

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.25 a.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 1995.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and, Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.), (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport) (Leader of the House)
Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, Q.C., M.A., M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. J. O. TUDOR, JP.
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.), LEG (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)
Dr. R. C. HAYNES, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)
Mr. D. CARTER
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, UP., B.A., Dip. Ed., B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)

Mr. H. P. LASHLEY

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

Mr. D. St E. KELLMAN

Hon. Milt H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Health and the Environment)

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

Prayers were taken by His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, August 15, 1995.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of Assembly for August 15* 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 corrections or observations, then let those Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the months of March, April and May, 1995, prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

1. The National Insurance and Social Security (Miscellaneous) (Amendments) Regulations, 1995.
2. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 15) Order, 1995.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 16) Order, 1995.
4. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 17) Order, 1995.
5. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 18) Order, 1995.
6. The Road Traffic (Road Tax, Registration Fee and Permits) (Amendment) Order, 1995.
7. The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following:

1. The Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995.
2. A Resolution to approve the lease to Her Excellency the Governor-General, Dame Nita Barrow, of the property known as "Sandy Point", Bath, St John.
3. A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Baywoods, Apes Hill, St. James for Housing Development.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the following Bills were read a first time:

1. The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1995.
2. The Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

CONGRATULATORY AJND/OR OBITUARY

SPEECHES

"• - ,-.«*!- ' ,; .. "• ' "

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, death issued its final summons to Reynold St. Clair Weekes on August 24, 1995. Mr. Weekes was a former Member of this House, having served continuously from 1961 until 1981.

Reynold Weekes was born on May 29, 1913 and after a solid primary school education, first at St Martin's Four Road, and then at St. Martin's-Mangrove Primary School

in St. Philip, he launched out at the age of 14 on his work life. He got himself involved very early in life in the Friendly Society of one of his tutors, a Mr. Clarence Weekes/ and by the year 1933 when he was 20 years old he had formed his own Friendly Society, the Chiming Bells Friendly Society. I believe the records show that the Friendly Society became one of the largest in this island.

That gesture, of course, was evidence of the fact that he had grasped what I believe cultural anthropologists nowadays generally agree on that there is a tradition of economic cooperation amongst black people, both at home and in the diaspora. Of course, this tradition of cooperation manifested itself during the days of slavery and immediately thereafter, and down to this day, in the whole concept of the meeting turn, and then of course, it manifested itself through Friendly Societies and in the more sophisticated society of today through the Co-op Credit Union type of movement. Reynold Weekes seized on those realities, formed the Chiming Bells Friendly Society, and it succeeded until its dissolution sometime, I believe, in the mid-1960s.

By the year 1945, his service through the Chiming Bells Friendly Society had drawn sufficient attention to him and to his public spiritedness that he was able to contest a seat for the Vestry in St. Philip and he was successful in that election at a time when the franchise was limited and, of course, when the Vestry was yet another means used by the planter class to achieve their economic and social objectives. The Vestry system, of course, dated back to the 17th Century in Barbados and planters were able to conceal themselves and their interests beneath the cassocks of the Anglican Priests of the day who were all the Chairmen of these Vestries.

But precisely for that reason, precisely because the Vestry was not a democratic institution, democratic enough to embrace the interest of the masses of Barbados, the British Government around 1948 had an enquiry done into the workings of the system and recommended its abolition. I believe that enquiry was done by one Sir John Maude and when the Vestry system was abolished, the Local Government Act was passed around 1952 in Barbados and Reynold Weekes shifted his focus from the Vestry therefore to Local Government where, again, he was successful and served for some considerable time as Chairman of the Southern District Council. During that period of time he was able to continue the work which he had begun in the Vestry for, as a Vestryman, he had contributed substantially to the change of focus of the Vestry away from just pursuing single-mindedly the interest of the planter class and more in the direction of the interest of the poor. 11.35a.m.

One example of that, Mr. Speaker, would be the fact that scholarships offered through the vestry were usually offered to the children of planters to attend the Lodge School and the record seems to show that as a result of the agitation of Reynold Weekes the Scholarships became more broadly spread and other secondary schools like Combermere and others became involved and young men from St. Philip were able to benefit from his efforts in that regard.

Local Government was to come to an end but before it came to an end he had spread his wings to national politics. In 1948 he contested a seat in the constituency of St. Thomas but was unsuccessful. At that time he was a member of the Congress Party, led by that fertile politician the late Wynter Algernon Crawford who was also at that time the senior Member for the parish of St Philip. Crawford, I believe, had entered the House as Member of Parliament for SL Philip in the year 1940.

By 1961, Mr. Weekes had become a member of the Democratic Labour Party, as did Mr. Crawford and under the system of double member constituencies he became the junior member for St Philip in the 1961 election that brought the Democratic Labour Party to power. He served continuously as a Member of Parliament, representing the parish of St. Philip, until 1971 when single Member constituencies were introduced when he then became the Member of Parliament for SL Philip South and he was to serve as Member of Parliament for St. Philip South until the year 1981 when he resigned as a Parliamentarian.

During his parliamentary career, Mr. Weekes was active in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He enjoyed contributing to the debate of that Association and I have undimmed recollections of the late Tom Adams on platforms in St Philip praising the contributions of Mr. Weekes at those Commonwealth Parliamentary Association sessions. But he was best known as a local politician who served the needs of his constituents unstintingly.

As I said in a brief appreciation on the day of his funeral, from as early as 5.30 in the morning Mr. Weekes could be seen outside of his house, still in his pajamas looking after the affairs of his constituents filling out forms, writing testimonials in his own hand and generally looking after their requirements. Not once would you get the impression that he felt them intrusive, not once did you get the impression that he felt that they were bearing down on him too much. He obviously enjoyed public service and of course that public service extended itself to the fact that as the village grocer he was able to minister to many cases of hardship through that medium. Not without significance that in 1977 as a result of the service he rendered to the

vestry and to local Government and to Parliament he was made a Commander of the British Empire by the Government of the day, the Barbados Labour Party. He received that honour with gratitude.

I was Chairman of the St Philip South Branch at the time and recall the meeting at which Members of the Branch congratulated him and he received their congratulations with pleasure. But long before that honour was conferred the people who really mattered to Reynold Weekes, the people of St. Philip, had already given him a higher honour. He had already been knighted by the people of St Philip for routinely from about 1968/69, people referred to and saluted Reynold Weekes, not as Reynold or Mr. Weekes, but as Sir Reynold. He had been knighted by those people for the quality of service he had rendered to them and for the selflessness with which he responded to their needs. So that he was able to do what any genuinely successful man was able to do. He was able to secure the approval and endorsement of the people who knew him best. The people of St Philip knew him best and elevated him to the status of a knight as long ago as the nineteen sixties. Not for him the crude and corrupting fleshpots of a mad materialistic world.

Reynold lived a very simple life and was content to quietly and unobtrusively serve the people of St. Philip and to enrich their lives by his influence. So, today, as we reflect on the life of this great man, a man who from humble beginnings took the little that God gave him and made the most of it, emphasising in the process the importance of public service; today as we look at his achievements we squint before the glitter and the dazzle of those achievements. I can think of no better way for this House to pay tribute to him and to acknowledge the massive and substantial and wise contribution which he made to Barbadian politics than to note his passing arid to suitably express its condolences to his sorrowing relatives.

I seem to recall, Mr. Speaker, being in this House some time in 1981 when I believe Mr. Weekes delivered his final speech, it was either his final or his penultimate speech in this House, and quite coincidentally the Government Benches at the time were thickly populated and his own side had not been as fully represented. I believe it was just after lunch and therefore all the Members had not all got back to their seats and typical of the man, a man with a very keen and sensitive sense of humour, and a man who loved the Bible and biblical references, I remember him looking at the Government Benches and then looking at his own side, and smiling he intoned with almost messianic echo the words of Our Lord after only one of the 10 people he had cleansed came back to thank him. He intoned, "were they not 10 cleansed, where are the nine?" to the laughter, I recall, of the House.

This is a man who loved Parliament and who enjoyed the company of his colleagues for every day he was in this House. Against that background therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the late Reynold StClair Weekes, Esquire, CBE a former Member of this Honourable House, successively for the constituency of the parish of SL Philip from 1961 to 1971 and St. Philip South 1971 to 1981, passed this life on the 24th day of August 1995,

WHEREAS the late Mr. Weekes rendered distinguished service as a parliamentarian in local Government and in other spheres of the life of our country,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House deeply regrets the passing of the late Mr. Weekes,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House extends our most sincere condolences to his widow, his children and other members of the family on his lamented passing.

I so move. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Sir HAROLD SL JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Resolution and to associate myself with the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St Philip South. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Weekes for many years and indeed in 1959 when he was elected as a member for SL Philip Southern District Council, I was appointed the legal adviser to the Southern District Council. It was part of my responsibility together with the then Local Government Commissioner, the late Clyde Ramsey, to explain all of the new legislation relating to Local Government which was brought into force from time to time particularly starting with the year 1960 when the Local Government Councils Financial Rules were passed. 11.45a.m.

When the Local Government Act was passed in 1958, it was a very significant piece of legislation in that it attempted to change the structure of Government in this country which was in existence almost from the settlement of Barbados. Reynold Weekes was an outstanding counsellor. For him the honour of serving as a Counsel was so great that he devoted a tremendous amount of his time not only towards serving the needs of his constituents but also in an attempt to introduce into Local Government a bi-partisanship which augured very well in my opinion for the success of the system. Reynold Weekes would champion the cause of other counsellors as we sought in those days to perform the function of carrying and bringing services to the people by means of extending the street

lights in particular and water at the expense of the Councils to various parts of the Local Government area. In this of course there were many difficulties but nevertheless we never had any question of a partisan approach in this area. Each and every part of the area of the Southern District was treated on an equal basis.

Reynold Weekes also was a Member of this House when I became a member in 1966 and, has been said, he continued with his commitment to his constituency. But in addition to that, he was one of the few Members of this House at a time when there was tremendous amount of acrimony and bitterness among the political parties in Barbados. He was one of the few Members of this House who would move from his side of the House to the other side of the House in full glare and in full publicity and even sometimes incurring the wrath of those among his party whose passion in politics was to constantly encourage division. As a result of that, he became a favourite of all of the Members of the House of Assembly and, in that sphere of political activity where one can reward one's colleagues for whom one has built up great respect namely in the vote at the parliamentary branch on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Reynold Weekes was amply rewarded. I do not think that there was ever an occasion when Reynold indicated that he was interested in participating in one of the overseas trips of the CPA, that anyone could find people who would oppose Reynold's application to be part of the team.

He was very proud of the fact that he performed that role and perhaps one of his greatest moments in public life was when he went to the United Kingdom as a member of the delegation and he was able to go to the Houses of Parliament and he was able to participate fully in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He used to recall constantly high water marks of that day.

He made also an outstanding contribution in other areas of activity. The Honourable Member has spoken quite rightly about his contribution as the President of Chiming Bell Society but he eventually took it over and he ran it. He used to tell us too in the Southern District Council about the difficulties of running a Friendly Society in those days in Barbados. After all a Friendly Society in those days in Barbados performed an important role in the development of the life of poor Barbadians particularly. It was their savings institution. At Christmas time it was to that institution that they looked for their bonus distribution and many people in Barbados owe their ownership of land or ownership of other property to the loans made by the Friendly Society.

Reynold Weekes also participated in that famous debate in this House when in 1966 the Resolution was moved for the Independence in Barbados as an

individual nation. He was one of the two members whose opinion was for a long period of time in the balance and it is true to say that his life long friend and himself disagreed on the stance taken by him and their friendship became very fractured for some period of time. Now those of us who had seen the association and friendship in politics between the late Wynter Crawford and the late Reynold Weekes right after that time would have appreciated what pain that would have caused to Reynold Weekes. But he was convinced in his own mind that that was the decision to be taken and he made the decision.

He also was a great family man. I believe that he had quite a large family but I know that he looked out for their welfare. He was proud of their achievements and he had some of them who qualified. I believe he had a daughter who qualified as a lawyer and in addition to that I know for certain that he had a daughter who worked in the Tourism Authority in Barbados for many years. He was very proud of the fact that successive administrations thought highly of this lady and despite the change in administrations she remained a valued member of the Tourism Authority.

I would like to join with others, Sir, in wishing to express on behalf of the House our condolences to his family.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, exactly one week before Reynold left us, he popped in to see me at about 11.30 a.m. one morning and he looked at me and said: "I have made arrangements for you to do two things at my funeral and wherever you are I expect that you will make sure that you are present to do those two things." He looked pretty healthy to me and I said: "Reynold, you are making sport, man. Cut out this foolishness." I later checked with those who should know his health status and I concluded that it appeared to me to be just one of those things that people say from time to time. Within seven days I heard of his death and I was shocked. It was a remarkable prescience experienced by him not shared by anyone else and quite clearly he knew by some means that the end was near. I felt particularly honoured to be asked to perform those two functions at his funeral by him because in all my years in politics I have always regarded Reynold as a model in terms of his conduct, his attitude, his commitment to people, and his commitment to this House and his commitment to Barbados in general. 11.55a.m.

I have known very few people who have at all times under all circumstances never faltered in courtesy,

sensitivity, sensibility and in decency in the way in which they responded to individuals, events or crises in their lives, public or private. This was truly a remarkable man. When one looks through his career and sees how this individual was carved emotionally, psychologically and physically, one could well understand how that perfect final product emerged.

I do not propose to go through what has already been said about his early career except to say that it is certainly a very outstanding one, and indicated to me two things - that so much can be achieved with so little once the commitment is there. I am very pleased to say that if the people of Barbados analyse the career of this man, and if those people who are interested in politics understand that success can only come through service, that success does not reside in holding office but in what you have done for the people of Barbados, I would say that Reynold Weekes was one of the most successful politicians in the history of this country.

He served as a Parliamentary Secretary at one time and he served as a Minister of the Crown in an acting position from time to time during his years. But it was as a parliamentarian, it was as a member of the Southern District Council, it was as a Vestryman that he made the major contributions to this country.

I can assure you that I have known Reynold for about 40 years. We have enjoyed a good friendship for about 30 of those years and the things that that man would do for individuals is almost unbelievable. Many a Tuesday, Mr. Reynold Weekes would leave this Honourable House and say, "I'll be back in an hour. I took someone to the doctor this morning and I have to go and pick them up and take them back home from the doctor today." With little financial resources available to him, on numerous occasions he made contributions either to causes, or individuals that have made such a significant difference in the lives of those people.

There was hardly a funeral in the parish of St. Philip that Mr. Reynold Weekes did not attend and I have asked him about this. He said to me, "It is a mistake to think that I go there for political benefit. These are people whom I have known and attending a funeral gives me the opportunity, not only to pay respect to someone who I have had a close relationship with, but also the opportunity to empathize and sympathise personally with those who are left behind and there is no other way in which I could accomplish those two things in the same way than by my actual presence at the funeral." Now, when you think about it, and when you think of the way in which he set

his priorities, one would recognise here a level of a commitment to human beings which I think is unparalleled. I do not know of anyone who ever established their priorities in public life in the same way in which he established his.

In terms of debates in this Honourable House, his contributions were always listened to very carefully by everybody. He was not a highly partisan politician but he always reached to the core of the matter and his contributions were always people oriented. Never at any time did he get himself involved in any undignified behaviour. From time to time when he heard language or statements in this House which he disapproved of, he would hold his head down and outside he would always go to the person, whether it be on his side or the other side and somehow or the other express his disapproval in his own peculiar way. But in terms of upholding the dignity of this House in debate, in terms of focussing on the core of issues, in terms of building bridges within this Parliament he was supreme. He could talk to any Member and they would listen to him because although he was on the opposite side everybody respected what he said and he never sought to demean or disrespect or be abusive or try to humiliate anyone in the debating process. Yet he was effective. And so, Mr. Speaker, I know that I have lost a good friend. That friendship has always been a source of strength to me. 12.05 p.m.

I know, for example, that he always maintained a deep conviction that local government is necessary in this country but I do not want to get into those political areas because he knew what he was able to achieve through local government and he knew the problems that he had in achieving those objectives under centralised government.

He was an extraordinary man, an extraordinary parliamentarian and I always have a special place in my heart for all those poor black men and women who came forward with all the odds against them, in this country, in its hour of greatest need, and were part of that revolution that took place in Barbados between 1937 and today and Reynold was part of that. He played a major part, in his own way.

When we look back at all of them and from time we have had opportunities in this House to honour the work that they have done and when you think about it, all in their own different ways have made the enormous contribution. I sincerely hope that one day, and I can never understand if in the United States, for example, people can hire professional writers and produce books in a week, two weeks, why we should not, as a Parliament, undertake the responsibility to talk to people like Reynold Weekes and

others and have their experiences recorded. The experiences of a golden age of struggle of poor people in this country which may never be repeated again must not be lost. There is no reason why it cannot be done.

I am very glad to have this opportunity today to associate myself, my family and the party which I have the honour to lead, with this Resolution. I also take this opportunity to extend our collective, deepest condolences to his wife and his children, his sorrowing relatives and the wider family of St. Philip North and South which he served so faithfully for so long. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to avoid repetition when one has to speak in these matters about someone whose life was such an example that the memory of the person burns inside one in pretty much the same way for each of us as individuals.

I had the privilege and I consider it a great privilege of serving in this Honourable Chamber with that distinguished gentleman. I had the privilege of sitting with him from time to time in the Cabinet and I think it can be said with impunity that all the good things said about Reynold Weekes are true. Often people like Reynold Weekes, especially when they come from humble beginnings, live their lives without ever hearing from those who are in a position to speak whether what they have done and how they have done it was acceptable to the community. It is good sometimes for people like Reynold Weekes to hear some of the good things said about them before they die.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recall that a few weeks ago as we debated the acquisitions at a point in St. Philip I offered the recommendation, without knowing of course how near we were to his final passing, that the roundabout be named after Reynold Weekes.

