy of religion. She was baptised, confirmed and remained a faithful member of the Anglican persuasion and passed on that deep and abiding faith to her children. She was a lover of singing and passed on part of her melodious voice to her children.

I recall, Sir, a favourite expression of hers, that in life "one had to cut and contrive". That is an experience which all of us, or most of us, have experienced. We know what it is to try to eke out a living.

One does not get the opportunity to be very anecdotal and to speak in terms of those factors and forces that have shaped us in our formative years. My very good friend, the Member for St. 'George South, spoke of our days at Harrison College. I have never said how I was able to make the transition from the Coleridge Parry School to Harrison College. I remember very distinctly being called up to take an examination to see whether I was suitable material to go into the 6th Form, and my very provident parent had provided me about a year before with the only suit that I had. It was a black pin-striped suit

I recall my parents being overwhelmed by the occasion. My mother pressed this black pin-striped suit, and decked me out in this black pin-striped suit and tie to journey from the north to what was a kind of rarefied atmosphere in which teaching and learning took place in that august institution. That will always remain with me, Sir.

My mother was a peacemaker. She was soft and gentle and the "elements so mixed in her" that the result was an equable personality. I believe, Sir, that part of that character trait was passed on to me in the deoxyribonucleic acid that formed part of my genetic material. 12.20 p.m.

I have tried in my public and private life to live out the kinds of characteristics and traits that enabled her to survive and live for 90 years. My father is still alive. He is at 96, and his sister is still alive at 97.1 do not know what span of life will be my lot. That is in the hands of the great Creator and Maker. I can only say, Sir, that there are those who believe that the soul is immortal and that therefore it does not matter what afflictions come to our physical bodies but that soul will live on.

I believe it was a Roman writer little known in our times, Caecilius Statius, who said that the older generation plant trees in order that future generations may benefit from their lives. Sir, it is only the rules and conventions of this Honourable Chamber that prevent me on this occasion from speaking in the original Latin because our proceedings must be conducted in English. It is no failure on my part to remember the Latin, Sir. Let me make that clear. I believe she was a joyful person and there was no crying at that funeral. It was one, as the Church tells us, of thanksgiving and we want to give thanks.

I wish to express the sincere appreciation, not only of my immediate family, but of my extended family which is a very, very large one, for the kind expressions which all of you in one way or another have tendered. Some of you were present at the funeral service. Some of you were present at the burial. Some of you sent flowers, cards and made telephone calls. Some of you were unable to be present because of other commitments. But to all of you, I express the heartfelt thanks of our family.

If I may end on another anecdotal note. My mother supported me in all things. In my cricketing career she made sure that my white outfit, not flannels, would be ready on all occasions and sometimes she would take the iron off the coals and a little of the black would come on to the clothes; but they knew how to get that out, and the starch would be put into those clothes, and the seams would be cutting. I believe that is where I learnt also to execute the cut in cricket, Sir.

There is one thing she never supported me in, Sir. She never wished her son to be in politics and she always said "Boy Erskine - that was one of her sons, Sir - why do you wish to get into that? You should not get into that." She lived to a ripe old age and I respected her wisdom. But we are set on courses, and we never know where those courses would lead us. That is our fate. I know she suffered a lot because she was for the past few years confined to bed, but she was very mentally alert, and there was always a radio on beside her. She listened to every programme, the news items and the various voices on the call-in programmes, and she heard it all!

Sir, once again I express my thanks to you and all Honourable Members on both sides of the House, including my representative for St. James North. She never voted for him but he respected her....

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD: Sir, I express my appreciation. I am deeply indebted, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence to allow me to say a few words. I was not aware that this matter would be dealt with this morning otherwise I would have made a more determined effort to be here because I would not like to miss this occasion especially as I am very likely to be the Member of this Parliament, apart from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, who would have known her best over a very long period of time, certainly over 40 years.

On behalf of myself, on behalf of my wife who deeply regretted that should could not be at the funeral because of her absence from the island, on behalf of my children, one of whom is a godson of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, on behalf of the wider family of the National Democratic Party, I wish certainly to extend our condolences and associate ourselves with the Resolution before Parliament at the moment 12.30 p.m.

I have certainly known her as a very deeply religious person who has tried, over many years, to inform me and to indicate to me the wisdom of going to church on a regular basis and follow the deep tenets of her religion.

I have known her as a good and devoted mother. I have known her as a friend and I have known her as a loyal person. I have had the honour, from time to time, over the years of making some contribution to her medical care. I would say this, that this country and, certainly, the Sandiford family have lost an extremely good and worthy person who has contributed maximumly to this society, in her own way. As other members and, certainly, I always take the opportunity to observe, in this House, that it is people of that generation and, through whose sacrifices we have been able to make the kind of progress that we have made, in this country.

She had a certain equanimity about her which allowed her to enjoy her son's career in its various facets whether he made a 100 on the cricket field CM- whether or not that 100 was succeeded, in such a way, that it could be said to be a billion or more. I must say, when teased in her presence, she showed a total and complete equanimity about the entire thing.

She took great pride in her children and in her grandchildren. I believe, certainly, for me the situation at the funeral was clearly one of thanksgiving. There is one particular moment that I personally would always remember when her granddaughter, my own God daughter passed on her way out and she just squeezed my hand. It was a message that was so significant, not in words but it told a story of the loss to her and the feelings that might have been going through her at that particular point in time.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I will not detain the House. I certainly wish to be associated with the Resolution and, of course, those of us who have gone through this experience would know that only time can heal because, no matter how elderly your parents are, that final loss, that final knowledge that you can no longer communicate with them is an extremely traumatic matter.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a mark of respect for the passing of the late Mrs. Sandiford, I now invite this Honourable House to join with me in observing one minute's silence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended those several Standing Orders, accordingly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5.

