THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, January 30,1996

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly *met* at 11.25 a.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 1996.

PRESENT

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

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), J.P.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

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

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Laurence Small.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, 23rd January, 1996.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of proceedings of the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting on Tuesday, the 23rd day of January, 1996, which Minutes have been circulated, I move that they be taken as read.

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 report that I am in receipt of the Accounts and Statements for the month of November, 1995 prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the Loan Contract between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank pertaining to the Investment Sector Reform Programme.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 1996 and the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

I further beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Headleys Road, Deacons Road, in the parish of St. Michael, for road improvement, and a Resolution to grant the sum of $3 046 563 from the Consolidated Fund to supplement the Estimates 1995-96, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1995-96, No. 8.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. D. A. C. STMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 1996 be read a first time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996 be read a first time.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT PALMETTO SQUARE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VENDORS' MALLS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move this Resolution for the acquisition of three parcels of land at Palmetto Street in the parish of St. Michael. There are two parcels of land owned by Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy comprising 290.6 square metres and 372.2 square metres respectively, and a third parcel of land comprising 76.9 square metres known as the old Basix burnt-out building, which is owned by the Oistins Shopping Plaza Limited. I should like to say that we have had negotiations with the owners of these properties, the arrangement with respect to private treaty would have taken a little longer, due to certain complications on title, and as a result we have had to come by way of acquisition.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution fulfils one of the pledges in our Manifesto in the last election, namely, to provide as a matter of urgency permanent vendor sites with adequate sanitary facilities in and around Bridgetown and on the highways. You may recall that with the problems associated with structural adjustment a number of vending operations sprung up across the length and breadth of this country and, mindful of this, this administration as far back as the time leading up to the election pledged to do something about the appalling conditions where vendors operated. As a matter of fact, the applications by vendors grew from about 80 around 1992 to some 1 250 in the two-year period following the imposition of the harsh measures occasioned by the structural adjustment programme. As is customary, I do not think this was unique to Barbados in that in many countries when there is social and economic hardship, as we experienced during that period, the result is that there is an increasing number of street people and street vendors. Cabinet, mindful of this and in an effort to satisfy its Manifesto pledge, agreed during 1995 that the burnt-out property which formerly housed Basix Supermarket should be acquired; that a vendors' mall should be constructed at the Palmetto/High Street site and extended into the former site of Basix Supermarket; that the vendors on Swan Street should be relocated to the new mall when it is completed; the acquisition of the open property bounded by Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy and Palmetto Street and its utilisation by vendors; that the Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy should be acquired and a vending facility be constructed.
11.25 a.m.

We have also agreed in principle to acquire the property known as the Miami Mall for an extension of this project. We are presently negotiating with the owner of that property who made the initial offer to Government in support of the project to ensure that proper vending facilities are met for the vending community in Swan Street and Palmetto Street.

The overall project will be done in 4 phases. Phase 1 involves the preparation of the Trafalgar Hotel site which is one of the properties formerly owned by Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy, the demolition of the Basix Building and the construction of a mall. Phase 2 involves the relocation of vendors from Swan Street to the vendors' mall and also the construction of a facility on the site of the said former Trafalgar Hotel. Phase 3 is the conversion of Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy into a facility for vending and Phase 4 will involve provisionally the conversion of the Miami Mall into a vending facility.

So far we have removed the vendors who were occupying the spots where the mall will be constructed over to the area next to Griffith's Reliance Pharmacy which, as I said, was formerly known as the Trafalgar Hotel. The operations have gone very smoothly. We have had a series of meetings with all the vendors concerned. The area has also been able to accommodate not only the vendors who are in the Palmetto Street area but some vendors in Marhill and Rickett Street.

It is hoped that when the facility at Palmetto Street has been completed that we will be able to accommodate those vendors who are presently on a temporary site together with the vendors in Swan Street and with the additional acquisition which we will do in due course we will also be able to accommodate all of those licensed vendors that presently ply their fare in the Bridgetown area.

As I said, the applications during the 2-year period went from about 300 to 1 250. There are presently 225 licensed vendors in central Bridgetown and about 280 unlicensed vendors who operate mainly on weekends. Overall, including the environs of Bridgetown, there are 407 registered vendors and 390 illegal vendors. Most of these vendors as I said have sprung up since the introduction of the structural adjustment measures in 1991.

In the interim, we have had a discussion with the vendors and we have had discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Police and it has been decided that there will be a freeze on any new licences being granted. It is hoped that we would be able to have all the alleys cleared of vendors and we have been having the cooperation of the police, the officials from the Ministry of Public Works and the Superintendent of Markets in ensuring that the temporary vending in Swan Street is maintained.

The operation so far has been very satisfactory and it is hoped that when these facilities have been completed most of the problems that was associated with vending in Swan Street will be something of the past.