I offered that, Sir, not because the only monuments that can be left to people are monuments in stone but because it is desirable for those who follow, whether as part of the family of the individual or merely as young people looking for inspiration, to understand that real heroes are not created by the Press or by publicity stunts, that real heroes emerge as a result of their service to their respective communities.

Reynold Weekes was one of those special kinds of people. He was shrewd as a political observer. Very often in the midst of a heated debate - and I have to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in his time during the time when I was here that the debates were, and I think the Honourable

Member for Christ Church South will agree, debates were very heated, Sir, much more heated than they are these days. They used to be much more incisive and very often in a debate...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: And yes, devastating. Very often in a debate, when one side was clearly winning it would require one of those very shrewd observers to point out to his side, especially if that side was on the wane, where it was failing to deal with the other side and in that respect there was none more shrewd than Reynold Weekes. Constantly at the break in a debate he would gather the troops and he would say to them in that classic style of his, "I do not know if you are going to listen to me but I think you are making a mistake by going in the direction you are going. The essence of this debate is..." And he would then outline the essence of that debate. And true enough, Mr. Speaker, almost invariably each time that occurred when the debate was resumed and one took the advice of this shrewd distinguished parliamentarian, one soon found that the other side would start to pale into insignificance. 12.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, he was also a great admirer of good debaters. I do not think that anyone will hold it against me if I say that he had a tremendous respect for the style and skill of the late Tom Adams. He felt that one needed to conquer that particular debater on the other side every time one had to win a debate. He would sit and analyze and listen to the late Tom Adams and he would then pass to whichever warrior he felt was the one who should take on Tom on that occasion. It was the insights of his observation.

Mr. Speaker, it was a great joy to come to Parliament even when we were a small seven and sit with Reynold Weekes on your side. But there was another aspect of him which is known to the people of St. Philip but might not be known to all Honourable Members in such fullness: that it is his deep and abiding faith in God. He was an extremely religious person and spent a substantial amount of his time praising God and admonishing others as to how they should praise God. I remember some religious discussions with him and the present Justice Sir Frederick which were illuminating if nothing else, one as perceived by a devout Methodist and the other one a stout and irreconcilable Anglican. I had some good times listening to those two very earthy and salt of the earth Parliamentarians discussing religion.

Mr. Speaker, about two years ago I was going through some old papers and I found his farewell letter to his constituents. I have always kept it on my parliamentary

file for no particular reason but I have always had it along with some other tidbits. Honourable Members know that there are certain things especially when you are in Opposition that you walk with and you cannot always explain why. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the essence of how he perceived himself can be found in that letter. I will not read all of it but it is interesting. It was his Christmas letter of 1975 and he said and I am quoting him now, Sir: "My dear Brother/Sister: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on the eve of the festival which we commemorate annually in memory of his birth." It is fascinating that a politician who is sending out his Christmas message would begin in that particular way and he went on to say: "This may be my last Christmas when I will have the opportunity of writing you as your representative for St. Philip South in the Honourable House of Assembly. Consequently, I have decided to let you know in advance of the most important decision I have ever made in my life."

Again, Sir, that demonstrates that as he was about to demit office as a parliamentarian he considered that the decision to leave politics is one of the most important decisions he has ever made in his life. His love of politics was as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said a manifestation of his love for people. Unfortunately, Sir, especially in the last few years politicians have been perceived as being good only as recipients of a special kind of bashing. It is constantly forgotten even by politicians themselves that service to humanity is still the best work of life and there are many people who crave the opportunity to perform that service who in the absence of that opportunity find pleasure in denouncing those who I believe in the vast majority of cases seek only to serve.

Reynold Weekes went on to say, Sir: "After 30 years of dedicated service as a former vestryman of the parish, councillor of the defunct Southern District Council and Chairman of the Council for two consecutive terms which I consider a signal honour and consequently a Member of the Honourable House of Assembly for three consecutive terms of 5 years each, I have come to the conclusion after considering all aspects of my political career not to stand for nomination as a candidate for the forthcoming general election."

He then went on in the next paragraph to say this: "I therefore consider it my responsibility and solemn duty to inform you of my decision in advance. In doing so, I must express my sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation to you for the confidence you have at times reposed in me for such a long period. But as you are aware the longest day must have an end and no person will ever be able to carry on forever. This decision was made by me and only me through no pressure or suggestion from the Party. I will always continue to be a loyal and dedicated member of

the Democratic Labour Party under the able guidance of the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow who as you know is the President of the Party and also Prime Minister of Barbados,

While I will relinquish my position as a Member of Parliament and will not be responsible for the constituency, I will still be available and will be at your disposal to assist you in any way with matters as I have always done in the past. This is a solemn vow which I have made to God and am making to you," This is the language of the man whose memory we now revere.

He went on to deny a point which some people from time to time have sought to suggest and here is what he said in the next paragraph: "You will therefore expect me to uphold the good name of the Democratic Labour Party and to be very frank in castigating any person who attempts to make derogatory statements about the Democratic Labour Party which has done so much for the improvement and advancement of the country during its three terms in office." He then turns into another one of his sterling attributes: "I have therefore made a solemn pledge to give the prospective candidates of the Democratic Labour Party my wholehearted and unequivocal support during the campaign" and he then went on to ask t' J constituents to do the same thing.

I think the Honourable Member for St Philip South and his predecessor in the office as Member of Parliament for St. Philip South can attest to the full and complete loyalty which Reynold Weekes gave to them up to the very last. I recall a telephone conversation soon after the former Member for St Philip South had begun his long and sometimes bitter struggle with the Democratic Labour Party. I recall Reynold Weekes saying that he understood Mr. Blackman's right to make up his mind but he wished that he did not put him through so much "purgatory". That was his word, Sir. He said that his basic problem was not what Mr. Blackman did and that he was not going to find fault with him as an individual; but he (Mr. Blackman) was going to put tremendous stress on him, Reynold Weekes, if he continued to attack the Party; but he had sworn to support the representative of St. Philip and he would continue to support that representative.

I had another telephone call from him soon after the decision was made that a new person would represent St. Philip and I think that in the interest of maintaining a certain equanimity, I will not divulge all of that conversation except to say that he ended by saying: "You know that I have always pledged my full and complete support of whomever the Party sends to represent St. Philip South." 12.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that Reynold Weekes paid his dues fully and completely, I am satisfied that he served his people and he served his Ood, Those of us who believe that there is a reward in the Other Place, those of us who believe that there is life after death, can be certain - I am certain - that Reynold Weekes will, in fact, meet his just reward. I am satisfied that he would have been greeted by the Great I Am, indeed, as he came to the threshold of his new existence and new arrangements. But it is for us who are left behind constantly to sing praise to those who paved the way, for us. I hope that, especially younger politicians and potential politicians, when they are looking for examples, will be able to find a sufficiency of example in the lives of people like Reynold Weekes.

The Honourable Member for St Michael South Central raised the point which is worthy of re-enforcement that this Parliament, and indeed, this society owes it to the continuation of the race, meaning the Barbadian race, to have those people whose experiences were part of the building of this country recorded in such a way that those who follow can read and inwardly digest

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that one of the reasons why Britain survived and continues to survive is that their university system worked out a very ingenious arrangement by which those who go especially to Oxford and Cambridge are required as part of their learning and qualification to write biographies of persons who have gone before.

Constantly in my years as a public person in the international community, I have met persons who tell me that somebody else has been the biographer of somebody else. It seems to me that one of the things which we can do in the University of the West Indies here is to encourage, and indeed in some respects require, some of our scholars and students to get into the habit of writing biographies. There are, and have been, great Barbadians who have passed through this Honourable House. Quite often, Sir, all that is remembered of them is on this occasion when we get up to pay tribute.

It seems to me that when I look back at some of the debates, even some in which I participated not so long ago, those debates were of a different calibre, a different style from what we have today and it is worthwhile to us to recapture for the new generations some of those things that have happened. I am pleased that I am still in the House of Assembly and able to participate in a tribute to Reynold St. Clair Weekes.

One last point, Sir. I know his name and know some things about him so well because we used to have a joke. His name is Reynold St. Clair and St. Clair was also

one of my father's names. He was born on May 29 which is the birthday of my sister, so I used to tease him every now and again and tell him that I am not sure if I want to relate to him as my father or my sister. He always would reply "Either way I am superior to you and you should learn how to behave." Mr. Speaker, I hope that wherever he is he will enjoy the laugh that he used to bring us many years ago.

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to enter this debate to join in the generous and richly deserved tributes which have been paid to the memory, work and style of the late Reynold St. Clair Weekes, I was born and grew up in the district of St. Patrick's which is next door to southern St. Philip and from very early in my life I got to know Reynold Weekes. Towards the end of his life I was to work very closely with him in a family matter as it were, which I may mention in a minute.

Reynold Weekes, apart from having worked at St. Patrick's Primary School as a teacher of Handicraft in his very early years, was also the blood relation of two outstanding St. Patrick men, Cuthbert Kirton and Milton Greenidge, both of whom I got to know over the years at very close range. Cuthbert Kirton is now long dead, but Milton Greenidge continues very erect in his 84th year. He has been like a father to me over many, many years and because of him I saw a lot of Reynold Weekes in St. Patrick's.

But besides that, perhaps his closest friend was a man called Eric Barrel Moseley who was a caring godfather and cousin of mine. And Eric Moseley named him as Executor of his Will. When Eric died Mr. Weekes called me to say that he was not in the best of health and he was insisting that I carry out under his supervision, the responsibilities of the Executor. I myself was a beneficiary of that Will, but it took many years for the estate to be distributed and I had therefore to work very closely with Reynold Weekes over many years.

But besides that, I was a Member of this House in 1976 to 1981 which was the last of the four-year terms that Reynold Weekes served. I must remind Honourable Members - not many people would remember this now - that when that Parliament in 1981 was about to be dissolved, as it were, tribute was paid to Reynold Weekes when it was learnt that he was not coming back. Twenty-four Members got up and spoke, I believe I was the 23rd, and very generous tributes indeed were paid to Reynold Weekes in his presence and long before he passed.

I do not wish, Mr. Speaker, to repeat anything that has been said, though it is very difficult not to do so. But Reynold Weekes had a very rich career starting as a

postman, continuing as a teacher of handicraft and then for a short while he was an undertaker. The joke was that it was not surprising he was short-lived in that regard because he was, perhaps, the only undertaker this century who was afraid of the dead. It was said that if he put you down this evening in a burial ground and night was to set in, that he would go to the ends of the earth rather than pass back by that burial ground after sunset. Many people who knew him well said that that was absolutely true. For a short while he was a shopkeeper and then his great life's work begun, first as a Vestryman, then as a Councillor, and finally as a parliamentarian. 12.35 p.m.

Reynold Weekes was a man of simplicity, of charm, of large intelligence and of a large sense of service. It is not widely known that Reynold Weekes was incomparable as a speaker at christenings, at anniversaries and at the many social occasions which he attended across the constituency. You just could not speak better than Reynold Weekes. He was a man of such sensitivity, of such tact, of such sense of articulation, that notwithstanding the fact that he was not of the graduate class or anything of the sort he was very difficult to surpass in that capacity.

It has been said and rightly so that he was a reconciler in this Parliament, a link between both sides at a time when debates were very acrimonious and very vigorous. In fact, it is not now remembered that a very distinguished Member on this side once made an *ad hominem* remark about Reynold Weekes in the course of debate many years ago around 1979, or thereabouts, and the quiet condemnation of the House was so sharp that the Member was forced to get up and apologise. He never debated in an *ad hominem* style. That was not the man and to that extent you could not get away with saying anything personal about Reynold Weekes. I remember that incident very well and I do not know if the Member who was involved now remembers it, but it is absolutely true as a checking of Hansard will confirm.

Reynold Weekes gave outstanding service at the local level. That is where he was strong. He attended thousands of funerals. He was always at the hospital visiting. Every day he did a good turn. He never lived outside of his constituency and whether it was writing a testimonial or dropping someone to town or dropping someone to the church service which he too was attending, he was doing a good turn. I often wondered how he packed so many people into his car but that was the man, Reynold Weekes. Every day he seemed to summon new enthusiasm and new energy to carry out his responsibility of servicing people and rendering service to people.

In many respects he was an outstanding servant and distinguished servant of the people and I join with those who say that we need to have the record of the lives

and the contribution of people like Reynold Weekes held up before our people. It is an inspiration,

In his last years as I got very close to him, I was not only struck by his charm but I was also highly impressed with his wisdom and it is not surprising that he survived in politics that long and achieved that success. Reynold Weekes was a highly perceptive man who understood the thinking and the psychology of his people. He was not at all mean. He shared his experiences and he was always prepared to advise and to guide younger people in politics.

I remember I was once at a funeral in St. Patrick's when I was Member of Parliament for Christ Church East which included St Patrick's and Reynold Weekes was there. Never at a funeral did Reynold Weekes do other than lead the party into the church and he summoned me. I was sitting a few seats away from him and he said, your role is to front, go back down and he sent me right down to lead the coffin as it were into the church. But that was his style. He was not in any way backward in that regard. He did not go to the church and just go in and sit down. He was there with the family party welcoming those into the church and he led the coffin into the church and out. You may say what you have to about that; but that was his style and that was the one that he impressed on all young politicians. Not all of us found it easy to Mow that style but that was the one that he impressed upon us.

There are not many now surviving who have come through from the thirties. Sir Theodore Brancker, Sir Frank Walcott, I can scarcely think of any others who are surviving now. So he is among the last of a special generation that gave long and distinguished service to this country and in many respects he was a man whom it was worth knowing. I am happy that I had the opportunity of serving in Parliament with him and getting to know him at very close range in recent years.

I am aware of the large and long and distinguished service which he rendered to public life in this country; particularly to the people of St. Philip and to the many parishes that constituted the Southern District Council where he was Chairman on two consecutive occasions and wherein, from the beginning to the end of the local government system he was to serve.

He will long be remembered by his people and all of us who had the opportunity of knowing him and working with him and serving with him will never forget him. I am happy to join with others in paying tribute to his memory, to his work, to his style and to his contribution.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief. As leader of the Democratic Labour Party, I

wish to say how honoured our membership was to have among us a man of the distinction, the ability, the humility and also the success which one could associate with Reynold St. Clair Weekes..

Mr. Weekes is somebody whom I have known and came to respect from my visits to this House of Assembly as a school boy from 1978 as I sat in the public gallery which is in this area now since the Chamber was turned around and certainly he was one of those persons who extended every courtesy,, not only to Members of the House but if he knew you were a regular visitor to the House of Assembly he would stop you in the Yard and make certain enquiries about where you came from and what you were doing there, So that even before I had joined the Democratic Labour Party as a member, Reynold Weekes made certain enquiries of me in the House of Assembly Yard after one sitting.

He was an excellent Member of Parliament and all of those things which Members have said about him we concur in. Perhaps the greatest achievement in terms of his name and his memory being immortalised and earned on in politics in Barbados comes from the fact that two of the representatives from St. Philip are persons for whom he had great respect and persons on whom his work had a great impact on their lives.

Mr. Warwick Franklin former Member of Parliament for St Philip North was one of the early beneficiaries of the beneficence of the Chiming Bells Friendly Society of which Mr. Weekes was the organiser and was appointed secretary and he received a Scholarship to a secondary school and recalls with fondness and great respect the fact that wore it not for Reynold Weekes' work in St. Philip he would not have achieved what he achieved in his life time.

We have with us, in this Chamber, a person upon whom Reynold Weekes had a formidable and I believe lasting influence, the Honourable Member for St Philip South whom I believe he came to respect as one of his closest friends. Reynold Weekes insisted that he nominate the Honourable Member as the candidate for St. Philip South in the last election and he came out and gave very dedicated service to the Democratic Labour Party during that election and he asked the Honourable Member for St Philip South to drive him down to Party Headquarters where he participated in the deliberations of the Council of Elders. His focus during that time was essentially on community service and when the Council reported to us they pointed out that Mr. Weekes was particularly concerned about this phenomenon in Barbados of professional politicians who flit into a constituency or area of influence at or around election time and prior to that

can secure the endorsement of any political party they would accept that. Their attitude is whosoever will may come and he disliked that approach to politics. He felt that the very bedrock and basis of service by persons in parliamentary life was to be on their work within their community and he lived that kind of life and contributed fully in that respect passing on those traits to those with whom he came into contact, passing them on to another generation of political leaders, passing them on even to his family and to his close associates in the constituency of St. Philip South. 12.45 p.m.

For the Democratic Labour Party, it was because of this work that Reynold St. Clair Weekes had done; the groundwork which he laid that St. Philip has always demonstrated a very strong commitment, St. Philip South more than St. Philip North in terms of consistency, and that is something that happens but there has always been a bedrock of very strong support which is based on the hard work which Reynold Weekes did in serving the people of St. Philip South.

Just before his passing, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and I had discussed that arrangements were to be made during this Independence for some suitable ceremony to honour Reynold St. Clair Weekes for the outstanding contribution he had made to the Democratic Labour Party. We were putting plans in place but it is clear that there were other plans in place as well and he knew about those other plans and events turned out otherwise.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph spoke of his regular attendance at funerals and the first funeral that I went to after I was elected to the House of Assembly in St. John Parish Church I arrived after him and therefore I sat at the end of the pew. As the procession was leaving, it passed me and I felt this person pushing me out into the procession and I thought that he wanted to go out so I got out to let him pass. He said, "No, no, no. You get in that procession and get involved in these activities. You are not here as a mere spectator." When he took me in the yard, he then explained what was the role of a Member of Parliament at events such as that. He was very fixed and purposeful in his views about that kind of thing. He had a very intimate relationship with individuals which will be the envy of any politician and that relationship served him well throughout his political career.