Order No. 5 was called - To move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of Barbados.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HEAD 15 CABINET OFFICE.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 1

To move the passing of a Resolution to grant the additional sum of $335 332.00 from the Consolidated Fund to supplement the Estimates 1995-96 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, No. 1 of 1995-96.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter for the consideration of Honourable Members seeks supplementary provision in the sum of $335 331.99 to supplement 15 01 01 Cabinet Office.

The matter comes before the House because on the 18th September, 1989 - we are now in 1995 - the lady in question, Mrs. Megan Smith was on duty in the anti-natal clinic at the Hospital and a piece of wood which ought to have been covering some plumbing fell on her and knocked her to the ground. She fell, struck her head and back against the legs of a bed that was in the hospital.

As a result of that, she was found to have suffered spinal injuries, among other consequential injuries. For a long time no progress was made on this matter. A writ was issued against the Attorney General, I think the suit number is 1267 of 1990. This matter has languished there. The lady has become more and more ill. She, as they say in Barbadian language, took it on and her psychological balance was affected. But she was really in a very bad state and I suppose that the difficulties of the period 1991 to 1994 may have precluded an earlier settlement

However, I was able to get this matter resolved, but we were unable to get it settled early enough to plan *for* the expenditure for inclusion in the Estimates 1995 to 1996.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The first time it came was in 1995. 12.40 p.m.

I am sure Honourable Members would not like me to go into the details of it but the sum includes some for pain and suffering, prospective loss of earnings, future medical care, future psychiatric help and the lady has had to have household assistance so provision has been made for future household help. In addition this sum pays nursing services rendered, loss of income, medical treatment and reports and includes legal fees. So this is a total and final settlement. We are settling out of court. The matter began as an action No. 1267 of 1990. Settlement has only been recently effected.

I can see from the expression of concerns from the other side, Honourable Members appreciate the circumstances of this matter and before I beg to move that this Resolution pass I would like to say to Honourable Members that something that has concerned me, since assumption of office and perhaps prior to that, is the fact that every year in the Estimates of Expenditure we put in $400 000 or $500 000 to deal with these things and invariably each time a matter is to be settled, it takes a long time before you can have them resolved, but when they are finally resolved you have to have a Cabinet Paper prepared and you have to go through the various line Ministries that may be affected and invariably you have to come for supplementary provision. I am looking for a new way of dealing with claims against the Crown which are either settled or which have to be paid as a result of court order and a methodology that will obviate having

to come every time for supplementary because all of a sudden a claim is settled for $250 000 and you do not have it in the vote you have to come. Perhaps an amendment to the Crown Proceedings Act to put these things on a statutory basis may help. I have referred that thought to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and I expect on my return from Trinidad to hear from him as to whether it can work that way. I think it will. It will enable us, more quickly, to settle these matters without the administrative and bureaucratic log jams that we have to go through to get these matters concluded.

I am sure that Honourable Members are quite concerned that this matter happened in 1989 and we are only now settling it, but that is the way the wheels of Government grind.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution stand part

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that this Resolution...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Resolution but also I wish to address this whole question of time lag between a claim being filed and a settlement being made because I see it from the other end. This case, I think, would be quite typical of the kind of problems that results from delays *et cetera.* Let me explain, Sir. There are many cases and this one would seem to me to fall into the category where even from a medical perspective it is often unwise to make a final determination as to the extent of injury and so on, because it takes some time in order to be sure of the final amount of pain and suffering, loss and disability and so on. I would assume in a case like this, probably within 18 months that kind of thing would be sorted out. I am sure most lawyers advise not to rush in and make a settlement in a matter like this until you are quite sure what the medical position is at the end of the day. But between the final determination of the medical position and then this kind of delay, this compounds the patient's problem to a remarkable extent. There is the question, hanging over the particular person, of the future, of the capacity of looking after themselves. That in itself now tends to have a negative effect on their further recovery so that the delay compounds the whole process and at the end of the day the money has to be paid out anyhow and all that will happen is that more suffering would have been engendered.

I certainly would support the position that there needs to be some kind of new mechanism whereby, when the Crown accepts liability, these things could be disposed of without delay because I think that the amount of suffering engendered can be enormous.

I believe, for example, in the United States they would take into consideration a level of compensation that would include damages or suffering as a result of non-conclusion of the matter at an earlier time and so on. So, I sincerely hope what the Attorney General indicated in terms of settlement that that will soon be dealt with. Over the years, Sir, I have sat on a lot of tribunals, I have sat on a lot of claim situations on matters relating to injuries before the Courts and, Sir, I think I have a pretty good idea from the other end what happens. I believe that the time has come, certainly where Government is involved, once liability is accepted then it should be a question of quantifying what the damages are and settling the matter rather than allowing it to drag on.

It seems to me, from what I can gather from the action on both sides, that it is more a question of the system which we have that has resulted in this delay rather than any negligence on the part of any particular person. So I hope that I will see an early clarification of the situation.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will only be a few minutes. I just wish to deal with much of what the Honourable Member has said and put on the record that I believe that we are really in a modern time and the professionals involved, both the public sector and the private sector, really ought to seek to speed up these kinds of settlements. 12.50 p.m.

We have situations where doctors working in the public sector seem to find it extremely difficult to write reports. I think that it is unconscionable that a patient who goes to a public institution and who may be injured or who may have been treated in such a way as to create a suit - (I do not want to go any higher than that) - All doctors have a lot of work to do. All professionals have a lot of work to do. But I think that perhaps the hospital should examine giving the doctors equipment by which they can speed up the writing of reports. In the same way that I have called in this House for nearly 20 years for people to get a certain kind of equipment and in the same way that I talk about the Courts needing a certain kind of modern equipment to allow for professional speed, - I hear that some of it is coming at last - similarly, the doctors should be given. I recall on more than one occasion when Ministry of Finance officials not at the political level would say that a microphone is not medical equipment However, the doctors are not going to buy microphones to carry into the hospital to do hospital work! Really, what we need is a system that is standard in the United States. When a post mortem is being done in the United States or in England, the doctor dictates as he is doing the post mortem what he finds. When a doctor has to give a report, the doctor should be able to dictate the report and have it transcribed as part of the system. This business of having to wait 2

years to get a report on a fracture is unconscionable and unrealistic and no matter how you try to deal with these systems Honourable Members on the front bench are going to have the same problems. No matter how you try to deal with these intractable problems of technology, there are some people who will feel that if you do anything modern that you are somehow blaspheming. Really, Mr. Chairman, we have a lot of wastage in the system both in the public sector and the private sector which comes about merely because people are not prepared to follow and use simple technology that is now standard practice in most other places in the world.

The other thing that I believe the Attorney General should seek is this. It is true that young lawyers have to get some practice. So I think that the Department responsible for legal activity in the Government ought to be so organized that certain kinds of cases would go automatically to certain kinds of people so that there is not this long, drawn out letter writing about matters that can be settled if two experienced people look at them. When you are cutting teeth in any profession, the temptation is to be very careful. I am not criticizing any young practitioners. But the truth is that some matters that could be finished in two days take fifteen months and at the end of the day all that does is to increase the cost.

I am appealing here, Sir, not for anything other than an improvement of our efficiency at all levels so that the ordinary people do not suffer. It is a terrible thing. If any Honourable Member in this Chamber gets into a little difficulty, they can usually telephone somebody and the matter would probably be speeded up. But if you are an ordinary mortal living in, say, Richmond Gap and you have a little broken leg or a fracture of the ankle and you have to deal with the institutions, it can take you 3 years before your lawyer is able finally to settle the matter. By then when you get the settlement, what with all the pain and suffering, you are not even able to use the settlement to assist yourself. That is the only point that I want to make. I wish the Attorney General luck in this regard; but I hope that he will make some effort so that we will not have situations where a case where somebody got injured that was a case in 1990 is only being settled in 1995. The Attorney General knows that I do not only speak about this. When I functioned in another place he knows that we did something that no doubt now they would probably say was not on all fours. But when we recognized that a young man had been so injured that it was going to cost at least a half million dollars for him to get any kind of medical attention, we recognized that there was no question where fault lay and we agreed that we would advance funds so that that young boy could get the treatment that he was supposed to get. We were able to advance the funds through the Government purses. Now that is because the relevant Minister had responsibility for that kind of expenditure, otherwise the Attorney General in his private practice knows that could not have gone on. In fact, it is still not settled... Oh, they finally have settled it? It was about 7 years to settle it but at least that youngster did not suffer the pain of some people. I hope that we will soon find a way to get around that kind of thing.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I just want to make two points, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. The first is that I know we are not under Legal Affairs, but I want to ask the Attorney General if he is minded to answer whether there is still a proposal to bring a new Limitation Act. I remember seeing a draft I think when we had a Law Reform Committee back in 1991, a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet. There was some draft circulating from the AG's Office. I do not think that anything came of it, but I think that it is a very important development

The second thing is that the funds to settle this case are coming out of the Contingency Vote. Precisely. This is a reasonably large vote but I want to comment on a practice that I have seen developing in the Public Service for which, by and large, the Attorney General's Chambers in the past, I am no longer privy to such information, was responsible; which is that legal officers tend to settle matters and then write and indicate that the matter has been settled even if it is on an ex *gratia* basis. Now *ex gratia* awards are policy matters. They are matters determined and decided by the Cabinet of Barbados and very often one was finding that legal officers in the Ministry had agreed to settlement figures, even *ex gratia* awards, because I wrote on them and indicated that *ex gratia* awards are policy matters. What has happened is that precedent has developed in relation to the Crown where people are suing for all kinds of things based on settlements on an ex *gratia* basis in similar circumstances. So if, for example, somebody got an award for parking in a car park in a primary school and something happens where a school boy throws a rock or something so, then every time that happens Government has to accept responsibility because a series of precedents for these awards have been built up over time. One is never really sure if a matter is going to be settled or not, so you may very well be on a fishing expedition and that is something that the Attorney General's Office, in my view, needs to look at before you have a situation in which every wed: Cabinet has before it, as I know has happened in the past, a series of papers from different Ministries and statutory corporations to settle matters on an ex *gratia* basis. That is a matter that I am only drawing to the attention of the Attorney General for what it is worth. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 15...

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just quickly in reply. Taking the last matter first as

mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, in *ex gratia* settlements no matter can be settled without the approval of the Attorney General and Cabinet and those are brought to Cabinet. However, I also think that as professionals in the Department, lawyers should be given some flexibility, not just in *ex gratia* matters but in other matters such as somebody walking down the street who gets their ankle broken from a sidewalk. What had happened in the past few years as a result of the economic difficulties was that each and every matter had to go to the Attorney General for his approval. Now things are a little easier and with a view to developing the confidence of the lawyers within the Department, I have said to them that they do not have to refer every matter to me but up to $20 000 get the Solicitor General's approval and, if it is satisfactory to him, go ahead. I think that will give some scope for development, but I am looking at various ways with the officers, because I meet with them, of freeing up the system. 1.00 p.m.