Our attention was drawn to a speech which he delivered when he attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference some years ago as a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works and leader of the Barbados delegation. I believe that this was a CPA

plenary held in London on September 21, 1973. "Parliamentary Government - Where Was It Heading?" was the heading and I wish to quote just a few words from page 302. He said, Sir, with reference to Members of Parliament and this is his advice: "After he succeeds in gaining a seat maybe his Party which was in Opposition for several years gains a majority, it is then that he may be called on to face the responsibility of running the affairs of the Government. Having been promoted to this high office, his life should become a model for others to emulate. For his approach to the many and various problems can assist in the upliftment of the people who have contributed to the position which he holds and the success or downfall of his party depends on the role he plays as a Member of Parliament." And he goes on, Mr. Speaker: "Having spent more than half of my life in Local and Central Government from the experience I have gained, I would summarize the role of a Member of Parliament in contemporary society as follows:

- "1. Honesty and purpose to his Party and the people;
2. Patience and tolerance;
3. Humility and sincerity;
4. To be a model at all times for others to emulate especially the youth of the country;
5. Never attempt to mislead the community for it is at this stage where he may destroy his political career and in most cases his Party;
6. To be the servant of his constituents and not to consider himself as their master."

This was Reynold Weekes speaking from the heart and anybody who knew Reynold Weekes would know that those are his words not taken from any textbook, not taken from any thesis by any political scientist. Those comments were based on his experience and his deep and abiding commitment to the people of Barbados through the various entities including the Democratic Labour Party which provided him with the opportunity to serve.

So the family of the Democratic Labour Party regretted very much receiving the news of Mr. Reynold Weekes' passing. I assured his children and his wife that he has been an inspiration to all of us and particularly to the younger members of the Democratic Labour Party. If there is any way that we can ensure that those precepts on which his political career started and flourished can be impressed on the minds of all parliamentarians as models for their service for the people of Barbados, then it will be our duty to do so and we will use as our guide in that regard the life and work of Reynold St. Clair Weekes.

So I extend to his family, to the constituents of St. Philip South who he served so loyally, to the friends and supporters of the Democratic Labour Party and to his other friends our sincere condolences and I will be supporting this Resolution.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was away out of the island when Mr. Reynold Weekes died and I regret very much my inability to attend his funeral because I have known Mr. Weekes from as early as 1950 when I lived in St Philip first in 1948. His son, Tony, who is now a practising doctor in England and I were very close friends. Tony was a left arm spinner and I had some potential at batting. We used to play at Dodds quite a lot and the families were close in those days until Tony left Harrison College and went to India we remained very close friends. I recall a lot of what Honourable Members have said about Mr. Weekes, but in particular I think the Leader of the Opposition captured what I wanted to say very neatly just now that Mr. Weekes' life was one dedicated to community service. He was a politician whose interest was in doing little things but meaningful things that impacted on the wide membership of his constituency. I remember Mr. Weekes every morning when I lived in St. Philip and came to town we would pass at some point on the road and Mr. Weekes' car was always full of constituents. I remember Mr. Weekes attending funerals and so on too. But document filling - Anybody who had a document to be filled up could go and engage Mr. Reynold Weekes' attention and his time. 12.55 p.m.

I will tell you I learnt something about him in 1976. We went to a CPA Meeting in Mauritius. He did not travel too well on the flight and for two or three days of the meeting - the meeting was a long one, more than a week - he was not well and he did not come down to the sessions, but he would meet with us in the evenings and he explained that he was not feeling up to it to come to the sessions.

Reynold Weekes had a pile of postcards that he spent his days just writing postcards to his constituents. He told us, "I have to write so and so." He wrote all of the Ministers and Mr. Barrow, who was not the Prime Minister at the time, and then as many of his key people in St. Philip as he could remember. Those are little things but they mean a lot to constituents. Even before it became popular for parliamentarians to use a computer to keep in touch with their constituents' birthdays and so and send them cards, Reynold Weekes had his own scheme. Way

back in September, 1976 I saw that and it is something I think should commend itself to us, especially when we travel.

Mr. Weekes was rewarded for that kind of outstanding community service by his regular re-election to this Honourable House of Assembly. I think it is fair to say that Reynold Weekes was loved in his heyday by the people of St. Philip South. After Crawford went off to sea it was Weekes' influence, his work in the South that crossed over to the North that made St. Philip so impregnable from the point of view of the Barbados Labour Party. We could not get through until I succeeded twice. He really had it tied off for the Democratic Labour Party.

I think essentially too, we have just said it, but Reynold Weekes was really a nice, decent man, highly respectful and respectable. He had a style of walking. He used to walk and bow and he was at the same time so humble and steeped in traditions, gentlemanly traditions, that you remember he used to wear a hat and he used to tip his hat to you. Reynold would be walking, he would see you and he would do that You do not see that now. Those kinds of attributes and qualities unfortunately have gone.

He was a fierce competitor in the political arena. He predicted in 1971 when I had a trial gallop at politics in a meeting in Brereton that Mr. Bradshaw and myself would lose our deposits, that he would beat us so badly that we would wet ourselves. He said it on the platform. Neither prediction actually happened but we came near enough to the realization of those predictions.

I remember him, after the 1976 election for the period 1976-1981 when I was in the House with him, as a man who brought native intelligence and an understanding of what the man in the street was concerned with to debates in here. He was not esoteric. He did not try to debate in a way that was irrelevant to human needs and he always made contact with the real needs of his constituents and the people generally.

Mr. Speaker, he was a generous man, not at all I think high-bound by partisanship in politics. I remember in either 1967 or 1968 I was still in London and Warwick Franklin was in London doing a course, I think, in Rating, Land Valuations and so. There was in those days a BOAC inaugural 707 Flight to London. Mr. Weekes was given the opportunity by the Government - it might have been a parastatal in MTW which might have been responsible - to come to London on that inaugural flight He must have known how I stood politically because I used to do a

little writing from London for the newspapers sending articles back to the newspapers here and so on. But it did not matter, Reynold Weekes was staying at Grosvenor House and he thought that he should find as many of us as were Barbadian students in London at the time and share some conviviality with us. We were invited to spend an evening with him, probably about 15 or 20 of us at the Grosvenor House. He was a big man.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore remember Mr. Weekes fondly. I remember him for the outstanding contribution he has made to political life, particularly the development of the people of St. Philip.

I wish, on behalf of my family, to offer condolences to his family and I hope, as I said recently on another occasion and others have repeated it here today, that the passage of these political pioneers and stalwarts will propel us to agree on both sides on a mechanism that will enable the careers, experiences, recollections and reminiscences of those who have served to be recorded in some permanent form for posterity.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to add my voice to those who have spoken so well and eloquently of the late Reynold Weekes. I always saw Mr. Weekes, as I called him, as an old-style politician. Others have been saying that in other words here today. The fact of the matter is, Sir, that that old style of politics remains as valid today as it was in the 1940s, the 1950s, the 1960s and those decades when Reynold Weekes gave of his very best to this country.

I particularly remember him as a member of the old Debates Committee. We call it nowadays the Management Commission of Parliament. He and I sat on it. It was in these meetings that I discovered that Reynold Weekes was a great wit. He had an engaging laugh and was a man, as others have said and I discovered, of great humility. A man of some gentility as well and a man who always commanded the respect of this Honourable House. When he became what one must describe as an elder of this Parliament, all sides showed the deepest respect to Reynold Weekes. 1.05 p.m.

Another thing I discovered about him was that he was a country man. Some people say that in a place like Barbados, as small as Barbados, the difference between town and country is notional. I see myself as a town woman, always have. But Reynold Weekes was a country man who was proud to be a country man and wanted

always to be a country man and I would wish to say on this occasion, Sir, that as a young parliamentarian in this Honourable Chamber, that I learned often times from the example of Reynold Weekes. It is not every Parliamentarian of which I can say that but of Reynold Weekes, Sir, I can say it. I beg to second the motion, Sir, that the usual Resolution be prepared and forwarded to the immediate relatives of the late Reynold Weekes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with the sentiments expressed. Although I personally did not know the late Mr. Weekes, like all Members here I am aware of the tremendous contribution he made to the development of our country. I always admired his humility and commitment and sincerity and I sincerely hope that these qualities will continue to be the kind of examples that we in public life will want to follow.

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his family. This House with acclaim will support the Resolution of sympathy. As a mark of respect to the passing of the late Honourable Member I now ask this Honourable House to join with me in observing one minute silence.

Members of the House rose and observed one minute silence.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.15 this afternoon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.10 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since we last met we lost yet another former Member of this Honourable House of Assembly. Sir Ronald Grenville Mapp left us on the 26th day of September 1995. It is not usual in these circumstances that one formally reads a Resolution but I wish to do that today in respect of the late Sir Ronald.

WHEREAS the late Sir Ronald Grenville Mapp, Knight of St. Andrew, passed this life on the 26th day of September 1995 and whereas the late Sir

Ronald was a Member of this Honourable House for the Constituency of St. Thomas from 1946 to 1961 and of the Honourable, the Senate from 1966 to 1971 and also from 1976 to 1979,

AND WHEREAS the late Sir Ronald rendered distinguished service to this country as a Parliamentarian, as a Minister of Government from 1954 to 1961 and from 1976 to 1979 as our Ambassador to the United States, as an educator, as a journalist, as a public servant and in other areas of the life of our country,

AND WHEREAS the career of the late Sir Ronald spanned a major period in the emergence of Barbados into a prominent place in the comity of nations, and he contributed in his time in outstanding measure to the progress and development of our nation,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House deeply regrets the passing of the late Sir Ronald Grenville Mapp and be it further resolved that this House extend our own sincere condolences to his widow, children and other members of his family on his passing,

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe it is correct to say that perhaps Sir Ronald Mapp was among the very first if not the first Parliamentarian that I remember, apart from my own late father, that I knew. He belonged to the Barbados Labour Party in a very special kind of way. It was his entire life and over the past ten days or so much has been written about his relationship with our great party and about his contribution in all of the areas that the Resolution enumerates.

I have had cause to say, as a Parliamentarian, many, many years ago that in here it does not necessarily mean that we are all friends. Some of us are friends, but for the most part we are parliamentary colleagues. Friendship, in my understanding of it and my own experience of it, would mean that we visit each other's homes and we know each other's children and we can give each other advice of the heartiest kind from time to time and Ronald Mapp as he then was when I was a child growing up was one of that group that would sometimes come to our house at Brighton in Black Rock in St. Michael. Sir Frank Walcott was one like that. He was good with the children in my memory but Ronald Mapp, always a very gentle, soft-spoken person. It was as a journalist that Ronald gave me my first introduction as to what journalism was about and the kind of respect that was paid to journalists in those days. Those were the days of Mitchie Hewitt and of Joe Broome. In those days you really had parliamentary reporting.

He graced this Chamber at a time when it was in a different configuration. There used to be a huge horseshoe

shaped table in here and I remember, I think it is the first time I ever came in here and sat in the visitor's gallery, I was so short, so small I could not see what was going on and so I stood up so I could see and the Marshal at that time on the instruction of the then Speaker, advised that I should take my seat or leave. I took my seat. But Ronald Mapp epitomised everything I think a good parliamentarian would have done. He had a devotion second to none to the Barbados Labour Party, I remember just the Thursday night before he died I was chairing the National Council of the Labour Party in a meeting that ended about half past ten or a quarter to eleven. I said to him; "You know R. O. I hope you are not driving yourself." And he said; "No, no, no, we fought that battle already. I am going to be picked up." I said to him; "You know that you do not always have to stay to the very bitter end. It is late and so on and so forth." And he said; "No, no, no." His njanner was so unassuming, self-deprecatory manner almost and he brushed that away. I then next saw him and not knowing of course that it was the last time that I was going to see him at what clearly must have been his last public function and it is fortuitous that it took place in St. Thomas where we were commemorating the life and times of the late Tom Adams at the Sharon Moravian Church. It was the tenth anniversary of the passing of the late Tom Adams and we really were doing the commemoration on September 24th which was the date of his birth and it said something that to the very bitter end Ronald Mapp was among the people who were his constituents. There is still a generation in St. Thomas who will speak kindly of him and who knew him on a one-to-one basis. 2.25 p.m.

I want to speak particularly today about Ronald as a Minister and as a parliamentarian. He first went to the Cabinet in 1954. He was a member of the first Cabinet. I think that I am one of the few people who still have a photograph of them standing in the Senate gallery in their tailcoats in those days. But Ronald Mapp's first Ministry was the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Labour. We think that we have voluminous portfolios today and that we work exceptionally hard, of course, we do. But in 1954 Ronald Mapp was responsible for Trade and Commerce, Industry, Tourism, for Minerals and Labour. It is true that the Ministries were not of the size that they are today but conceptually and policy-wise this was quite a broad spectrum for which he was responsible. As a Minister of Tourism in 1954, he would obviously have been the first Minister of Tourism to have presided over the birth of what was then called the Tourism Development Board. As a Minister of Trade and Commerce and Industry in 1954, he would have been presiding over and inaugurating the Barbados Development Board of those days which today has evolved into the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation and other entities besides. Such a large

grasp did he have of the management of Government. And then in a later administration Ronald Mapp became the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing and I think that this is where his greatest contribution was in the late fifties.

Ronald Mapp, as a Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, was responsible for aviation, electricity, harbour and shipping, highways and transport, Post Office, public works, water works and housing. That was his portfolio. Those were the glorious golden days when we were building a Deep Water Harbour, something quite unknown, which brought new skills to Barbados in addition to everything else that a Deep Water Harbour stands for and at a time when Seawell Airport, as it was then, was going to be transformed into what we now take for granted as the Grantley Adams International Airport. It was no mean task that Ronald Mapp had all of that and more on his plate to do. In those days, Ministers got on the ground. I clearly remember my father when we were building the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The morning that the steel came in at the Pierhead, he as an engineer had to be down there to touch it and see it and so on and it was more hands-on than even it is today. But Ronald Mapp presided in one administration over the construction of the Deep Water Harbour which was a massive undertaking. I remember Costain were the contractors and it turned out now that Barbadians certainly have learned one major skill out of that. We know now how to reclaim land in a way that perhaps no one else does in the Caribbean. But Ronald Mapp presided over that and the modernization and total rebuilding of Seawell Airport, now Grantley Adams International Airport, all at one and the same time at a time when he was the Minister of Housing. Those were the days when we built the Pine Housing Estate and we built a housing estate down at Belleplaine in St Andrew, decentralizing true to the basic principles of Labour Party Government. We are the party of decentralization and Ronald Mapp perhaps practised that in the Ministries which it was his honour to hold more than most.

We went into Opposition in 1961 and Ronald Mapp never ceased to be busy with the business of the Barbados Labour Party. There are others I am sure who have spoken and will speak again of his dedication to the Beacon. Incredible! I can remember the days at 111 Roebuck Street when Ronald Mapp with an old greasy printing machine would virtually write the Beacon with the help of a few friends and sometimes without any help from a few friends print it, put it in the boot of his car and drive around Barbados literally distributing it. So he was publisher, printer, writer, distributor, and he was the Beacon for many, many years and never tired in that task. He was not one of those who in years of opposition went into abeyance or hibernation or dormancy. That was when Ronald Mapp was perhaps at his busiest, an attitude that I hope I and

others will emulate. From the day of loss, the day of rebuilding begins and Ronald was an exquisite example of that to us. Then again in the 1976-81 administration it was an interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Cabinet of 1976 had an average age of 44. Ronald Mapp was then the most senior member in terms of age and experience in that Cabinet and I was its youngest member. I well remember the guidance that he gave all of us who except for him were coming to the Cabinet for the first time in 1976. He was the only one who had previous experience in the Cabinet so it was to him that we looked for guidance as to how one departed oneself in the Cabinet and how a Cabinet worked. He was not a "fuddy-duddy" either. Ronald Mapp was not one of those people who was given to putting down new ways of doing things. He was not a man who was scornful of the new technology at all. But I suppose that I would describe him as the perfect elder statesman in that capacity and not only at Government Headquarters in the Cabinet. At 111 Roebuck Street now known as Grantley Adams House the headquarters of the Barbados Labour Party, in our National Executive Council and committee meetings at the level of the branch, Ronald was a walking history of the Labour Party and how things were done in the Labour Party. You could always call upon him. In a way, he was the oral history. I think someone made the point earlier this morning that it is a great pity that men like Ronald Mapp and Reynold Weekes and others are passing on and we have nothing written. Even with all the electronic technology at our disposal now, we have a very fragile record of their tremendous contribution. 2.35 p.m.

Ronald Mapp was one of the great pioneers. He was always younger than his colleagues in the Cabinet over the years but his contribution was tremendous. In those days, as it is now, it was not an easy thing - and it still is not an easy thing - for somebody to give up a job with good security of tenure and steady salary in the Government Service to go into politics, even in these days when we are better paid.

When Ronald Mapp first became a Minister of Government, his monthly salary was \$600.00. Of course, in those days a man who was earning \$150.00 a month was a big earner. Even in the early 1960s a man who was carrying home \$250.00 a month was viewed as a man of some substance. Those were the days. Of course, when he first went into Parliament they were not paid at all; but with ministerial Government that is what the salary was, \$600.00 a month, and Ronald had a family to keep on that as well.

As a family man again, his example could not be faulted. For me, the very quiet spoken gentleman that I knew, the best example he has left is as a parliamentarian. Sometimes when I am about to do something, and this was before he died - it will continue to happen now since

his passing - there have been moments when I have thought, what would Ronald have done in these circumstances. What advice might he give me in these circumstances, and this is how people live on. I would like to think that Ronald Mapp will live on in the Labour Party in that way.