When I went into office there were 176 cases pending against the Government, so we have to reach a situation where we can work more efficiently and more speedily. If the Attorney General tries to do all, they will never be done, so I think one has to delegate and free up a bit more.

Sir, the Crown should be in no different position from the average person. Little use is made in practice of the procedure that is provided for in the rules of the Supreme Court where liability is accepted and where damages, certainly the special damages, are ascertainable, there can be an interim payment Few insurance companies in Barbados will do it, a lot of lawyers in personal injury litigation do not recommend it to the insurance companies and the result is what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has said, that for years people remain there suffering "compensation it is" and it has all kinds of spinoff effects psychologically. I therefore would like to see the private profession and the public sector lawyers be more ready to pay, certainly the special damages which can be ascertained up to a point...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: By that I mean those damages that are clearly ascertainable - taxi fares, doctors' bills, etc. - those things that are easily provable. If those can be paid it would still bring an ease, but a lot of people expect some of the litigants to pay up the money which they do not have. A lot of poor people get injured and they do not have the first dollar to pay either the lawyer or the doctor. Some professionals insist on payment up front and I am asking professionals to be a bit more compassionate with these people who have undergone injury. When it is clear that a person is going to recover - and a lawyer can tell you from his interview with the person whether there is a likelihood of success - you have a cast iron case. In those circumstances I think both the legal profession and the medical profession should be more understanding and tolerant of the situation. Get a certificate from the lawyer!

When I was in private practice I used to say: "I will see you are paid[11] when I wrote to a doctor for a medical report. On settlement I took out the doctor's expenses and sent him a separate cheque. All we need to do really is to have the two professions come more closely together, perhaps in a seminar for a day and talk out the problems and I think we will be able to liberalise the system a lot more than in the past.

I therefore beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 15 stand part.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported to the House accordingly.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 2 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.08 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GALL HILL, CHRIST CHURCH FOR PROVISION OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution for the acquisition of 1209.8 square metres of land at Club Randall, Gall Hill, Christ Church for the provision of a community centre in that area.

The Cabinet has agreed to the recommendation that the property known as Club Randall should be acquired for use as a community centre in this area. I think that credit should go to the present representative for Christ Church West Central who along with the residents of the area identified this particular location as a suitable place for having a community centre which was lacking in this area for quite some time.

The residents expressed a desire to acquire and share skills for the development of the community and to establish a meeting place in close proximity to serve youth organisations in the area with the assistance of the said representative who identified this property which used to be a very popular dance hall, as my learned friend from St. Philip North, is on record as having attended a number of dances at that spot in the earlier days when more popular dances of which I am not familiar were popular.

As a suitable location for a community centre, pursuant to the Cabinet decision, notice is required in accordance with the provision of Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 and was published and authorisation under Section 4 of the said Act signed.

A survey of the property was carried out and the survey showed that it is 1209.8 square metres and the plans are available for inspection. All other requirements have been met and this Honourable House is now invited to approve this Resolution concerning the acquisition of the 1209.8 square metres together with the said popular building for the provision of a community centre.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Resolution in recognition of the importance of community centres. The Gall Hill area is in an adjoining constituency. It is an area that I have traversed over many years and I pass there very regularly and I normally see the guys cooling out in the area.

I believe that this would present an opportunity for them to meet within a more organised arrangement. However, Sir, I wish to point out that the presence of a community centre in itself will not suffice to address the problems which our communities face. Along with the development of a community centre or the building of a community centre we need to have plans for the development of the community, especially relating to youth in our society.

In this regard, Sir, I believe that the idea of having youth commissioners in Barbados is a good idea and here would be a good opportunity for the youth commissioner in that area to ensure that the Gall Hill Community Centre is put to effective use. What is needed in these communities is not just structures but a sense of community leadership. Although I must point out that there is a lot of informal leadership in our communities among these youth. We are talking about more formal community leadership and I believe that the youth commissioners will have a task trying to develop leaders in the community who reflect a broad span of interest within the communities.

In a age in which we are looking at job creation, community centres can serve the purpose of training our youngsters, training them in life skills, in inter-personal skills, in leadership. These are needed in the work place as well. I would hope that this community centre would be ujsed to prepare the youth in that area for the world of work, that it will provide them with the kind of skills that they would not learn at school. At school they would have learnt English, History, Maths and Science and those kinds of academic subjects but they need now to learn other skills. They need to know how to work in the hotel sector. They need to know about small projects within agriculture. They need to know about handicrafts and such things. They need to know about dressmaking.

Often when they leave school and we are hearing that a lot of them leave school without CXC certification but while that is to be regretted, Sir, I believe that what is more relevant in these days is for youngsters leaving school to have the kinds of skills that will prepare them for the work place in an age when there is so much unemployment

We also need to train them in entrepreneur-ship. Let them understand that even though they may not have money, with a little assistance and with a good idea they can go places. They need to be trained in the development of ideas.

I want to divert a little bit but not too far beyond the scope of the debate to point out that we might need to have a bank for creative ideas. I call it a bank, but I don't mean a national bank down the road. We need to pool all the creative ideas of our youngsters in this country. There are a lot of ideas that our youngsters have but there is no channel for these ideas and so they are left in abeyance.

I believe the time is now ripe for a bank to be created so that all of these creative ideas can be pooled and the necessary financing provided. The youngsters out there who appear helpless might be able to realise a fortune in our lifetime with the necessary direction. Along with the idea of having community centres, we need to stretch it to such things as talking about the development of creativity among our youth and also encouraging them with ideas and giving the necessary support, financial as well as otherwise.

Sir, I have seen a lot of centres in Barbados not being put to use and perhaps we might need to address

too the issue whether the structures that exist are ideally suited to youth; whether they are attractive enough in a sense, whether they warm to these institutions and whether we do not need to look at a re-designing of these community centres to suit the modern taste of our youngsters. I am not necessarily talking about shacks. I know the youngsters like to lime under trees and so on. I am not talking about that, but it represents a concept that they are looking for something that is more friendly, something that feels warm, something that makes them feel as if they are under a shelter without being in too formal a situation. Maybe the seating arrangements within these community centres need to be looked at. I am no specialist in this kind of business but the specialists in those areas could advise on the structural arrangements for the community centres so that they are more appealing for the youth and they are not just white elephants around the country.

We also have a case where you have pavilions being used for sports only but then they are left idle for long periods of time. This is not the best utilisation of our resources. I would want for example to speak of the pavilion in Station Hill which is used only for sports but, as I understand it, there are youth involved in other community activities who would love to gain access to this pavilion and are denied. I would wish that that issue be addressed so that when the pavilion is not being used for sports that it could be available for other community activities.

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: It is a little way down the road from me but it is one of the areas I pass very often too. I have to let my constituents know that I also observe that Parish Land Commmunity Centre used to be not in such use. 2.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: We are going all around. We are talking about community development We are on a serious topic. It did not used to be of such use but of late I see it is being used but I am hoping that the Youth Commissioner in that area would be able to get the youth to use it more. I am getting the residents to see the need for using the community centre and I believe that with some assistance that will be given that the pavilion there would be put to better use. I am talking about the pavilion by the Parish Land cricket field.

On this note I wish to compliment the BCA fa- recognising that there is a good facility there, one of the best playing grounds in Barbados and they recognise that it is about time that Parish Land enter Second Division cricket. I am saddened though that it had to be in the context where Clippers found themselves out because of not having the use of the land but that is another issue. As I told my people in Christ Church, the Lord has a way of moving mysteriously and since we are having this problem in Parish Land, this is a good way of giving the people in Parish Land something positive to rally around so I am heartened by the fact that the BCA has allowed them into the Second Division.

This should act as a catalyst for good social development in the Parish Land area, although I must hasten to point out that my traversing Parish Land over the years has led me to believe that the area is a peaceful area. The people are very friendly and so on and it is unfortunate that some strangers coming in from outside could leave the place in such a state where people feel that it is Parish Land that is a bad place. But I have traversed Parish Land and nobody has every done me anything. The people are very peaceful. They have never given me a bad word. Even during canvassing they did not give me a bad word so it is a good area and I am glad to see that it would even become better because of the use of the pavilion now for BCA cricket. They would come down there to practise regularly. They are having their meetings and now we are going to get the Youth Commissioner who would get them i /olved in other activities. Later on we should have them involved in the kind of skills that would prepare them for the work place as well.

Sir, I would like to see a similar thing happen in Leadvale and Fairy Valley. I have to talk about this because it is something I know about. Leadvale is an area which traditionally has produced good footballers, cricketers and so on. We have a ground there just by Searles. The guys there are trying to get a little place to have a little shade away from the sun, whether it is cricket or football. They just want a little - I would not even call it a pavilion but for lack of a better word I may have to call it that. Ideally, what they want is a little shed that looks good with a nice toilet facility so that they can have a little shade from the sun when they are between teams, or whatever, where they can meet in a little clubhouse and so on.

The people at Fairy Valley have asked for this as well. I was up there on Saturday, Sir, and I think these guys are very creative. I saw them put up a number of sticks and then put some coconut leaves on top this shade and it was a nice thing. I believe we can get something that is good, not a big fancy structure, but something that looks creative, something that gives a little shade, something like one of those wooden structures in the schoolyards when they find the schools get too big and they put a wooden section. I believe that one of those could serve well

for Fairy Valley, which is really Rockland Cricket Club, and Leadvale boys and girls. You could probably divide it in two.

There was one I understand at Cherry Grove School but for some reason, which I am not clear on, it is not being made available but I am hoping, Sir, that some arrangement can be made so that the goodly people of Christ Church East who have been asking *for* this shade from the sun where they can meet would have the privilege of having just this little beautiful shed that they can feel good about themselves and they can say that we have felt good about them as well. If we are talking seriously about addressing problems of the youth and problems of the community, we have to talk about providing the necessary facilities and giving the necessary expressions of goodwill to facilitate community development.

Sir, I pointed out that we do not always have to look at new structures. We can use existing structures. For example, there are schools which are not in use after hours and some provision has to be made so that the people in the areas can have access to these schools for their community efforts and I do not think their efforts should be frustrated. I believe if we are seriously talking about community development we need to utilise the property of Government. This essentially is the property of the people of Barbados for the development of the communities. I would wish that schools, whether they be secondary or primary schools be made accessible to the youth in the community except only that things must be done in an orderly fashion, that you have to put your name on a roster and that invariably it should be some kind of first come first serve basis except there is some overriding national interest that is involved.

Sir, this issue this afternoon is not just one of building a community centre for the boys of Gall Hill. At the root of it is how we understand the development of our communities. I wish to say that there is an organisation called the National Association of Community Councils. It is akin to the National Council of Parent Teacher Associations. They are the umbrella body for PTAs. The National Association of Community Councils is the umbrella body of the various community organisations in Barbados.