We are going to miss him dreadfully. He was no quiet, dumb elder just sitting on, nodding and listening. Ronald Mapp to the bitter end was as vigorous in debate at the National Council table, on the floor of the Annual Conference or wherever else. Especially if you invited him, he would sometimes come to constituency branch meetings and you could always count on the fact that he would get up and make a contribution and it was always a telling contribution which stayed with you.

I truly regret that Ronald did not get to write a history of the Labour Party. He was mighty with his pen and he had a way with the language. He as the journalist, I think, would have done the Labour Party a tremendous favour. But we do not look to that enough and we should because an entire generation of pioneers have left us. Those who claim to be historians among us are not exactly prolific in their writings. They are hardly published and it is a great pity because as this century comes to a close, and bearing in mind that it is the close of a millennium as well, there is so much that has happened in the last half of the 20th Century for us in the Caribbean and for us particularly here in Barbados, and Ronald Mapp played a large and heroic part in it all. It would be left to us who knew him to pass on the oral history* I hope that what I am saying is not entirely falling on deaf ears and that somebody will write, or maybe somebody is already writing but there are not too many of us.

This brings me to the history of this Chamber. We like to boast that we are the third oldest Parliament in the Commonwealth after the Parliament in the United Kingdom and the Parliament in Bermuda. When I have to speak to Americans, Canadians and Australians, sometimes I have to confess, I adopt a superior attitude and I say "You have baby Parliaments compared to us. You can barely make it to a Bicentennial". We are a Parliament more than 356 years old, a parliamentary system, of course, not as fine and as sophisticated in the earlier days as it is today but I would venture to think that the last 50 years in the life of this Parliament may have been among the most tumultuous and historical - maybe it is a vanity on my part - and maybe the most noteworthy; but Ronald Mapp played his role in that.

Mr. Speaker, I would wish the Resolution that I read earlier to be forwarded to his widow and family with the

usual sentiments from this House as a mark of our affection and our respect for the late Ronald Mapp.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this Resolution and to recall the great contribution that the late Sir Ronald Mapp has made to Barbados as a politician, as a journalist, as a storyteller and as a great humanist. When I first joined the Labour Party in the 1950s, the Labour Party was at the height of its power. Between 1946 and 1961, the most far-reaching measures were introduced in the legislature of this country commencing, in my opinion, with the establishment of adult suffrage in 1951, the introduction of a ministerial system of Government and the utilisation of the new power by the new majority to ensure that the Laws that govern our land reflected their objective of the improvement of the general masses. Ronald Mapp was an integral part of this development. As has been said, one only has to look at what had taken place between 1946 and 1961 when he entered the House and left the House to appreciate the significance of his contribution.

I well remember the political issues of the 1961 campaign at which the Labour Party spokesmen - and he was one of them - were proud to be able to recall some of these achievements in addition to adult suffrage, such matters as the Protection of the Wages Act, the new legislation, the introduction of the Board of Tourism, the Development Board, as has already been referred to, the great infrastructural works of building the Deep Water Harbour and the significance of which I think should be placed on record. It is not often remembered that in the 300-odd years of Barbados' existence at that time there was always full agreement of the need for a deep water harbour but the forces that governed this country were never courageous enough to incur the debt necessary for the building of that harbour. It took the Government that had courage, that had faith, that had understanding to make that significant and important investment 2.45 p.m.

Perhaps many people do not understand that in a small society like ours very often it is the Government who are the leaders and not private enterprise. But parallel with the building of the deep water harbour the expansion of Seawell Airport as it was then called was taking place.

Ronald Mapp also was the first Minister of Town Planning in Barbados. When town planning was introduced in Barbados the responsibility for the policy was vested in the Minister of Communications and Works and at that time he was the Minister of Communications and Works. It was not an easy decision for the Government of the

day to decide that the time had come for Barbados to be subject to a regulatory regime which would control the development of all land use in Barbados.

It has been truly said that this country is a country in which all land owners of whatever colour and of whatever size of holding regarded themselves as people who should not be subjected to any regime. Indeed perhaps one of the most significant decisions taken by the then Minister of Planning was his decision and the decision of the Cabinet to freeze all development that would take place in the whole of the area starting in Black Rock and going through such areas as Oxnards, Cave Hill and the whole of what is now the Constituency of St James South. When that Order was made it was the indispensable instrument that was necessary to permit the planning of what became known as the Greater Bridgetown Plan.

Many other people will also remember that as Minister of Town Planning, early in the operation of the regime the laws were tested in a very embarrassing way when a developer decided that in Maxwell Road he would build a house in total defiance of the town planning laws. Ronald Mapp, as a Minister, saw this as a test as to whether might was stronger than right, whether the arm of the law was long enough and strong enough against its violators. The Town Planning office demolished that building.

When I reflect today on the cowardly activity that takes place under the name of town planning in which there is very often open defiance of the laws and nothing is done, I salute the courage of the predecessors in their offices and the Ministers who are responsible for that. Part of the foundation of that house that was removed by the Ministry of Public Works in accordance with the law after the appeals were exhausted in the law courts, still remains there as a symbol of the majesty of the law. Sometimes when I have to deal with the Town Planning Office I have to remind them that it was better that they go up there and have a look and see how the law was meant to operate against people who defy it

Obviously in the context of Barbadian politics that became an issue in the 1961 election. Ronald Mapp lost his seat in 1961. He did not retire from politics despite the fact that he was no doubt very disappointed in his loss. He embarked upon a new career. Ronald Mapp became a small businessman that imported into Barbados beauty products which were specially made for black men and women. He became the agent of, I think, Mary Watkins products. I remember when he set up his office in the Labour Party headquarters and when one would go there sometimes and one would see large numbers of young women who came there to take products on consignment and who would go all over the country selling these products on consignment.

In those days of great political bitterness there were some who accused Ronald Mapp of being a Minister of hairpins, lipstick and things of that kind. He took it all in his stride. He was never a combative politician. He never bore malice. He took everything his opponents had to say about him. He earned his living in that way and later on the products became so popular that no longer would those jibes be hurled at him. Indeed I believe it is true to say that he made a lot of friends on both sides of the political arena to the extent that in his latter days one of his great joys in life was to go every morning to Rockley Beach and have an early morning political discussion with well-known supporters of the DLP and even well-known supporters of the NDP and he and them would argue every morning about the merits and demerits of their respective party. 2.55 p.m.

As a journalist, his contribution to writing in Barbados is well known. Not only was he the editor of the Beacon of which the late Tom Adams and myself and a number of other people were the financiers, but to put out the Beacon on a Friday inevitably meant that you had a call from Ronald telling you that they had no paper, no credit and they needed a little contribution. When the Beacon Press would not produce, we had to call upon the late Freddie Miller to come and deal with the grease and that ancient piece of machinery that was hand fed, hand composed and you had to feed the paper sheet by sheet and very often in the wee hours of the morning on Saturday the paper would come out. Only then some of us had the additional burden of distributing that newspaper across the country to the very anxious agents. There were agents for the Beacon Newspaper, Sir, who if they did not get their delivery on time, they used to ring the Labour Party Office and they were very abusive. Because the message of the Labour Party had to be distributed in each and every village in Barbados. That is a measure of the commitment that Ronald Mapp made, an heroic effort in the cause of the Labour Party.

As a journalist, he also made in my opinion an outstanding contribution when he wrote in the Daily News at the time of the great Federal Debate it was called and he wrote that those articles were there for all of the students of the political history in Barbados to read. They were well written, they were well argued and they reflected his wide understanding of systems of Government. He, I believe, was nominated for an award by the OAS for his contribution at that time.

In addition to his journalism, Ronald Mapp rejoined the Cabinet in 1976 when we were all green horns, enthusiastic, energetic but sometimes a little lacking in our knowledge of procedure and particularly in our knowledge of how to get things done. It is very important that

people understand that sometimes those who are entrusted with a governance of a country by the electorate are frustrated by those who have long experience in executing Government plans. He helped us and guided us over that period of time while we were trying to have our ideas implemented in practice.

He was a great friend of some of the West Indian nationalists. Particularly, he engaged in a series of correspondence with C. L. R. James. One of his delights was when C. L. R. James came to Barbados after the 1961 election and had a series of lectures in Passage Road I believe it was and, when he wrote a report on the cause of the defeat of the Barbados Labour Party and his prognosis on the future of the Democratic Labour Party and its members, I think that one can best appreciate that by reading it

The latter part of Sir Ronald's life was spent in quietly enjoying his reading, watching his cricket and also in attending every function that the Labour Party had. It is amazing that even though he lost of his energy and he was indeed for sometime ill with a condition relating to his heart, he still summoned the energy to enter into our public functions. Whether it was our Annual Conference, as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said of the celebration of the memorial for the late Tom Adams, he made a special effort to attend.

I think that it can truly be said, Sir, that he is one of the nation's builders of Barbados. There are only a couple of them left and he himself would have told you as he told me within the last year that it was he, Frank, Sir Theodore and "Sleepy"¹ left because they were the members and the activists in the movement at the time when the only contribution that the state gave was the contribution of sacrifice. There was no remuneration for Ronald Mapp when he joined this movement. He was proud of the fact that he made that sacrifice and I think, Sir, we should all be proud of the fact that Barbados was able to produce a man of the character and the commitment of Ronald Mapp.

I would like to join with the Leader of the House in extending my deepest condolences to his wife and his family.

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

Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the passing of the late Sir Ronald has brought to an end a career of 50 years in Barbadian politics. It is not widely remembered that Sir Ronald first joined the Labour Party

around 1945 and entered Parliament at the age of 26 in 1946 and that he served actively and at different levels until 1995. In fact, he contributed to Barbadian politics for *** 50 years. That is a large span of time indeed. It has also brought to an end the life of one of the architects of what Sir Hugh Springer in the Henry Morley lecture called "New Barbados". That is referred to by others as modern Barbados and he is truly deemed as one of the architects of the new Barbados as we know it.

The first thing about Sir Ronald that I think we need to note is his courage, sacrifice and commitment. It was regarded as stupidity bordering on madness for a young man without means in 1945 to give up his security which the Deputy Prime Minister referred to of a job in the Civil Service. He had moved from teaching to working in the courts as a civil servant and joined the Labour Movement as it was called then. He did that at that tender age in very difficult circumstances and I think it reflected courage, conviction and commitment. 3.05 p.m.

When he entered Parliament, that was still the day of the restricted franchise and Ronald Mapp made it his major pre-occupation to fight for constitutional advance. The Resolution that led to Adult Suffrage in Barbados was introduced by Ronald Mapp. That is not widely remembered either. That was in 1948 when he introduced that Resolution.

It is also true that the Resolution that extended the House from 2 years to 3 years was also introduced by Ronald Mapp, with the full support of all members of the House of Assembly then.

But that was also a time when the Legislative Council had considerable power and a lot of the ameliorative and liberal measures of the Government of the day were being blocked, delayed and defeated in the Legislative Council. The Petroleum Bill, the Maude Bill that led to the collapse of the Vestry system and its replacement with Local Government, the Holidays With Pay Bill, all of those Bills were defeated in the Legislative Council and Ronald Mapp also had it as his pre-occupation the constitutional advance that extended as far as restricting the powers of the Legislative Council and ensuring that thereafter it would be populated with persons who would ensure that liberal, progressive measures were passed.

Some while ago I had to reflect on why it is that when Sir Ronald delivered the Eulogy on the occasion of the funeral of Sir Mencea Cox he spoke about the legislative and infrastructural changes that took place

in that era and the role that Sir Mencea played. In truth and in fact that is precisely how we should see Sir Ronald because he was part of a mighty movement that resulted in major political, legislative and social changes in this Barbados of ours. And he was also present at some major developments in the history of modern Barbados.

Sir Ronald Mapp, as I said, was not only a central figure in ensuring that we got adult suffrage, but, as has been pointed out, when the ministerial system of Government came in 1954, he was among the first Ministers. When the Cabinet system came in 1958, he was among the first Cabinet Ministers. When the cozy and Siamese Twin-like relationship between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union came to a head, he was a central figure in the heated debates that took place in the councils of the Barbados Labour Party. When the Democratic Labour Party was born out of the bosom, as it were, or the womb of the Barbados Labour Party, he was also a central figure in the debates that took place then in the councils of the Barbados Labour Party.

He played, and this is not widely remembered either, a major role in the move towards the establishment of the first West Indian Federation. He attended a lot of the inter-governmental conferences of the day. They had to determine where the headquarters would be located, the constitution of the secretariat, and so on.

In that respect he was not only an outstanding Federalist but he gave considerable support to Sir Orantley Adams who left Barbados then and went to the Federal Government. He was part of the adjustment process of the Barbados Labour Party to the loss of Sir Grantley.

He was present when the major changes took place in the Local Government system following the implementation of the recommendations of Sir John Maude. In all of those cataclysmic changes, as it were, he was at the centre. To that extent I join with the Deputy Prime Minister in regretting that he did not have the opportunity, or the energy in the last years to really commit his experiences to writing because he lived through one of the most interesting periods in the history of Barbados. I am sure that we have a lot to learn from his life and from his example and there are a lot of lessons in his experiences which he could have recorded for the benefit of all of us.

The second point that must be said about him is his devotion to public life. One really has to love politics and believe in the cause of the people and the cause of one's party to be unwavering in one's support and loyalty for 50 years. And that is what Ronald Mapp gave to the Barbados Labour Party and to this country. He was particularly loyal to his great friend Sir Grantley Adams. He was a loyal

supporter of Grantley Adams and in many difficult moments Ronald Mapp was at his side. His son Tom Adams had never forgotten that. I have heard him on several occasions speak of the great support which Ronald Mapp gave to his father and to the cause of the Labour Movement in this country.

At the personal level, Ronald Mapp was a quiet man, full of rich anecdotes, a keen sense of humour, but with a large interest in life and in the affairs of men. There must have been a dozen Friday nights or more that we spent our time together in the basement of the Barbados Labour Party trying to get out the "Beacon". And in those weary moments he would quite often give a story or two, many of them very memorable, but not worthy of repetition on an occasion like this. He never lost his quiet sense of fun.

He had an interest, as was said, in cricket. He had an interest in music. He had an interest too in journalism. In that regard, as has been said by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, he made an outstanding contribution particularly to the big debate which went on in this country - whether we should have gone into a Federation of the 'Little Eight* - sometimes the 'Little Seven* - or whether we should go the route of independence. Those debates, as has been said, are reflected in the pages of the then Daily News and they are still worth our reading. Ronald in those days had a lucid and powerful pen. His contributions make outstanding reading indeed.

I think that his memory will really rest on the large bulk of progressive legislation the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Government of the day, between 1946 and 1961 put on the Statute Book of this country; also on the many infrastructural projects in which he was involved and which have already been referred to.

We take for granted legislation like the Holidays With Pay Act which was regarded then as the most progressive piece of legislation in the whole of the empire. I am here excluding the developed part of the Empire, the Great Dominions, as they were called then. And no one else had that sort of legislation and it was not easy to get it on the Statute Book of this country because in the Legislative Council at the time, it was actually rejected on the first occasion. You had people like H. A. Cuke, later to become Sir Archibald, who argued that holidays with pay should be left to the tender mercies of the employers, who further argued that it would be done in God's time. That was the approach of the day.

The mercantile planter class was very adequately reflected and represented in the Upper House. They met a lot of the progressive legislation introduced by the

Barbados Labour Party with fierce resistance. But notwithstanding that, we were able to put in place some of the most progressive legislation that could be found anywhere in what was then called the British Empire, and Ronald Mapp was part of that. He was part of the large infrastructural developments that took place during that period. I think that history will remember him as part of that liberal, progressive, modernising force in Barbadian politics at the time, the Barbados Labour Party and the great contribution that it made to the transformation and the upliftment of the lives of the masses of the people of this country. 3.15 p.m.

I have known him sometimes at close range and at other times at not so close but I have certainly known him from the mid-1950s and it was a privilege and a pleasure for me to have met him and to have known him and I wish to join with the mover of this Resolution in expressing my sympathy to his wife and to all the members of his family and his close friends who at this time are mourning his

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief. I wish to extend to the family of the late Sir Ronald Mapp and the family of the Barbados Labour Party, our sincere condolences on his passing,

I thank those Members who have outlined his public record some features of which were within my knowledge but much of what was said has added to that store of knowledge from which we can draw for the exercise which is to be undertaken for bringing greater public awareness to the work of these outstanding Barbadians and is quite right that the last post is being trumpeted on that parade of Barbadian politicians.

My contact with Sir Ronald was entirely personal. I do not recall that we have ever had a political conversation but we were in business together, a very short-lived business that failed. A personal friend of ours was in difficulty and we all put together - my legal services and a few dollars and he put a pretty sizeable contribution because he genuinely liked the gentleman who happened to be married to a Barbadian and he set up a Restaurant and when the business was failing we all went regularly and decided to have dinner at the restaurant which was on the same road as Crystal Waters, but on the other side. We went to the restaurant quite a lot and had a good time with the last pieces of investment that we could salvage. I found his conversation enlightening, very interesting and certainly in his discussions with me since we never trespassed on the partisan political line were always about the involvement of people at a young age in politics and the life story of people involved in politics rather than their political view

points. In that regard he certainly provided for me some inspiration,

I also found him very gracious and gentlemanly. There was never an occasion, publicly or privately, when he passed me without us exchanging pleasant words even promising to call each other on some matter. So in that sense I must say that those who said he was quiet, unassuming and never antagonistic, I also found that to be the case with him and of all of the generation of old politicians, He was also witty and frank in those conversations which I had with him.