I believe this organisation should be given the necessary encouragement so that they can assist Government in executing a number of the community programmes which the traditional Government agencies cannot provide by themselves because in this day and age we are talking about a collaborative effort between Government and private sector institutions and non-governmental organisations.

This organisation should be encouraged so that it can grow that it can provide the necessary service to assist in the community problems that we are faced with in this society. In this regard you will notice that I have not addressed the role of the Community Development Department in Government. I believe that all of this work that I am talking about that that Department will come alive in this period. This Department will come alive during our tenure of office because we have so many plans for community development, as indicated by the things we are doing, that that department will have itself stretched with the necessary liaising and coordination that would obviously have to take place.

What I am saying, Sir, is that we are not talking about not having the Community Development Department not involved in this exercise. We are talking about having other players involved but that Department would now act as a coordinating unit to bring all of these together and that so much activity will be taking place that they would have quite a great deal of work to do so that there is a great role for the Community Development Division in Government.

Mr. Speaker, I love to talk about these things because these are things that are dear to my heart and when I speak I have no agenda but I have to make clear that I will give of my best when I speak about such topics.

I want to make another point, Sir, the point of leadership. I touched on it earlier but I want to just refer to it slightly, Sir. 2.30 p.m.

It relates to the Resolution because the community centre will not be a vibrant community centre unless there is leadership in the community. I want to say that we have to give recognition to community leaders in our society. We have to give recognition to community leaders. This country has to understand that people who spend of their time, without pay, doing good in this community must be recognized for the social contribution which they are making.

If we want to address community development seriously, we have to put in place a plan so that genuine community leaders can be recognized so that this will give further encouragement to other people who are so minded. Because one can easily become disenchanted, if one has the feeling that community leaders are just taken for granted. They must not be taken for granted. They must be recognized so that the community will grow.

I was speaking to some youngsters about 3 days ago who were criticizing one sector of this community. I was pointing out to them that when we begin to speak,

it is not a matter of trying to criticize anyone particular person or group or anything. It is a matter of community effort to address the problems that we have. But you cannot deal with these problems in isolation. You cannot deal with those problems as if they exist in a vacuum. These problems exist usually because there is not the level of community leadership in a particular area. They exist because of a lack of proper example. These problems exist because of problems at the level of the family. So that, in essence, most of the problems that we face in our community and in Barbados are as a result of a breakdown within our systems in Barbados and a lot of units in Barbados starting from the level of the family.

The area of community development is critical to addressing these problems. I am happy that we will continue to look at putting the necessary structures in place. I am happy particularly for Gall Hill here. I want to see that centre being properly used. I know that my colleagues from Christ Church East Central and Christ Church West Central will do their best to see that the centres are being used because I know these are genuine community men. We know about their involvement in things like cricket and football and so on and that, left to them, they will try their best to have these facilities utilized.

Sir, it is my privilege to support this resolution.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I should also like to support this resolution but, as you know, I have to see how it relates to rural Barbados. As you also know, with a resolution like this, Sir, we have to draw some example and we have to compare urban Barbados with rural Barbados.

We have in front of us a resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Gall Hall. When I think of this piece of land, it reminds me of a piece of land at Crab Hill, St. Lucy which is...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: There is a comparison. At Gall Hill you have a building already and at Crab Hill they are about to construct a building. The only thing is they are not asking Government to construct this building for them. They are about to do a community effort. If we are going to set the lead by constructing a pavilion or a community centre, we feel it is only fair that if we make a request of the relevant Ministry that they will help us with some financial support.

It is not only that we will make a comparison with Gall Hill and Crab Hill. We will go to Rockfield where there are 2 clubs there ... you need to draw these comparisons. We are dealing with community centres and development of people. At Rockfield we have a community centre which is in need of repairs. What we will do is that we will get the community together the St Elmo Club, the Windsor Club and all the other clubs in that particular area and we will make sure that that community centre is restored to its old glory.

I know that you would like something for your constituency. I acknowledge that the Member who spoke before me put in a plug for you and I will ask the Minister to look after you also, Sir. But seeing that St. Lucy is the head of Barbados, that we have a right..

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, the top. We lead. We have a right to point out how we are doing things and how we are about to do things in rural Barbados, at the top. I feel that when we have completed these 2 projects in rural Barbados that it should be an example to other communities. I also believe that Government should take these examples and sometimes when they do not have money what they should do is try to encourage communities to combine their abilities, whether it be financial ability or labour ability and come up with a project that they can implement and, at the end of the day, that the community can benefit from the services provided by its own people.

We in Barbados have to start thinking about our neighbour and that is why sometimes when I say that we have to start thinking about our neighbours and our friends, it makes me wonder sometimes why we cannot link sports with tourism. Whenever I think about linking sports with tourism, there is a concept that hurts. I cannot see how we can link sports and tourism together and we can talk about all-inclusive tourism. Mr. Speaker, how can we talk about sports tourism, have community centres and then we can talk about all-inclusive tourism. Are we about to destroy Barbados, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, you are losing me a bit.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, Sir, We are talking about developing communities.

Mr. SPEAKER: To the Gall Hill community?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Right, Sir. What I am saying is that what I would like to see at Gall Hill is sports tourism. But then when I think about sports tourism and realize that tourism is going towards all-inclusive tourism, Sir, I cannot see how we can get sports tourism at Gall Hill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you think Gall Hill should be developed? Is that what you mean?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You see, Sir, if we are going to have sports tourism, we have community centres and playing fields, *et cetera*, we need to have sports tourism all over Barbados. We have always said that the people of Barbados must develop tourism. If the people of Barbados must develop tourism, they must play a pan. If sports is important to Barbados then sports tourism must also be important That includes, Gall Hill, Rockfield, Crab Hill, Station Hill and even the City.