To therefore put in context those politicians like Reynold Weekes and Ronald Mapp, some of whom are still in politics today, it is appropriate. And I hope you, Mr. Speaker, since you nodded in agreement would be able to inspire the effort to be made by this Parliament or by the country as a whole, to seek to define that era in Barbadian politics which was definitely an era of transition and definitely the role of parliamentarians in those days is significantly different to what it is now and to seek to distil from that what things we have done right and done well and those things that we have done wrong.

It is a pity that many of those politicians will not be here to comment on it because certainly they would have had very strong views and perhaps we have not spent enough time trying to receive those views and integrate them into what we are doing in contemporary efforts to push Barbados forward. But, as I have said the political contribution I cannot speak of though I would not disagree with anything that has been said by Members but as a Barbadian patriot and as a distinguished Barbadian the Democratic Labour Party has absolutely no hesitation in extolling those virtues which Sir Ronald possessed, with which we can agree, and which would have given to that era of politicians the greatness which we now recognise in them.

So with those few words I once again extend my condolences to his family and friends and we will support the Resolution which was moved by the Honourable Leader of the House.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, when the Poet penned that poem *Moit de Arthur* one passage I remember goes somewhat:

¹¹ And slowly answered Arthur from the Barge, the old order changeth yielding place to new as God fulfills himself in many ways. Comfort thyself, what comfort is in me. I have lived my life and that which I have done may he within himself make pure but thou, if you shouldst never see my face again pray

for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Therefore let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day. For what are men, better than sheep or goats that nourish a blind light within the brain. But if knowing God they lift not hands and prayer both for themselves and those who call me friend. But now farewell I am going a long way.¹¹

Mr. Speaker, on the 25th September, Sir Ronald Mapp bade us farewell and he went on his way. We went on the 30th September 1995 and bade him farewell also.

Sir Ronald Mapp was met by Sir Grantley Adams and he was encouraged by Sir Grantley to get involved in those days in a movement. Sir Ronald was not one to test the water by dipping his toe or his finger, he was one who was courageous enough to jump in at the deep end and out of that great plunge he made emerged one of the great nation builders of this country. He along with that great combination of ABC, Adams, Bryan and Cox have made history in this country and have put in place a foundation which has never been shaken. 3.25 p.m.

My personal touch with Sir Ronald goes back to 1992 when I joined the Barbados Labour Party. At that time there were one or two people of the rank and file who did not support my joining the party. I met Sir Ronald one morning at J.B.'s Supermarket in Christ Church and he said to me: "Brother Marshall, how are things going in your constituency?" I said to him: "Sir Ronald, I am working very hard." He said to me: "Do not let those detractors deter you. You have a name Rommel and Rommel was a great German General and he was a winner, and you have to win St Michael West Central." With those words, they played on me and I went out there and I did what he asked me to do. After the election, Sir, Sir Ronald sat and he spoke to me. He talked to me about the history of the Barbados Labour Party and he talked to me about the country and what I should be doing in this country.

Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Prime Minister said, I hope that down the road not too far away we can have some kind of record on those people who have made a great contribution to this country. We still have some of those vintage people in Mrs. Ermine Bourne, Martin Tudor, Sir Frank Walcott, Mr. Heibie Dowding, Mr. Lorenzo Williams, Sir Frederick Smith and Sir Theodore Branker. I believe that some effort should be made to contact these people to make sure that we have some kind of record, so that when they pass this earth and go to the great beyond we can have the record that we can use.

On behalf of my family and myself, I join with those who spoke before me on passing on condolences to the family of Sir Ronald. I thank you.

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

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join with the annalgetics which have been paid to the late Sir Ronald Mapp. I believe that Honourable Members who have spoken before me have spoken very movingly and have outlined the main features of his political and personal life in this country. Fifty years is a very long time for anyone to devote to public life. When we looked at Sir Ronald up to a week or so before he died, one did not believe that so much time had been given by him because he was surprisingly youthful in looks. He was certainly youthful in spirit and in expression and he continued to hold a binding link to the younger generations. There is no doubt, Sir, that that generation to which he belong has almost passed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central has drawn our attention to seven persons who would have been in public life at the same time as Sir Ronald, some of whom claim different parts still in public life. But the bulk of that generation has gone on and perhaps those of us who are nearer to his age are now entering into the line that he has passed beyond.

I just wish to add a few remarks about some of his qualities in a summary fashion as I can. One of the qualities that stood out and does stand out in my mind about Sir Ronald is his loyalty. He was loyal to country even when he disagreed with the policies of the Democratic Labour Party or the Congress Party or the Barbados Electoral Association or the Barbados National Party or the Progressive Conservatives, you always got the feeling that Ronald Mapp put his views out of a sense of loyalty and not from the point of view of crushing his opponents. His loyalty to his country was one of his outstanding qualities and indeed I do recall the Federal Debates. I sat at his feet like others in this House such as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and listened to his words of wisdom and learned a lot from him then and in fact his infectious conviction about the West Indian nation was certainly transferred to those of us who espoused the cause and were younger than he was. So there was loyalty to country that could be characterized as a deep sense of patriotism.

Then there was the loyalty to his Party. There is no doubt about it that Sir Ronald believed in the Barbados Labour Party, its philosophies and its principles. Like every living organism the Party had its ups and downs. It had its bright days and its bad days and it had its difficulties. But Sir Ronald never wavered from his support for the institution and for the principles the institution stood for. In fact, he has played on numerous occasions the role of the reconciler. I recall one difficult period during the time that I was a Minister or just after being a Minister when we had a particular difficulty with one of our members who subsequently crossed the floor. I remember some of

us spending several hours at the home of the late Tom Adams discussing the matter and Sir Ronald using his tremendous powers in order to effect reconciliation rather than disintegration. That loyalty to his Party manifested itself not only at the level of Government and the things that he did for the Party that are publicly known, but in the way he reached out to the rank and file and Sir Ronald found time for Party events. As people tend to do, others would shy away from the Party in the days that it was not in office and in power not so Sir Ronald Mapp. You would see him at every event no matter what the event was, and whether it was a constituency tea party, whether it was a meeting of the National Organization of Women, Sir Ronald was always there; In fact, I would like to place on record that up to two weeks before he died at the last meeting of my constituency branch and he was a member of that branch, at our Annual General Meeting Sir Ronald was there making his contribution financially, making his contribution by his presence and making his contribution by his advice. This is very much appreciated by those of us who believe that eventually in politics the contribution to the constituents and your closeness to your constituents is a very important part of political life. 3.35 p.m.

Sir Ronald also was loyal to his family. Once again I have had the privilege and the honour of visiting his home on numerous occasions and also being in his company with members of his immediate family, and his wider family, to see how devoted he was to them. The time he took and gave for them was phenomenal.

Then he had loyalty to his friends as well. His friends crossed the political barriers. His friends crossed the social barriers. His friends crossed the racial barriers. His friends crossed the religious barriers. But Sir Ronald found time for them. He delighted, in fact, in old friendships in particular and would regale us all with stories of his boyhood and of his days as a young politician, and the people he met, some of whom had gone far afield and returned from time to time. Those people who spent the mornings with him at the beach at Rockley would also refer to this aspect of Sir Ronald. It was on occasions such as these that he manifested, perhaps, his greatest sense of wit and humour.

But that loyalty of which I speak, Mr. Speaker, was not blind loyalty. When it came to loyalty to party and to country, it was founded on strong, philosophical bases. Sir Ronald believed in democratic socialism. He believed that the state had a role to play in the transformation of the quality of life and in the transformation of those terrible conditions which confronted the bulk of Barbadians prior to the foundation of the Barbados Labour Party and the role which it has played in this country.

As a matter of fact, I recall when at Combemere School we sought to alter parts of the constitution of the party and Sir Ronald contributed then and made sure that the party maintained within its constitution its commitment to democratic socialism. He was one of the most convinced democratic socialists that I have known and no matter what has happened in the new world of the Thatchers, and the Reagans, although Sir Ronald could find a role for private enterprise and other capitalists to play, he has gone to his grave convinced and satisfied that the transformation of Barbados would not have taken place except the democratic socialist had vision and made that difference after 1937. I think events have proved him right, particularly in this part of the world, and in the developing world in general.

The other thing I would like to say, Sir, is that his conviction meant that he was firm. Firm in his views he would be able to advise you. He may not always agree with you and you should never take that disagreement as disloyalty. You should never take his disagreement as anything personal. But whenever you left Sir Ronald, having had an argument with him, you came away that here was a man speaking with a firm conviction about the things he believed in and the goals which he sought to achieve for his country and his party.

Mr. Speaker, in this House some years ago when we designated January 21, I think, as the Errol Barrow Memorial Day, we did so with the undertaking of the then Government that we would move to set up a committee in order to honour national heroes and to have at least one particular day for honouring our national heroes.

The passing of Sir Ronald gives me the opportunity to remind this House of that pledge and undertaking. I believe it is our duty not merely to use these opportunities to praise people, but to use the opportunity really to ensure that their memory will live on, not merely in the pages of Hansard with the words that we utter today after they have gone, but that their work will live on in the sight and the memory of man.

It was a very interesting article, Mr. Speaker, which I read in the "Times" earlier this year. The "Times" carried out a survey among the young Englishmen to find out how many of them knew who was Sir Winston Churchill and what he had achieved. The results were absolutely surprising, even to the British. Very few of the people in the younger age groups, and I am talking about 45 and under, knew who Sir Winston Churchill was. Some of

them barely had a recognition of his name, and this is in England itself. I believe that we have to find a way of making sure that that does not happen here in Barbados about our national heroes of different eras and generations which have contributed so much to making this country the great country it is.

I hope that in joining in this expression of condolence on behalf of my family and myself, in respect of Sir Ronald, that I would hear a firm undertaking that within certainly the life of this Parliament, we have set up the mechanism to name our national heroes and to have a central place of recognizing them, and a special day for their recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is not for me to say what is that special day but I have previously brought to this House, and intend to bring back to the House again a resolution about the events which happened at the time of the riots. I recall the former Prime Minister, the late Tom Adams designating July 26 as a special day. I believe that the time has come for us to move it to more than a special day. I hope that before I leave this House myself that I would see the House accept a resolution to this effect and implement it.

I take the opportunity, Sir, to express my deepest condolence at the passing of a friend, at the passing of a mentor, at the passing of a colleague with whom I had the pleasure to serve in Cabinet, from whom I learnt so much about the Cabinet system of Government and a person with whom I shared the undying conviction of West Indian nationhood. I believe he has made an outstanding contribution and that his work and memory will live on forever.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself With the remarks made thus far in this debate in memory and in salute of Sir Ronald Mapp who has played an outstanding role in the development of modern Barbados. I think, Sir, it was easy because of his unassuming personality and his humility to feel that his role might have been minuscule if one did not, in fact, go and research or read what his contribution might have been back in the 1940s and 1950s in particular. I, Sir, was fortunate enough upon joining the Barbados Labour Party in 1988 to spend time in those early days in particular with Sir Ronald and to learn more intimately about the history of the party, in particular about the contribution of men like himself and Sir Mencea Cox, Freddie Miller who, Sir, pulled considerable weight in the fifties and the sixties in the Labour Party before there was the entry of persons such as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, Christ Church West, St George South and those who are now the elder statesmen of active Barbadian politics but who at that time were at the feet of Sir Ronald. 3.45 p.m.

I think, Sir, it is instructive that in spite of there being two generations' difference between those of my age and those of Sir Ronald's that Sir Ronald was still prepared to offer his considerable wisdom to us in an effort to allow us to avoid as many of the pitfalls that this vocation of politics has to offer, particularly as a young person in politics.

If there was one quality that stood out besides his humility, it was that of his loyalty, his participation at every level of the Barbados Labour Party, be it from the candidate selection committee to a mere member of the audience from the singings at the back of the BLP Headquarters to the church service as recent as the Sunday before his death. In fact, Sir, I believe it is fair to say that he was one of the last people to leave Sharon School that Sunday evening having gotten there Sunday morning at sometime around 10:00 o'clock, and in spite of the fact he was not able to go home in between and he remained there until 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Such was the commitment of the gentleman to the Barbados Labour Party and its causes and its beliefs*

What is also significant, Sir, is the sacrifice which he made personally and for which we should be eternally grateful to him, because there are very few people either then or today who are prepared to make that ultimate sacrifice in spite of what one does receive as a payment if you receive a payment at all as a parliamentarian because at the end of the day, Sir, the adjustments that one has to make to one's life, not only in terms of salary but in terms of time, in terms of commitment, in terms of sacrifices, of privacy, sacrifice of time you spend with your family are all considerable and can certainly have the cumulative effect of causing you to age perhaps more rapidly than you would otherwise age were you not involved, Sir, in politics. Therefore one has to salute the efforts of a man like Sir Ronald who remained in politics for over half a century, some years of active politics but all years as a loyal participant and supporter at party level.

I therefore, Sir, would wish to salute not only Sir Ronald but indeed the commitment of his wife, Lady Mapp who was always at his side provided it was not a private meeting within the Barbados Labour Party that he was attending.

In fact, Sir, I remember the first afternoon that he interviewed me for candidate selection back in 1989 and the considerably gruelling session it was but still ensuring that at the end of the day, Sir, that I was not humiliated to the point of not wanting to participate but certainly impressing upon me that this was no light responsibility nor light commitment and that unless I was absolutely

certain that I wanted to make the commitment, it made no sense leaving that room with any views of continuing or starting a career in politics. Such was the man, Sir.

I would only wish before I sit, Sir, to make the very brief remark that we have heard the calls on both sides of this House today for the need to record the times and contributions of great Barbadian men and women particularly of the twentieth century who have contributed so much to the building of this country.

We believe that the heritage foundation, once it is established shortly, in conjunction with the National Cultural Foundation should take the lead in ensuring that these facts are recorded for posterity both in literary and pictorial form and eventually, Sir, I hope that either the Audio Visual Aids Department or the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation would seek to do it also in the form of film because the reality is that that is a medium of more popular use than the literary art form today. However, what I can say to you for certain is that I would be meeting with the Curriculum Development Council for the first time this week and one of the terms of reference that they have is to help develop a course on citizenry which will be compulsory for all second and third formers and one of the modules in that course, Sir, will deal with the heritage of this country which of necessity must include the political heritage of this country as well as the history of the trade union movement. So we, Sir, expect that by September 1996 we would be in a position to start this course in our secondary schools, that it would be as a result of broad-based consultation to determine the content of those modules in that course on citizenry and that indeed our children will have the opportunity to learn more of all of those nation builders in politics, out of politics, in communities, men and women who sacrificed elements of their lives to make this place a better country as we enter the twenty-first century.

With those few words, Sir, I would like to pay my own tribute to Sir Ronald and indeed to his wife, Lady Mapp, gracious as she is and indeed his children and close friends because his life was one that made it better and easier for those of my generation. I thank you.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too would like to lend my voice to those who have expressed sympathy to the surviving relatives of Sir Ronald Mapp. When I heard of his death I was out of the country and was unable to get back to Barbados in time to attend his funeral. I will therefore use this as the first public opportunity to express my sentiments about the man of whom such glowing tributes have been paid today.

It was in 1958, Sir, when a number of us got together at the Beacon Headquarters on Lower Roebuck Street next to the old J & R Bakery to form the League of Young

Socialists, the youth wing of the Barbados Labour Party. I believe, Sir, there were about 7 or 8 of us at the time and Ronald Mapp and Glenroy Straughn, one the representative for the constituency of St Joseph, Mr. Straughn and Mr. Mapp the representative for St Thomas, they were our mentors and they provided the guidance that we needed at that time to get this organisation formed and going. I remember we had among the 6 or 8 of us who formed the Young Socialists a young man named Don Blackman and another one named John Connell. These were founder members of this organization and Ronald Mapp on a weekly basis would get together with us and explain to us the direction in which we should go. I remembered this very vividly because I was awed by the fact that a man of his experience and stature could find time to meet with a group of school boys on a regular basis and guide us in the direction that they expressed to him that they wanted to go. My relationship with Sir Ronald remained a very good and close one through the years. If the measure of the success of a man's life is determined by anything, it is determined by the good that he has done to others. Using that yardstick, the life of Sir Ronald Mapp was a superlative success. 3.55 p.m.

He was a man of great humility, abiding decency with a powerful concern for those who were less fortunate in society and that underpinned his personal and political philosophy. I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church West say that he was and remained a strong exponent and practitioner of democratic socialism and it is important that I heard this because my own view is, Sir, that in this age when there is a movement towards the forgetting of the basis for development in this country, it was the days when activist Government was what was responsible for many of the revolutionary changes that took part in the lives of the people.

It was people like Ronald Mapp with his concern for people that made a difference. He understood that policies, programmes and projects were important in Government and if one were to achieve progress attention had to be paid to them. But even more important to Sir Ronald was the fact that at the centre of all development was man. There is no point talking about development unless you were concerned about people and this characterized life not only in those early days when I had the good fortune to meet him but right up until his death.

It is very unusual in our society that those who have achieved and achieved grandly that at the later stages of their lives are as committed to the little things that mattered at the beginning. Those things that mattered at the beginning still matter at the end and that is one of the things that particularly impressed me about Sir Ronald.

In the Cabinet of 1976, he was the only member of that Cabinet who had had Cabinet experience before and, although at that stage he was not at the peak of his stamina, he still brought to bear on Cabinet life and discussions the great benefit of his experience and he was able to guide those of us who were new and young and enthusiastic and who were not as up-to-date and knowledgeable about the rules as he was. He was a great, useful and steady enforcer to us in those days. In his later years, he remained an abiding, constant and loyal Party man. The Barbados Labour Party was his life. He believed in the Barbados Labour Party and he did things that a number of younger and newer members of the Party were disdainful to deal with. He was always there. He was one who would make contributions not only of himself but of his moans to the Barbados Labour Party. When the Labour Party had tough financial days and very few people would know about them as much as I do, Sir Ronald was always willing to open his purse which did not have a lot in it for the benefit of the Barbados Labour Party.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would want on behalf of myself and my family to express to his widow, Lady Mapp, and his other relatives our sincerest condolences in the full knowledge and confidence that the man, Ronald Mapp, will never be forgotten by those who knew him. There are very few people in public life who have had any close connections with my own family which may be a bit unfortunate, but he was one of them and I know that when I received a call from Barbados when I was overseas from my family that Sir Ronald had died they were expressing a loss that they personally felt because of the way in which they got on together even my children as well as my wife. So on behalf of them too, I wish to express my condolences and I am happy to support the Resolution that started this debate.

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

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken elsewhere in tribute to Sir Ronald but I could not let today pass without adding a few words to all that has been said by all those Honourable Members who have spoken such as the Honourable Member for St. George South. Ronald Mapp was a family friend particularly by my parents because he came from St. Peter both from around Queen Street and Church Street and they remained firm friends. He used to visit my father in the last three years because my father was very ill. Almost every month he would drop in and see him. But that went back to their boyhood and early days in the Labour Party,

I remember Ronald Mapp when I joined the Labour Party in 1957 as a boy of 17 years at Lodge School. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. George South, Don Blackman and myself

were members of the League of Young Socialists which used to meet at the Labour Party Headquarters and at Passage Road in Darcy Scott School, the Community High School, where we had our first groundings in political education. Ronald Mapp and Gilmore Roachford in particular used to pay a lot of attention to us and of course as school boys and girls were inspired with a certain idealism and certainly enthusiasm and energy. We were able to get a deep appreciation of political philosophy. It is regrettable that in the 1990's a lot of people in and out of politics seem not concerned with political philosophy. Everything is for new market forces. I am going to be one of the last democratic socialists that there is because I entirely endorse what the Honourable Member for St. George South has said. I think we need to say it more often that there is still a major role, particularly in small countries which do not have highly developed private sectors, for the State to play in terms of the delivery of service and the improvement of the quality of life. That is a philosophy I have had going back from 1957 and I have seen nothing in all of the contemporary jargon to change my basic philosophy that was ingrained in me at a very tender age by people like Ronald Mapp. 4.05 p.m.

Ronald Mapp gave selfless service to this country, But particularly I wish in the short contribution that I make to say that I have followed as the representative for the constituency of St. Thomas the paths that have been trodden both by Tom Adams and Ronald Mapp. He may have lost his seat in St. Thomas in 1961 but then that was a time when the whole party suffered quite a crushing defeat and it was probably to be expected that he may not have survived. But the 15 years that he served were years in which he made an outstanding contribution both to St. Thomas and nationally to Barbados.

I can tell you, Sir, that older constituents of St. Thomas who knew Ronald Mapp as the M.P. have a deep and abiding regard and love for him and what he did for them. I will just mention, for example, the people in Farmers. He took them from down in the gully opposite where the Hillaby/Turner's Hall School now is and put them on top of the hill where they are at Farmers now and gave them a more secure environment. That is just one district where Ronald Mapp is revered. During elections in St. Thomas he would always pass around and see how things were going and try and put in a word for you with constituents who were known to him.

I think it was a measure of the affection and respect that constituents had for him that on the Sunday before he died, to which others have alluded, during the church service it was announced that he had come to the service, but the priest who was not a Barbadian did not recognise

him and when it was pointed out to him that Sir Ronald was among the congregation, he made a suitable apology and there was a great cheer for Sir Ronald.

All the others have spoken about his contribution, I worked with him in housing for a time when he was Minister of Housing for a short period between 1976 and 1979. I was Chairman of the Housing Authority - what is now called the National Housing Corporation - and he was an excellent person to work with. He understood his role as Minister and he allowed the Corporation to function although he had close surveillance over the Corporation which he exercised through regular monthly meetings. But, as others have said, he was in those days teaching us the relationship between the Minister and the Board.

I am pleased to say that there was never any problem in the relationship between himself and the National Housing Corporation when he was Minister and he got a lot done during that time. In fact, it was he who ensured that the party publish a White Paper on Housing. The White Paper on Housing that was laid in here and is, perhaps, the only one that there has been in the last 20 years is one of Ronald Mapp's contribution to Barbados,

I wish, therefore, Mr. Speaker, to express my condolences once again to his family, His step-children and I were friendly for years and I wish to express sincerest condolences to them.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with the sentiments expressed about our late member, I am sure these sentiments truly are the feelings of all of us here. I knew Ronald Mapp for some years and I always found him to be a true gentleman, courteous and respectful to everyone and always there with a very friendly word of advice.

Ronald Mapp in his humble way was always easily approachable and willing to share his many years of experience with anyone who was desirous of any kind of help. His loyalty and dedication, his commitment, the sacrifice of his life have all helped to make our country a better place to live,

My family and I extend our sincere condolences to his wife and family. This Honourable House with acclaim supports the Resolution of Sympathy. As a mark of respect for the passing of the late member, I now invite this Honourable House to stand and observe one minute's silence.

(The House stood for one minute's silence).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the Affirmative without division,

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Order of the Day.

ORDER NO. 2 - THE TENANTRIES DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the leave of the Leader of the House to withdraw Order No. 2 from the Order Paper, the reason being there may be further amendments to this Bill and we would like to bring back these amendments at some later stage with the leave of the House,

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave is granted,

ORDER NO. 7 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SKEETE'S BAY, ST. PHILIP FOR THE SKEETE'S BAY FISHERIES PROJECT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution concerns the acquisition of 6 778 square metres of land at Skeete's Bay, St. Philip for the Skeete's Bay Fisheries Project. A recent feasibility study by Consulting Engineers Partnership had identified certain problems existing at the fish landing site at Skeete's Bay, St Philip and made recommendations designed to correct these deficiencies.

The study found that fish catches at Skeete's Bay were on a downward trend as a result of poor onshore and offshore facilities. Some of the major problems identified were a narrow and somewhat risky channel serving as an access to the landing site, a facility which is inadequate and in a state of disrepair, and on land access which is in a state of disrepair and is in need of upgrading. 4,15 p.m.

Additionally the study found that the fishing industry provided employment for a number of residents of the surrounding districts. In February 1995 the Cabinet agreed to the implementation of a project aimed at improving these facilities. The project is to be funded by the European Development Fund. At that meeting the Cabinet also approved the acquisition of three parcels, the first parcel totalling 4 042 square metres the property of Gloria Manning, 72 square metres the property of Joan Parris, 2 664 square metres the property of W. A Davis for the purpose of facilitating the improvements planned for the Skeete's Bay fish landing site.

The acquisition of these parcels of land is critical to the implementation of the project in as much as one of the special conditions included in the financing proposals for the project was that the Government of Barbados will accelerate the acquisition of lands required for expansion of the facilities at Skeete's Bay and Consett Bay before project start-up.

The lands required for the improvement of similar facilities at Consett Bay have already been acquired. The delay in the acquisition at Skeete's Bay is mainly because of the fact that originally it was felt that Government already owned enough land and it would not have been necessary for any further lands to be acquired for the project.

Legal procedures required for the acquisition have already been completed. The Section 3 notice, under the Land Acquisition Act Cap. 28, has been published. The Resolution seeking approval for the acquisition has been certified by the Attorney General and all the other legal requirements have been complied with. I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Resolution at hand I must make some observations to lend assistance to the Honourable Minister of Public Works.

Some years ago Consulting Engineers Partnership conducted a feasibility study on the question of enhancing fishing facilities at Consett Bay and at Skeete's Bay. They did so bearing a number of economic variables in mind, looking to see the potential of both sides for the expansion of the fishing industry and at all times taking into account the wishes and the desires of the fisher folk at Consett Bay and at Skeete's Bay.

As a result of the feasibility study and the consultations held between Consulting Engineers Partnership, various Government Departments and the

fisher folk a decision was taken, subject to funding, to upgrade the facilities at Consett Bay in St. John and Skeete's Bay in St. Philip.

The acquisition of the particular property at Consett Bay has already been completed and while on the matter of Consett Bay I must indicate to this Honourable House that the facilities that are intended to be installed at Consett Bay are a terminal, a boatyard, a support road where the existing road would be improved, repairs to the existing jetty, the establishment of a better system for launching and mooring boats, provision of ice facilities and storage facilities. It is intended that those facilities that I have just mentioned be installed at Consett Bay.

In respect of the Skeete's Bay component, I must indicate to this Honourable House that even though Consett Bay is geographically in St. John and Skeete's Bay in St. Philip to achieve economies one Project Manager and one project team will be in charge of both and rather than have a separate Consett Bay development and a separate Skeete's Bay development, economies are going to be achieved by the sharing of costs and savings that will result in consequence.

On this occasion Government is seeking to acquire 6 778 square metres at Skeete's Bay. You would know, Mr. Speaker, from experience, I believe all Honourable Members know, that for the last 40 or 50 years the area at Skeete's Bay has been one of the more popular fishing sites on that side of Barbados but in recent years because of a shortage of facilities the fishermen in that area have not been able to achieve optimum catches because basically the existing facilities are outdated, they are not good enough by modern standards and the end result of the absence of modern facilities is that fishermen do not get that spur and that incentive to venture out deep and come back because the landing site is woefully inadequate. As a matter of fact I take it that at the moment all that is there is a market shed and the market shed is on a central nuclear area owned and controlled by Government but the surrounding area has up to now been in private hands. We do not anticipate any difficulty at all in completing this acquisition but there are two outstanding matters that will have to be brought to the attention of this Honourable House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, could we hear the Honourable Member?

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: One is that in respect of Consett Bay, the Codrington Trust is concerned that if we hold on to all of Consett Bay in the name of the Crown they might end up not having access to the beach and to the coast and they are currently in negotiations with us with a view to their being permitted access to the coast.

They want part of the land reserved for them and we are in negotiations with them and we are hoping to be able to achieve an amicable settlement.

In relation to Skeete's Bay one of the property owners is saying that if we take most of his good land then a piece of marginal land adjoining his property which belongs to him too is going to be left back which is of little commercial use and he is trying to influence us to take all and he is also prepared to sit and talk with us. So in that way, Mr. Speaker, we do not foresee any difficulties in completing the acquisition.

I have it from the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, who is not with us today, that he having had word with his people in that area is supportive of this Resolution to the acquisition and is looking forward to the development of a modern fishing facility in his constituency at Skeete's Bay. I believe that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will have no objection either to having an enhancement of Consett Bay. 4.25 p.m.

Insofar as the costing of this project is concerned, as I indicated one project will be implemented for two sites and we estimate, Mr. Speaker, that the European Development Fund will provide the equivalent of Bds.\$3 557 707 supported by counterpart funding from the Government of Barbados in the amount of Bds.\$557 175.

Mr. Speaker, we take it that in a situation where the East of Barbados bears enormous potential for fishing and where the sea to the Atlantic side between parts of St. Joseph coming over to parts of Christ Church is very rich in fish and, in a situation where traditionally fishing folk from the Skeete's Bay area, the Bayfield area, the Consett Bay area and other areas have been exploiting the sea and in a climate too, Mr. Speaker, where some fishermen are taking on themselves the risk of introducing more modern boats to fish, we take it that this project will go a long way towards stimulating additional interest in fishing.

For the benefit of Honourable Members of this House, Mr. Speaker, even though there might be a perception that only people over 40 or 50 are interested in fishing, I must inform this Honourable House that in recent years the Fisheries Department in the Ministry of Agriculture has been very actively encouraging young people by the keeping of training courses for fisher folk. In consequence of this, I must tell Honourable Members that more and more young persons including females are showing interest in going to sea and also in other activities relating to fishing.

Throughout this matter as we have discussed it at governmental level, I have kept close contact with the Honourable Member for St. Andrew as Minister responsible for Public Works; but I want to add that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has always been asking when and how soon. We are sure now about funding for the project. I am happy to say that we have been able to short-list a number of businesses interested in the project and after invitations to persons to pre-qualify, the following three businesses have been short-listed as engineers with a view towards recruiting engineering services: Consulting Engineers Partnership Ltd., Guy M. Griffith Engineers Ltd., David Lashley and Partners Inc.

We expect, Mr. Speaker, after cost and design estimates are properly done that sometime in 1996 this project will start and we believe, Mr. Speaker, that when it gets going it will stimulate some interest in the construction industry. It is obviously going to provide employment and down the road, Mr. Speaker, with modern fishing facilities at Consett Bay and at Skeete's Bay we expect that the fisher folk of the East of Barbados will receive a shot in the arm and be given incentives to fish. We expect that the fish catches in that area will increase. Of significance, Mr. Speaker, is that the figures indicate that where fisher folk are given incentives the fish catches increase. For example, after the Barbados Labour Party Government introduced a modern facility at Oistins, the total landed fish increased and on the West coast where some improvements were done some years ago fish catches increased. We anticipate, Mr. Speaker, with these two facilities coming on stream in the future, that our fish catches will increase, the fishing industry will benefit and persons involved will be better off than they are now.

I, therefore, lend my support to this Resolution and I take it that what I indicated is the current position in relation to where this project has gone so far.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak shortly on this. I am very glad that it has fallen to the Barbados Labour Party to implement this decision. I remember as long ago as 1956 predicting that it would be necessary to improve the facilities along the East coast if we were to realize our true potential. At that time the fishing communities were very closely knit. There were fishing choirs that used to compete among one another from the various fishing beaches. There were cooperative movements that were formed and among the most successful were the ones on the East coast, Skeete's Bay in particular. We have now reached the stage, Sir, where as a result of the efforts of the Barbados Labour Party and successive Governments the fishing industry has become a respectable industry which is making a significant contribution to food security in Barbados. In the area I now represent, there are young men, and I mean

young men under the age of 20, who will tell you that it is their ambition to own a boat to fish between Barbados, Suriname and on the eastern coast of Barbados. They see very clearly that with modern satellite navigation, with the new fibre glass boats, with satellite television it is possible to fish and earn a tremendously successful income. There are in fact one or two young men from Oistins who are captains of what they call long line boats who have been taught by Americans who earn considerably more than any Honourable Member in here earns even from their ministerial salary. They also envisage clearly that this will continue and improve but we have to understand that there is an infrastructural cost. The building of these facilities on the shore is part of it. The provision of a facility for ice is vital. The timely opening of these facilities is also vital. You cannot tell a fisherman when fish is running that you have a bank holiday and these things are not available. Their minds do not think like that. As far as they are concerned, the opportunity to earn a living is provided when fish are running and according to them when that time comes every constraint on their ability to exploit that opportunity must be removed.

I commend Government in being finally able to work around the well known bureaucratic procedures of the European Community for determination and execution of projects. We have reached a major milestone when you have a short list of three engineers. But do not think that your task is over. You are still going to have some frustration when there will be agreement or disagreement between you and the European experts as to which of the three companies are the better engineers. But you must be persistent. As a developing country still dependent upon aid, unfortunately we have to go the bureaucratic procedures set by the aid donors and they become far more difficult when none of their own consultants are the ones who have manifested an interest. That is the experience of it. There are no European consultants among the ones that have been short-listed so that it is very difficult. 435 p.m.

I hope that his project will come to fruition next year. I also hope that the project at Bathsheba, St. Joseph, will be revisited like the one at Speightstown. I know the one at Speightstown will certainly be revisited. I know that because if there is an area that is deserving of fishing facilities in the north of the island of Barbados, Speightstown is certainly one. Everything was in vogue for that when Government lost. There is no doubt about that. That is a vibrant fishing area. There is no question about that at all.

Now, I was a little surprised to hear about some of the problems the Honourable Member for St James North related with respect to the Codrington Trust. I really cannot

follow that because all beaches are public in Barbados and as far as I am aware there is a well known road leading to Consett Bay. Consett Bay is a well known area. I do not see why the Codrington Trust should have any difficulty with anything to do with land. There is no question about it that whatever scheme is put up in that area the public will have access to it even though it is situated where, I hope, it will be improved because I am very sure that the people of St. John will be very grateful to the Labour Party for bringing some measure of development to them because they themselves have not been very well treated in the past with the development. They were represented for many years by a representative who said that the best he could do for them was to bring no development to them, and they were very happy with that.

I do hope though, Sir, that any problem that there is with access would be ironed out. There cannot be a problem with that. If the Government owns the area, everybody in Barbados has access to it so I do not see that as a problem. All of the land surrounding it will have the traditional access to it. It cannot be a problem so please assure the Codrington Trust that their fears are unfounded. Now, it may be that there was a walk. I know that area fairly well because I have walked there a lot. There used to be the old walkway with the train line. I believe the sea has encroached a little bit on that but I am sure with modern technology they will be able to recreate a proper boardwalk or whatever it is so that those people with houses that are to the north-west of the jetty now who have to go up that rough hill and then go back down, will be able to do what they used to be able to do before, that is, to walk from their houses along the sea coast into the bathing area. I am sure you will be able to create a boardwalk by the driving of wooden piles. That is done all around and that should be part of the engineering design.

Let us get on with it, Sir. I would like to see all of them done. In the meantime, I would also like to see the ice plant at Oistins recreated, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, permit me - I did not hear the contribution of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture on this matter but I know that the Skeete's Bay and Consett Bay Project, as it was once styled and I presume it is still so styled, are a twinning of one project, two areas. I came in, however, to hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church South talking about Consett and the Codrington Trust and I am not surprised that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said that.