I should also like to say I have no problem in supporting any acquisition of land that is going to develop the people of Barbados. I should also like to say I cannot support anything where you are going to have a community centre and the people have to beg to use those facilities. It is time that we start freeing up these facilities. I feel that whenever the constituents want to use these facilities that we should find some way to cut out the red tape. We have a situation where sometimes we make our constituents feel they have to beg for things. We have to stop it. We have to give those people the right to use those facilities. If we give them the right then I believe that those facilities will be taken care of. But when they have to beg and beseech to use those facilities, I do not think they would have any respect and they would not be able to appreciate the facilities that they have. We must free them up, Sir, and cut out the red tape.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Mr. D. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, first of alTI should like to support the Minister of Housing and Lands for the acquisition of the land at Gall Hill, Christ Church. For a long time in that area the private people saw it fit to have a community centre there back in the early fifties, sixties and seventies. Since that time there has been a big void in that area and I am glad to say the Government has now got the goodwill to give the people of that area some place they can call their own again. That area is a densely populated area and I can tell you that since the demise of the Gall Hill Centre the people of that area had to look for alternatives in order to have their fun many weekends. 2.40 p.m.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the groups that congregate in the Gall Hill area, the people who we say do not have regular jobs, it is necessary that we, in the Barbados Labour Party, do something for that type of people.

At present, in that area, we have got about 4 groups who congregate in a radius about V_4 mile from each other and it would be in their interest and certainly the interest of the people of Barbados and certainly the interest of this Government to see that they have some place where they can have their recreation and do something meaningful.

We in the Barbados Labour Party recently talked about young entrepreneurs and on that side during the campaign we said that we were going to put a community centre there where the young people, especially people like the Rastafarian who believe in their leather craft, and also other young people who congregate around that area can do small businesses whereby they can find a type of employment to keep them going and at the same time for people in the area to have some place where they can socialise.

Sir, next door to the spot we are about to purchase is a small park where all the kids in that area usually play and because of the amount of traffic in that area it is important that we also go a step further and make sure that that little park is surrounded by a fence so that the young children can play freely without getting harmed.

In the Gall Hill area where they are famous for their football and netball, we believe that because of unemployment and crime in Barbados it is important that we act quickly to make the people of Gall Hill feel that they are part of this community. Every weekend I am sure they are looking for some place where they can socialise and because they have got to go to adjoining districts that is the reason why we are now having types of crime where we have little gangs causing problems in the community.

I am quite sure if I can have the people in the Lodge Road and the Church Hill, Cane Vale areas congregating once again in that little community of Gall Hill it is my belief that crime would come down. It is my belief that the people would feel more at ease and more at home and all in all the community as a whole would feel that they have not been forgotten.

I know that very shortly we hope to have a field nearby in the same Gall Hill area for the footballers and for the other sportsmen. As I said, it is important at this point that the Government act quickly so that the people in Gall Hill can feel comfortable and that they can feel they are part of the community.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on this occasion to make my. position known in this particular debate and I am extremely happy to see that the Government is moving to acquire this parcel of land at Gall Hill, Christ Church to build a community centre. In addition, I am certainly supporting this acquisition

because I believe that any caring Government should provide the right kind of facilities for its youth and also for its elderly so that these two extreme sectors of this society can have some place where they can channel their energies.

Now, I would especially like Sir, to endorse all the comments that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has made and I do not want to go over what he has said because that would be repetition but I am certain that if all Honourable Members in this Chamber listen carefully to what he has said, he has actually pinpointed the genesis to the problems that exist in the community.

Furthermore I would also like to point out the role of the Community Development Division which I have on previous occasions in this Honourable Chamber, tried to point out. The role of the Community Development Division is enhancing the image of other communities throughout this country and I have noticed that when the Royal Barbados Police Force decided that they would have embarked on an outreach programme within the various communities, when there was a high level of crime in this country and they put their police outposts within the various communities, especially the housing areas, there was a drastic reduction in crime. We in Barbados always tend to deal with the effects without really getting at the causes.

I am very happy too, Sir, to see that the Government in a sense is making an attempt to at least try to solve some of the problems in the community but there is something that is bothering me and it keeps on bothering me about the title Youth Commissioners. I would like the role of the Youth Commissioner explained fully to Barbadians because when I lode at the Youth Commissioners in this country I see a number of Ex-policemen being assigned to these roles. I would have thought, Sir, and I said this in the budgetary debate, I would have thought that the community aids that are ...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member certainly knows more than I do because to my knowledge there has been no Youth Commissioner appointed to date. In fact there has only been on duty a Principal Youth Development Officer who is a former policeman and one Senior Youth Commissioner to date. As far as I know there are no other persons appointed.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, I would like very much to see that an opportunity be given to the Community Development Aids who are qualified enough, when these posts are open, to take up these roles.

In addition, Sir, the Community Development Leaders, we also have to see them in the light of community development officers. I feel that more recognition should be given to community development leaders and in addition they should be placed on school boards and other boards throughout this country. Sir, we have got to develop and we have got to recognise the work of our youth leaders in the country.

Aside.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: As the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is saying, we have got to recognise their work. Sir, if we establish more community centres throughout this country I am sure we could get at the genesis of the real crime problem in this country.