The Codrington Trust, in my view, and I am not a beneficiary, has been mismanaged for a long time. They own substantial resources in this country which could

be used profitably to the benefit, I assume, of the beneficiaries which may include the Church, and I know there are other people who know better...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member I take it that you are going to get back to this Resolution.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am going to get to that. That's right, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh, I see.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: So they will delay anything. The whole of the development at College Savannah which is the other access to Consett Bay because there are two accesses - there is the old road which was repaved during our time and it is always having problems because of slippage and then there is the access through College Savannah which is contiguous to Consett Bay where the fishing project is and between Consett and Skeete's Bay so it is all connected - People have built wall houses on what purports to be tenantry land. The Trust says that they did not even know that the wall houses were there. They only gave them permission to put on water toilets and when they came back they had built houses. Some face the sea. Some face the road. They are not aligned. You cannot even put in road facilities. That is the College Savannah Development

It is a horrendous town planning problem that has occurred with a development in St. John that has been totally unmanaged and for which the Government may eventually have to try to clean up the problem. I do not know how it will be done because you have houses sited on lots, wall structures facing north, south, east and west, not properly aligned to the road. I am certain that if the Honourable Member for St Andrew looked at it - MTW has tried time and time again to put in water mains but they cannot align the water mains because they cannot align the roads. Therefore, you have a major physical development taking place in Barbados, and it has not stopped, which is not taking place in accordance with Town Planning permission and which the Codrington Trust knows about and has known about for some time. Therefore, if they delay the Consett Bay Fishing Project through what may be considered puerile reasons, I would not be surprised. But I am only going on hearsay so I do not want anybody to quote me as the authority.

I want to say that nothing that could be said by any member of the Barbados Labour Party Cabinet about problems in relation to that area, the management of the land and the development would surprise me and it is a major resource. Codrington College is there. You have all of the land, some of which has been approved for housing. You have the possibility of tourism development You have

the coastline area and then there are other tracts of land owned by the Trust.

I wish the Minister of Agriculture greater luck than I had, not under the present Chairman. I never had any problem with the present Chairman. The present Chairman is His Lordship, the present Bishop, and the administrator, I think, is the former Postmaster General, Mr. Cyril Gill who is also the Bursar at the College. But then there was a time when Sir Neville Osbourne was the principal actor, or secretary, and His Lordship the Bishop, which was Bishop Gomez, was the Chairman, and then it was changed by the present Bishop.

In that time, Mr. Speaker, I made no headway whatsoever and I blame what has happened in College Savannah and the areas surrounding that Consett Bay area on some kind of mismanagement by the Codrington Trust. It is something that is going to cause problems for the Government of Barbados in terms of costs of putting in infrastructure in an area where the development has been unplanned.

However, I wish to say that I would view the Consett Bay Fishing Project, whenever it comes to fruition - it has been long in gestation - as making a very important contribution to the economic development of the East Coast. I do not want to say St. John because I do not want to limit anybody's vision as to the benefits. The benefits will be to some people in St. John but there are lots of other non St John dwellers who land their fish catches at Consett Bay. There are some people from Town who own boats who land their catches at Consett Bay. When we had fishermen's celebrations this year there was a very large crowd of people who were obviously actively involved in fishing and fishing related activities in the Consett Bay area who obviously have some stake in seeing this particular development undertaken. 4.45 p.m.

I do not know when the Consett Bay project was conceived but as I say, it went through successive governments. This is probably about the third or fourth government that has had to be looking at it and likewise Skeete's Bay. Skeete's Bay is also a very lovely area and we are very supportive in the Democratic Labour Party of development in that part of the island, particularly for the fishermen out of Bayfield and surrounding areas who use Skeete's Bay as a fish landing site and the other persons in St. Philip who are involved in fishing related economic activity will benefit substantially from the completion of the Consett Bay/Skeete's Bay fishing projects. So in that regard I would like to ask the Minister, since we are at this stage, assuming that he has not said so, when it is proposed that construction work or other kinds of related civil engineering work will commence and when the project is likely to be completed and if, at an appropriate time, based on any modifications in the design....

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: On a point of elucidation, Sir, All the indications are that now the funding is in place we can start next year. We are now in the process of working on the final cost and design estimates, Now the reason why I had to get up on a point of elucidation is that I do not have any automatic right to a second speech. I do not know if there is anything else the Honourable Member would like me to say.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That information is very helpful too so I will leave that and I will go on, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to deal with the problems that fishermen in the Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay area have had to endure with the recent bad weather. I am not sure if the Minister of Agriculture is aware of it although I did copy to him, letters I wrote to the Permanent Secretary on behalf of a few fishermen who lost their boats at Consett and Skeete's Bay during the week of bad weather. These are not fishermen who had been fully integrated into modern technology or modern financial practices so that they obviously do not have insurance and they have a number of other constraints which the modern fishing industry, in other words people who fish out of Harbour, the fishing facility here and other more modern folk have.

I think special attention should be paid because in one case the gentlemen who lost the boat has a very large family all of whom depend on fishing. Then of course there were three or four other persons who would have gone out with him. They are not large boats and I would like to hope that the Government had some kind of facility to assist those persons who have smallish fishing launches - I am not talking about iceboats - the smaller fishing launches, when there has been a major catastrophe or major problems with weather or whatever.

I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to see if he can render any assistance to those fishermen. I wrote to your Permanent Secretary and he was working on it. I do not remember what stage it was at. Those fishing bays will become even more vulnerable when the construction phase is taking place and therefore I hope that there will be some kind of arrangement in place to ensure that those who are presently fishing from those harbours are accommodated elsewhere or that they know where they can benefit from the facilities of hauling up the boats or whatever when there is bad weather.

So we are very supportive of these developments. We are 100% in support of the Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay fishing project and will place no impediment. In fact I assure the Minister of Agriculture that I will be even more critical if he should come here next week and tell me that he is making no progress with the Codrington Trust relative to Consett Bay because this project has been on the drawing board for too long and back and forth between the

European Investment Bank and the Government of Barbados and we need to get the project on the way as soon as possible so that when those persons who enjoy a livelihood most exclusively based on fishing from those fishing ports can be brought into the economic mainstream in Barbados. We will be supporting this Resolution.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I intervene in the debate because of course I live in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for St. John and I am a regular buyer of fish from the fishermen at Consett Bay and from Skeete's Bay. In fact, as you know, Sir, there are very few things I can eat now and they keep me well supplied. Even after midnight it is not unusual for me to hear them driving up the gap bringing me dolphins and what not.

I am fully supportive of the development taking place. The conditions at Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay are archaic for a modern fishing industry of the nature that we need and they have not progressed in the same way as we have progressed at Oistins or here in Bridgetown. I am hoping the same will happen for Speightstown where the Labour Party has obtained funding for that project. Unfortunately the project was reversed and delayed and the effect has been that we have not got either Consett Bay, Skeete's Bay or Speightstown moving as quickly as they should have moved. We have done some work at Tent Bay in St. Joseph but that itself also had its problems.

I just wish, Sir, to give my understanding of the position with the Trust Let me say that I have worked for the Trust as a lawyer. The Honourable Member and I have, I think, exchanged correspondence in relation to people buying their lots from the Trust, The Trust has been short of funds. It is unfortunate that although it has valuable property it has been very short of funds and it has not had money to do the sort of things that one would have expected it to do.

As a matter of fact a whole host of well wishers and people overseas in particular have provided funds for renovating Codrington College as an institution and foreign donors have given more than West Indian donors who have benefitted from the Codrington Trust. With that as it is they have had to appeal for money from overseas so that Codrington Estates have not, when sugar has gone through a rough time, been able to contribute towards the money available for the development of the other Codrington Trust lands although the Society Estate which is part of the Trust lands is one of the best run plantations in Barbados. It is run by a Mr. Cumberbatch who is an excellent Manager, one of the best we have in the island. That has been well run. I do not think it has got into debt as other plantations have. I doubt whether it is indebted to the Treasury or to the BAMC, he is such an excellent Manager. 4.55 p.m.

the estate very well. What I would like to see is the interest of the whole development of Skeete's Bay, Consett Bay and looking at a holistic approach to development of the area is that the Haynes Hill Estate owned by the BAMC or is heavily mortgaged to the BAMC should either be sold out to farmers in the area or alternatively in lots or alternatively joined to Society, specific reference to Skeete's Bay and Consett, my understanding is that the present persons who are committee advising the Trust are very distinguished people such as a former Permanent Secretary and an Ambassador to Barbados and some very former top civil servants and others. That Committee has asked the Government to reconsider the decision to acquire a vast area of land which they felt all of it was not necessary for the Consett Bay Fishing Development and that it was possible to accommodate that with the development of the balance of the Codrington land so as to improve the value added that there will be for the development of this part of St. John and St. Philip as a whole.

I think that is a legitimate request that needs time. What I would probably like to suggest is that maybe they should explain their plans much wider so that the Honourable Member for St. John would realize that it is a total development that they are going to look at rather than delay at this stage.

I have been brought up to date by listening to people like the Honourable C. B. Williams who is now advising and helping the Trust on it and Mr. Cyril Gill, the former Postmaster General. They have a good team of advisers who are not there to obstruct. They really are assisting.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am really on a point of order, Sir, not really to correct anything you said but to make it clear that the present team are certainly much more efficient and helpful than the previous team. So my criticisms are against the team that I had to function with for the past few years and not those you are now referring to because I know this present team has made a great effort.

Mr. H. deB. FORDE: The Honourable Member and I are probably on the same path because I have only become aware of the plans in recent times when they had the problem of whether or not the total acquisition was going to take place. But let me say, Sir, that I would hope that the development of both of these fishing areas would not only enhance conditions for the fishermen but I agree for the whole of the people in that area who depend on this industry as well as other ancillary industries. I believe that St. John and St. Philip offer tremendous tourist attractions and I would hope that therefore the Minister would be in a position to say that the agricultural aspect of it is going to fit into the other aspects of development in the area.

I am much indebted to you, Sir.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 8 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MT. BREVITOR
PLANTATION, ST. PETER FOR
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution pertains to the acquisition of 30 acres of land at Mt. Brevitor, St. Peter in keeping with Government's commitment to relieving the severe housing shortage in Barbados through the resumption of the Sites and Services Programme as well as the building of terrace units. The Ministry is giving consideration to acquiring a number of sites across the island for housing development. The dire need for these particular sites throughout the island was very well felt quite recently on October 3, when we had the flooding at Weston. We were in a dilemma in that there were about 27 occupants of houses in that area to be relocated and there was great difficulty in having suitable sites in the surrounding areas for them. Speaking specifically to that issue since it is relevant to this, I would like to say that we have been able to locate a spot at Bakers which is all part of the Sites and Services Programme and it is hoped that very shortly we will be able to move at least 10 families to the site at Bakers. We are presently constructing a number of pre-fabricated units at Clarendon. We will be doing 10 in the first instance and it is hoped that we will complete the other 17 when these 10 have been completed. It will also be necessary too as part of the programme to acquire lands on both sides of the road, the old road at Bakers, and we are also in touch with the manager of the Bakers Plantation who is also the owner, a Mr. Wilkie, who has offered us another spot which will be able to accommodate another 35 lots for any further dislocation like this.

These lots are also needed in situations where not only there is flooding but in situations of land slippage. We have been having problems in terms of preference by persons who have been affected by land slippage in the St. Andrew and St. Joseph areas in not being able to find suitable lots for them. We have been able to do a

similar acquisition in the area of Apes Hill, Waterhall, Orange Hill all in St. James not in St. Andrew, and Parish Land, St. George. We have identified about 3 spots in St. George South and in your constituency, Sir, as well. As members come forward with suitable spots and I dare say that this is not restricted to parliamentarians on this side, because we are in dire need of suitable areas, the type of housing development as a priority which we are also looking at to accommodate low income groups is a major development which would involve the acquisition of about 100 acres. We have already identified a spot to the south of the St Silas Church in St. James and we are looking at this and other sites where we can actually put in all of the facilities including community facilities, pavilions and the normal facilities which would make a completely new community in that area.

The need for these spots is also felt because of the commitment of Government under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase (Amendment) Act since persons who have lost the right to purchase in the amendment who have been on a house spot which is serviced by less than 5 lots and have lost the right to purchase, Government would then have the responsibility of moving them. One hundred and seventy persons have already come forward and actually registered. We have been able to find spots for about 33 of them so far. We have, by our own investigations, calculated that there are still about another 150 to come forward which means that we would have to find suitable lots for such persons. 5.05 p.m.

What we have implemented recently as well is a programme whereby if the particular tenants can find a suitable spot on their own and they are willing to move on that spot, Government will give them a grant of \$15 000 in order to facilitate their relocation.

Now, this parcel of land at Mount Brevitor is 11.59 acres. It is owned by a Michael Skeete and adjoins the Mount Brevitor Tenantry to the west and a public road on the southern boundary. To the north it meets the village of Rose Hill while on its eastern boundary on other lands of the plantation. The site had been approved by the Chief Town for housing some years ago but the permission lapsed and it will be necessary to make a further application. Parliamentary approval is now sought to acquire this area of land at Mount Brevitor, St. Peter.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this Resolution and to commend the Minister on the speed with which they have identified this area of land. Obviously, this is only the beginning. I know that the Minister bears northward but I would expect that in the fullness of time there will be a full circle.

I want to say though, Sir, that the Minister should not feel himself constrained by the fact that land is difficult to identify, for instance, in the southern area and in the urban area. Barbados does have a topography that the first level next to the sea running right from Thornbury Hill to the north that there is a low level where the distance between the first hill and the sea is very narrow.

We must accept the fact that if we are to have housing in that area we need to have multi-storey houses. I am not talking about any eight storeys or anything like that but I am talking about housing with four storeys and we ought to be able now to benefit from the experience of our efforts in that area in the City of Bridgetown. Both Pondside and Kensington Lodge have turned out to be very acceptable.

I have done a tour with the Parliamentary Secretary in the whole of the Christ Church area. It is impossible to find a sufficiently large area of land under the press of the first terrace for any single unit housing. You just have to accept that you have to build four storey apartments in that area. I am going to be identifying the area where that could be done.

Now, Sir, similarly in the other area we have to accept also that if you are doing a housing development in a rural area that it will be necessary to provide a larger lot because the people from the rural area still like to cultivate their gardens. I have been all over the world and I have seen as a matter of policy that urban and rural people are given land to grow vegetables, flowers and other activities of that type. Barbados has sufficient land under bush that with proper land use planning, new opportunities could be created for some of our young people who wish to spend their leisure time or indeed make their living in that area. I hope that the Minister will be able at an early date to implement some of these plans of the Barbados Labour Party.

Now, I remember one of the most significant things in this area that was done between 1976 and 1986 was the creation of a division in the Ministry of Housing to identify each and every parcel of land that is owned by the Government and statutory authorities. By now that should be finished. The basic position is that the Government and the Government parastatal organisations should know exactly how much land they own. It is possible to plot that nowadays with computers together with the information in the Land Tax Department and we would be able to know what is the use being put to that land. We really do have a terrible problem in relation to land that is not properly used. I hope that the Ministry in its efforts to identify housing will not only think of housing but think of plots of land that should be available for rental and for sale to other people.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the comments of the Minister of Housing and Lands. I do not know anything about the piece of land that this Resolution relates to but I want to stick very closely to the rubric of the Resolution. In introducing the Resolution the Honourable Member said that he is interested in identifying areas in Barbados which would be suitable for housing development. Well, Mr. Speaker, an area was identified about three years ago in Barbados in which 56 service lots would be available. Contracts were advertised and awarded. A parliamentary question was asked only weeks ago about it and the answer to that Parliamentary Question was that that project would be commenced in due course. Meanwhile the persons who have been awarded the lots, because the National Housing Corporation has already written to them and awarded the lots, are waiting for those services to be put in place.

I am certain that it will reduce the work of the Minister if he could clear that backlog of 56 house lots in an area that has already been identified for which the funds were identified and for which the contracts were awarded before he moves on to the newer area unless, of course - and the Minister is perfectly entitled to say so. I want to make my position clear. Ministers are responsible for policy and they have to take the consequences and accept the consequence of the decisions they make - unless the Minister is saying that that project where those 56 lots are available has been shifted in priority, or will not take place, as is the view of the people who have already received those approvals, and is now to be overtaken by a new search for lands in Barbados on which these service lots could be made available which, as I say, he is perfectly entitled to say, then it would be a scandalous situation to have a housing policy in Barbados where a Minister can come to this House in the face of the availability of lots for which approvals have been given to citizens of this country who are taxpayers and would not come to this House without talking about the lots which are already identified and for which a project is underway and start to talk about identifying new lots to solve a problem which could be eased if the work which was already on stream and planned for were undertaken. So what you have, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is 56 service lots at Gall Hill in St. John. 5.15 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, a sites and services project in which 56 lots were identified. Town Planning permission was given. In fact that is the only part of the ?? ... request for town planning permission that was granted. But Government acquired the land and the approvals went out some time last year. Contracts were awarded, Sir, to put in the sites and services and I am certain there may be a few excess lots that people in St. Michael Central, whom as you know I am always

interested in looking after, and other parts of Barbados could access these lots.

I believe the Minister genuinely wants to find the lots. I have to believe that if not I would have to say it would be scandalous. It would be the height of wickedness. It would be <an abuse of power.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, I am saying I believe the Minister. I am saying if it were otherwise it would be an abuse of power scandalous and wickedness if those lots were available and all the preparatory stages had been gone through and now all of a sudden the Ministry is abandoning those and looking for new lots. Maybe that is what some people want. But if they want to say that, fine. They can say it and let us get the facts on the matter and let us not have all of this high sounding talk in here about the Ministry of Housing looking for lots when we know that lots have already been identified in parts of Barbados, when contracts have already been awarded for the services to be put in and those are being ignored in favour of other developments.

Now all I am saying, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister is entitled to *his* priorities but those people can produce a letter. I am familiar with administrative law and I know there are some Ministers who think they are too but they also feel that they can ride rough shod over the rights of citizens. I am saying that where somebody has a right which vests as the result of administrative decision being taken and they can produce a document in which the National Housing Corporation says we have approved your application for a lot, then, if within a reasonable time efforts are not made to honour that pledge to those people then the Attorney General is going to have to exercise his mind on what the next step should be but I know his view on this.

The Honourable Attorney General has stood where I am or near to it on several occasions and given his view on these kinds of things. I am not going to sit idly by as a Member of this Parliament where actions are taken which are inimicable to the interest of my constituents or any other group of Barbadians and where policies are being exercised in this manner which borders, Mr. Speaker, on what I term administrative high-handedness without an intervention on my part.

So I say, enough said. If the Minister wants to come to this House and act as if some act of generosity is being extended to Members of the Opposition I will take up that generosity and I am identifying a project which was almost at the stage of the services being provided. If the

Minister is to be taken at his word, by next week the developers should be in on that project. Those people in St. Michael Central who need house spots, together with those who have already been given approval will be satisfied and then we would be talking about true development in Barbados which is fair and even handed.

That point needs to be made, Mr, Speaker, Sir, because I am not sure that based on what is being said and what is being done that there is any coincidence between the two. I need to see that and once I see that we will provide the Minister with peons of praise from this side for his justness and fairness. If not the people who have those approvals already know where justice will come from and they will seek that justice elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. O. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this Resolution and I would say that the 11.59 acres of land at Mount Bitvitor, St Peter is in keeping with Government's policy to acquire land where there is a demand for housing throughout Barbados.

I would like to say that if you look at the record over the last 5 years you will see that there is a demand for house spots in St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Thomas, St. George, St James and St Peter. Therefore the land bank which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South spoke of, I can say that the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been busy over the last year or so compiling such a document, but looking at this Resolution it is not fair to say that most of the development is taking place in the North. I have heard the comment before but one has to see the interest in housing within St Peter and St James area.

As you will understand, the amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act of 1990 allowed those persons who were disqualified from a plantation to live in the area. We do not want to move persons out of the area where they live so that in St. Peter a number of people who have been disqualified, land must be found for those people.

I believe in every parish of Barbados you will find a number of people who have been disqualified because of the Act and therefore the Government has to find spots for them. The demand in St Peter is quite high. Demand is quite high also in some parts of St Andrew and St James so therefore when we bring a Resolution of this nature seeking to acquire land we have to do so by looking at the demand for housing and for sites and services across Barbados.

The Honourable Minister has spoken about other developments in other parts of Barbados, for example, in Christ Church there is Parish Land. The Government has land at Parish Land and Coverley, at Kingsland and at Oistins and Silver Sands so in due course I believe we will be able to develop sites and services to satisfy demand for housing across Barbados but the point is quite clear that wherever marginal land exists on plantations, the plantation should be able to develop these lands to provide housing. I believe in the near future that a number of estates with marginal lands should be encouraged to develop these marginal lands for housing because we need to encourage private housing developers to get into providing houses for people who need them. And this will also help to pay part of the debt due to the Development Bank. But the policy of Government is quite clear. I think that it must be understood that there are lots of marginal lands on estates which can be used for housing and the land that Government is acquiring is in Mt Brevitor and it is really marginal land. It has never grown sugar cane. It is grass land and it is about 15 acres that Government has decided to acquire. We also have land at Ellenon, St. George that the Minister has spoken of. These are marginal lands. For example, in Arch Hall in St. Thomas, the lands that we have seen there we will definitely come to Parliament very soon to acquire. I believe that it is the intention of Government to keep people in the area where they live. So that despite we have 56 house spots in St John which we are aware of, the land will have to be serviced and we will look at that in due course. We are in the process of looking at those and other areas. 5.25 p.m.

So that we are well serviced with the lots that we have, Mr. Speaker, and will satisfy the demand for houses over the next 15 or 20 years but we have to plan. We do not want to have one-sided planning because over the last 10 or so years housing development took place only in a few parishes. We do not want the people to move too far from their area and in the St Michael area I know that it is over crowded. But the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is quite right that we have to look at high-rise housing very soon. A proper land use policy when put in place identifies that we need to conserve some of our land for the future. I believe the project at Pondsides when it is completed will show the future for Barbados. I would just want to say that we are also looking at other urban areas, in Black Rock and in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, where we can develop these high rise buildings to satisfy the need for housing. In St. Michael, there is a high demand for terraced units, that is the rental units, as well as house spots. I must say that in areas of St. Michael South, the Bayland area where there are derelict buildings, we will need to acquire these derelict buildings where we can sell them to persons who need to occupy house spots in St Michael. There are however many areas in St. Michael that can be identified for house spots.

Hon. O. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is necessary for me to reply to the outburst of the Honourable Member for St. John because it is fairly obvious that he has given his own answer to my response when he indicated that in my reply that it was stated that the development in his constituency would be done in due course. So I do not know what is the purpose for everything that he has said or that he said thereafter. It is fairly obvious that, if he has a case which could be brought under the Administration of Justice Act and it is a year, he is delaying in his duty as an attorney-at-law as he said that he is not bringing that action. I hope that the people of St. John are listening. But if my memory serves me correct..

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please let us continue orderly. Please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: If my memory serves me correct, the Honourable Member...

Mr. SPEAKER: Just one minute please. The Honourable Member for St. John do not interrupt the Member. Continue please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: If my memory serves me correct, the Honourable Member for St. John is fully aware of Section 64 (2) of the Administration of Justice Act. He would know that the decisions of Cabinet are not judicially reviewable. So I need not really dwell on what he has said. I would hope that the Honourable Member for St John would make suggestions as I have asked other Members with respect to areas that have not been identified and that include areas in St. John.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the point which was made by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I think the Honourable Member for St. George North did allude to the fact that we are actually looking at 4-storey units at Pondsides of 50 units with shops and a day nursery in 7 blocks of 4 storeys each. We have relocated 11 households from this site to make way for the redevelopment. There are about 22 persons that are presently on the spot that need to be relocated. We are hoping that when we have been able to relocate them we can actually proceed with this development

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 9-TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOYTES VILLAGE, SAINT JAMES FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this acquisition relates to 331.14 square metres of land at Hoytes Village, St. James, an area of land which has been utilized by Government for highway improvement. The Ministry of Housing and Lands was notified in 1981 that a parcel of land which was owned by Mr. Athelstone Browne was utilized for road improvement. The matter was investigated by the Technical Officer of the then Ministry of Transport and Works who confirmed the validity of the claim. The Ministry of Housing advised the Division of Transport that Cabinet's approval should be sought for the formal acquisition of the land in order to regularize the utilization of the land and make it possible for the owners to be compensated. The Cabinet on November 1994 agreed to the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act which have been complied with and parliamentary approval is hereby sought to acquire approximately 331.14 square metres of land at Hoytes Village, St James for highway improvement. 5.35 p.m.

I would like to say that there are a number of acquisitions like this stemming from the improvement which was done in the area from the bottom of Holders Hill to the top of the Clermont junction leading to Bagatelle. Very shortly we will be bringing these acquisitions but the area is presently being surveyed even though the roads were actually completed about 10 years ago.

With those remarks I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ORDER NO. 10 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SALTERS, ST. GEORGE FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ACCESS ROAD

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the notice states Sailors, St. George, but it is actually Parish Land, St George. Government is the owner of a parcel of land at Parish Land, St. George and it is proposed to develop this area of land for housing purposes. It can accommodate 7

lots but in order to complete the development it is necessary to have an access road to the land. The sole access is a privately owned road which runs from the boundary of the Crown to Sailers Road.

The provisions of the Land Acquisition Act were invoked with the publication of the Section 3 Notice. There are actually four parcels of land, one parcel comprising 158.1 square metres owned by John Heckles, another parcel comprising 154.6 square metres owned by Everton Greenidge, a parcel comprising 152.7 square metres owned by Carmelita Hall and a parcel comprising 158.5 square metres owned by a Mr. Clyde Moore.

Mr. Speaker, I now move that this Resolution do now

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

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

ORDER NO. 11 - RESOLUTION TO MOVE THE
PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT SAYES COURT,
CHRIST CHURCH, FOR
ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution pertains to the acquisition of eight parcels of land at Sayes Court, Christ Church, for road improvement, an area comprising 457.91 square metres, the property of George Moe, 10.97 square metres the property of Mervin Douglas, 28.11 square metres, the property of Eulene Forde, 534.30 square metres the property of Emile Estwick, 47.22 square metres the property of Frank King, 171.16 square metres the property of Fred Archer, 25.98 square metres the property of Edward Harris.

The Ministry of Public Works in 1974 undertook road improvement along Highway U but was forced to exclude the junction at Sayes Court and Gibbons Boggs because of difficulties with the landowners. This part of the land was not completed due to the shortage of funds and the low priority ratings it was given in the Ministry's road programme.

The increase in vehicular traffic using that part of the Highway several complaints from motorists and residents in the area in addition to a fatal accident at the junction in March 1993 have prompted the Ministry to give this project a high priority rating. As a matter of fact, it is felt that if this development had been done prior to 1993 this accident would not have occurred which caused the fatal injury in 1993.

Cabinet has agreed to the acquisition of the said 8 parcels in accordance with the compulsory acquisition procedure. The notices under Section 3 have been published. The survey plans have been redone. The attached Resolution has been certified by the Attorney General to be in order for consideration by Cabinet and introduction into Parliament. Parliamentary approval is hereby sought to acquire the said 8 parcels of land.

I now move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon.

R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution. As a boy, I remember King's Corner to be a place where motorists had to manoeuvre very well. A number of them ended up in the gutter there. One particular case, a fellow called "Sixes" and he was from the area, his car ended up over on its side. That was in the early days. I remember cars, many of them, in trying to manoeuvre that area ending up on the side there at King's Corner. It was, indeed, a very dangerous corner. But I believe that in 1993 when Dr. Demoge lost her life that would have caused the Ministry to place a greater priority in addressing that corner there at King's Corner.

I am glad to see that the problem has been addressed. But I believe that while some effort is being made, I do not think that enough has yet been done because the junction as it now stands presents an unesthetic view to anyone who passes that area in that while you might want to call it a roundabout, people have referred to it more as a "boat about", or a "broad about", or an "oblong about" or any such terms, but not a roundabout. I believe part of the reason is that enough land has not been acquired to really build a roundabout at this junction.

I have heard that one or two landowners in the area have been reluctant to give up their lands, particularly one particular resident more to the north-easterly side of that junction. I believe this will have to be reviewed since the view out of the roundabout is still not as clear as it should be and there could still be chances of accidents taking place in this area.

As a matter of fact, Sir, certain vehicles, the long ones, cannot traverse that area because they cannot get around what is supposed to be a roundabout. I believe that on an area that is heavily traversed as this road is - as you know, it can lead to the back of the Airport and people coming from Oistins go past Sayes Court all the way up to Chancery Lane and then they go over Wilcox Hill to the Airport. There are a lot of people living in that area, people in Haling Park, Chancery Lane, the goodly people of Silver Sands and Sayes Court and it butts and abounds on the

districts associated with Christ Church East and Christ Church South. So this can tell you that it is an area, that is well traversed. I am therefore hoping that in the future you could give some consideration to it. 5.45 p.m.

I must say I appreciate the efforts that are being made so far. I am hoping that in the future we can go a little further and make it indeed a roundabout as it would likely be known. For the time being I am supporting this Resolution and I am hoping that in the not too distant future we will have the area properly worked on so that all vehicles could pass the area and it will be safer for all the driving public heading, whether it be into that area or out of that area.

Sir, with these few comments I want to say I support the Resolution.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to support this Resolution too but I must say that I do have some reservations in relation to this development. The desirability of the development and the need for it cannot be questioned. It was always a bad corner and it has caused tremendous loss of life. But I must say, Sir, that the engineers design has been a bit of a fiasco. It is the most unique roundabout one can find. It is not round. It is not square. It is oblong. It is really unique, Sir, and I do hope that some attempt will be made to see if the design could be altered in any way.

I notice that for a considerable period of time that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport itself did not finalise it. It has not been finalised yet so it indicates to me that they themselves are having some difficulty with it, but we would like to commend them on the speed with which they moved to rectify the problems of that corner. If it is necessary to acquire a bit more land or to move a bit more of the wall of a property so be it. The point is as it is it is not the best design functionally or aesthetically.

In this area also there is a large drainage problem and another environmental problem which I hope attention will be paid to. Sayers Court at that point abuts on Goodland. Goodland is a notorious area of flooding and when you pass this roundabout you are immediately confronted by a master drain which some work needs to be done to.

Now, I recall the time when special attention was paid in that area to keeping the wells clear because the water passes this roundabout from as high up as Gibbons Hill and it goes right down to this corner backed up at this corner. It does not back up so much now with the roundabout, but the outlet source is a well within 50 feet and the area is an indentation in the land of sufficient depth as to require a

wall to prevent vehicles and other people from falling over the side. The whole area needs a bit more work and I hope, Sir, that the Ministry of Transport and Public Works will not finish with this when they have finally come to a decision on the design in the area but they will continue and finish off that little piece of work that would be necessary to ensure that the drainage will function properly.

I know that when it was being built they built underground drains so as to take the water to those wells but those wells need to be kept clean if not it is not going to function, it is going to back up coming down Gibbons Hill.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, just briefly on the points which have been raised by Honourable Members with respect to drainage that is being looked at at the moment and it is hoped that the problem referred to will be solved very shortly. The question of the beauty of the roundabout lies in its design. I agree that it is a little unique: I am not actually carrying any brief for the engineers but they, in their best judgement, taking everything into consideration, especially realising that they did not want to incur any great cost with respect to the acquisition of the neighbouring properties, seeing there was some resistance in the first place to acquisition by Government and I would say that they did fairly well with the land that was available. I do admit that there is need for more land to be acquired and for the area to look a little different.

I just want to, for the purpose of clarification, go over the actual areas of the land seeing that it has been pointed out to me that there is one area that was not very clear. The original section 3 notice had stated that there were seven parcels and then there were new designs, new survey plans done which showed that there were 8 parcels rather than seven. The notices that we have did address the correct figure of 8 parcels.

I just want to go through the 8 parcels in terms of the area and the ownership. The first parcel, George Moe 457.91 square metres, second parcel Mervin Douglas 10.97 square metres, third parcel Emile Estwick 534.30 square metres, the fourth parcel Fred Archer 171.16 square metres, the fifth parcel Eulene Forde 28.11 square metres, the sixth parcel Edward Harris 25.98 square metres, the seventh parcel Frank King 47.22 square metres and the eighth parcel Darwell Thome et ux 153.44 square metres. With those few brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House adjourn until Tuesday, October 17, 1995 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that this sitting adjourn until Tuesday, October 17, 1995 at 11 o'clock in the morning was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 5.57 p.m.

CONTENTS
MINUTES**Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER** 1751

Confirmation of Minutes of Tuesday, August 15, 1995.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR
THE SPEAKER**

Mr. SPEAKER 1751

Receipt of Accounts and Statements for the months of March, April and May, 1995.

PAPERS**Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER**..... 1751

The National Insurance and Social Security (Miscellaneous) (Amendments) Regulations, 1995.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 15) Order, 1995.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 16) Order, 1995.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 17) Order, 1995.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 18) Order, 1995.

The Road Traffic (Road Tax, Registration Fee and Permits) (Amendment) Order, 1995.

The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES**Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS** 1752

The Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

Resolution to approve the lease to Her Excellency the Governor-General, Dame Nita Barrow, of the property known as "Sandy Point", Bath, St. John.

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Baywoods, Apes Hill, St. James for Housing Development.

FIRST READING OF BILLS**Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS** 1752

1. The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

2. The Crown Proceedings (Amendment) Bill, 1995

OBITUARY SPEECHES**Mr. F. J. STUART**..... 1752

Tribute to the late Reynold St. C. Weekes, C.B.E., J.P., former Member of the House of Assembly, and moved a Resolution of Condolence to the family of the deceased.

Hon. Sir Harold St John, 1754; Dr. R. C. Haynes, 1755; Mr. B. M. Taitt, 1756; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 1759; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1760; Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 1762; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 1763; Mr. Speaker, 1763.

RESUMPTION**OBITUARY SPEECHES (resumed)****Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER**..... 1766

Paid tribute to the late Sir Ronald G. Mapp, former Member of Parliament, and moved a Resolution of Condolence to the family of the deceased.

Hon. Sir Harold St John, 1766; Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, 1768; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1770; His Honour R. D. Marshall, 1770; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 1771; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 1773; Mr. L. R. Tull, 1774; Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 1775; Mr. Speaker, 1776.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER**..... 1776

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

ORDER NO. 2 - THE TENANTRIES DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995.....1776

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1776.

ORDER NO. 7 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE SKEETE'S BAY FISHERIES PROJECT 1776

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1776, 1782; Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 1777; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 1778; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1779; Mr. H. deB. Forde, 1781.

ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MOUNT BREVITOR, ST. PETER 1782

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1782, 1786; Hon. Sir Harold St. John, 1783; Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, 1784; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 1785.

ORDER NO. 9 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOYTES VILLAGE, ST. JAMES 1786

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1786.

ORDER NO. 10 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SALTERS, ST. GEORGE 1786

Hon. G. W. Payne, 1786.

ORDER NO. 11 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SAYES COURT, CHRIST CHURCH 1787

Hon. G. W. Payne. 1787.1788; Mr. W. C. C. Caltender. 1787; Hon. Sir Harold St. John. 1788.

SUSPENSION..... 1763

ADJOURNMENT 1788

Hon. Mist B. A. Miller, 1788.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

CALLENDER, Mr. W. C. C. (Christ Church East) CHELTENHAM, Dr. R. L. (St. Joseph) CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St George North) EASTMOND, Hon. R. C. (St. James North) FORDE, Mr. H. deB. (Christ Church West) HAYNES, Dr. R. C. (St Michael South Central) MARSHALL, His Honour R. D. (St Michael West

Central)

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