Another thing, Sir, that affects the functioning of community groups in this country is that much of the bureaucracy that is in the way stops the community groups from functioning. I am saying, Sir, some of this bureaucracy must be lifted. The Community groups must have free access to community centres in this country. There was a time in this country when community centres used to be open on a 24-hour basis. There was a time in this country, Sir, when Community Division Officers used to spend three quarters of their time working in the community and then come back into their office and continue to do their work prior to 1976. 2.50 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am stating what is facts. I am not here to do any political grand-standing. I am stating what is facts. I am not dealing with who is responsible. I am dealing with what is existing in this country and we are working collectively as a Parliament to solve these problems. So do not come and tell me that I should be ashamed. I have nothing to be ashamed of. Sir, let me continue.

Sir, I always give compliment where compliment is due and criticism when it is necessary and I always say, Sir, that we in this Honourable Chamber should always stick close together and try to solve the problems of this country for the better development of this country, Sir. In this role, Sir, community development has a serious role to play. The officers in the Community Development Division have an integral role to play. Community Development Officers cannot spend their time in the Community Development Office down in the Pine Road and do

their work and expect the communities to function. If you carry out a survey, Sir, how many Community Development Officers are really in tune with the communities that they are supposed to look after? Most of us here in Parliament when we are politicking we have to go back to those same community youth group leaders to ask their advice and to give us a good consensus of what is happening in the communities.

We have to understand, Sir, that when we are dealing with the youth of this country we have to take our work purposefully and we have to take it very, very seriously because the youth out there are becoming very impatient and restless. We have got to provide the right facilities for them. We have got to try and help them to develop their latent talents.

I have complimented the Government for trying to do its best to help but also, Sir, I have been involved in this kind of work for a particularly long period of time and I am also saying, Sir, that I am willing to always help in any exercise that will develop this country. So it cannot be the Youth Commissioner and, as I said already, the Commissioner of Police is very happy with the term because he knows why. But I am saying that if we are to tackle and fight the problems of this country, therefore, we as a Parliament collectively have got to put our heads together to tackle the problems head on. This Chamber is not for political grand-standing, Sir. What we are doing in here i$ trying to tackle problems of this country. That is what the people of this country have voted us in here to do.

Sir, finally, I have said that the roof at the Parkinson Community Centre is in dire need of repairs. The Parkinson Community Centre, and I again say so without any fear of contradiction, is the most used community centre as far as activities are concerned. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East could vouch on that who is the Minister of Education. I am saying, and this is to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, that if something is not urgently done to the roof at the Parkinson Community Centre one of these evenings that roof is going to collapse. I am saying that if the Parkinson Community Centre is in that state there are probably other community centres all over this island, Sir, that are in a similar state. I was very disappointed, Sir, that only $78 000 or something like that was allocated to the Community Development Division. I am happy too, Sir, to see at this point in time that the Community Development Division will be sending a team from across the community centres in Barbados overseas to represent Barbados. This is what I am talking about sports. Sir, this is what we call collective effort together and this is just a minute role of what the Community Development Division could play.

Sir, if we in this Parliament are going to be serious when we come in here about how we are going to direct the policy of this country, we must have a sound philosophy in order to go forward and then, therefore, with most of the problems that exist in this country, I am sure that we have got the technique, we have got the know how, we have the management skills in this Parliament to solve most of the problems that are confronting this country.

It is at this time, Sir, that I will humbly take my seat and that is qiy contribution as far as this debate is concerned

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has chosen the opportunity when his seniors are not in die House to compliment the Government, but we thank you nevertheless.

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

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I beg to second that.

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 NEWTON PLANTATION, CHRIST CHURCH FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution pertains to the acquisition of 9.51 hectares of land at Newton Plantation, Christ Church for industrial development Government has initiated compulsory acquisition proceedings in respect of this parcel of land for industrial purposes. It will be vested in the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation in exchange for lands of the Corporation at Six Mens, St. Peter and Grantley Adams Airport.

In 1988, it was agreed by the Cabinet that an area of land at Six Mens, St Peter owned by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation should be transferred to the National Housing Corporation and developed for the purpose of resiting houses from the sea coast at Six Mens. The land at Six Mens comprises approximately 12 acres which can accommodate 96 house spots. When it was handed over to the National Housing Corporation, infrastructural development was already in place *for* approximately 34 lots. The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation also had to relinquish land at the Airport to the airport authorities. The land formed

part of an 11-acre lot which the Corporation purchased from Coverley Plantation for the purpose of developing its industrial estate located in the vicinity of the Airport.

The Corporation was not able to develop all of this land because access to approximately 4 acres has been restricted by a security fence erected by the airport authorities. When representation for the return of the land was made to the then Ministry of International Transport, Telecommunications and Immigration, the Corporation was informed that the lands were reserved for future airport expansion under the Airport Land Use Plan and were also providing the necessary restricted security clearance from the runway in accordance with the relevant international airport regulations.

The Corporation, therefore, agreed to the retention of the land by the airport authorities provided that suitable lands could be identified by the Ministry of Housing and Lands in exchange. 3.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, after considering a number of sites the Corporation identified a parcel of land, approximately 25 acres, at Newton Plantation which adjoins Newton Industrial Estate and the ABC Highway. This site is considered to be ideally located to provide suitable factory accommodation for potential new investors. A certified survey plan of the subject land shows it to be *9.51* hectares and the plan is available for inspection. All other requirements have been met and I now seek parliamentary approval for this acquisition.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, the 13th day of June, *1995* at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 3.05 p.m.

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