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

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

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this land acquisition will not necessarily receive the objections from members on this side, but I think it is necessary for us to place on the records some of the facts relating to vendors in Barbados over the last couple of years. It is true to say that the acquisition seeks to expand on a programme that was commenced and progressed under the Democratic Labour Party after we had to do a significant amount of damage control as a result of the vicious policies of the Barbados Labour Party during their 1976-86 regime when they sought in a disgraceful manner to evict the vendors of Rockers Alley and different alleys around Barbados, small entrepreneurs, who had sprung up. It caused so much friction in the society that this Democratic Labour Party had on assuming office in 1986 to immediately set about to do some damage control as far as the society was concerned in making sure that the vendors had a place to operate in this society as well.

To date, when the Barbados Labour Party, this pubic relations administration, comes into the House of Assembly on these kinds of issues trying to give the impression that they are the Party that caters to the vendors, it is another in a series of public relations exercises trying to attract the attention of the masses of people in this country. They have the worst record when it comes to addressing the plight of the small man in this country and clearly they have no record at all as far as catering to the vendors in this country are concerned. What has happened, Mr. Speaker, is that the present aministration took up office in 1994 and found a specific programme in place for the provision of facilities for vendors etc. There were pledges as early as 1991 in the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto where we clearly stated some 4 to 5 years ago that the Democratic Labour Party Government recognises the need to promote small business development and commits itself to the following projects: the Swan Street Mall, the redevelopment of the Temple Yard Market Complex, which was a project that was approved by Cabinet. A programme of finance was negotiated and approved.
11.35 a.m.

When we left office it was just a matter of time before that project would have been properly implemented and completed. That project was part of our Manifesto pledge in 1991 that they are seeking to claim today, which has nothing whatsoever to do with the present administration. They found it. I accept that it is in the interest of the vendors that they continue the project because it is a good project, so there is no need for them to put down yet another Democratic Labour Party Project.

The third area was for the provision of three selected areas off the ABC Highway for vending activities. This is very important, Mr. Speaker, because today in Barbados we have a situation where, as the Honourable Minister indicated, vending and small business is something we will have to look forward to in the future, because with the whole structure of the present economy, clearly the signs are there that we will not, in the short-term, be able to absorb several people, especially those who are not yet in the academic mainstream or in a specific trade where they have the appropriate training. There are several persons who are outside that scope that would find themselves as traders or vendors and would need to be accommodated or given assistance in at least earning a decent living in the society.

This whole question of vending is something we have to pay strict attention to. I find when we look at vending

in Swan Street and Palmetto Square that is very fine but most of the produce being sold in these areas relate to fruits, plantains, bananas, oranges, cherries, potatoes and yams. What is desperately needed is a series of facilities that will go beyond catering to selling vegetables, potatoes, or bananas. We need facilities that will give the arts and crafts vendors in this country a chance to earn part of the pie. When we relate to the problem of vending on the beaches of Barbados, it is almost impossible now for vendors to make a good living on the beaches because as soon as they are approaching visitors, as soon as they are caught trying to solicit business on the beaches all kinds of measures are brought to bear on them which are restrictive and prohibit them from successfully doing their business on the beaches, so it is tight all over.

Barbados has to understand that we have to cater to the small business people in this 'country in a meaningful manner. To acquire a piece of land or to acquire an area in Bridgetown just to stick a few more vendors here or there is clearly not enough, and I have not heard any policy enunciated by this present administration to suggest that they, in fact, are seriously addressing the needs of the vendors in this country.

I recall as a Minister, Sir, that I invited a number of persons who had been terminated during the Structural Adjustment Programme, and we arranged for a number of spaces to be allocated around the new minibus stand for them. There were a number of licenses granted to a number of people that they could start their small businesses. We had planned we would have built stalls which were suitable that would enhance the area. Right now it is run down. We were hoping to spend some time lighting the area, putting in a good vendors' mall in the area and generally uplifting it on behalf of the vendors in that particular **area.**

Most important, and I do not want to lose the point, is that apart from vending these vegetable products and so on, we have, as a matter of urgency, to find an outlet for the arts and crafts people in this country. I was speaking to a number of artists the other day who were doing paintings of the late Dame Nita Barrow and the Barrow family and they were complaining bitterly that there are no facilities whatsoever that will cater to them where the tourists can come off the ship and have access to their work in a facility with nice toilets and so on.

We need in this country very shortly, apart from these minor acquisitions where we are going to stick people here, there and everywhere, to seriously address the plight of the vendors in this country whether we do it as a specific programme because this is an administration that promised people jobs but they know they cannot produce those jobs. I am prepared to give way if they are prepared to create the facility that people can employ themselves because if they wait on the Barbados Labour Party they will not have a job in 1995, 1996, 1997 nor 1999 and the Democratic Labour Party when we resume office in 1998 or 1999 will then again have the task of setting out these kinds of programmes that will be necessary for it to focus on the development of the small vendors.

Sir, they have no track record and I am suspicious when they come to this Honourable House **trying** to create impressions that they have a programme that is in the interest of the masses of people in this country when they know well it is just a public relations exercise **because,** as I said when I started, they have the poorest **track** record when it comes to catering to the small people in this country.

I have no difficulty with the acquisition, Sir, but I will urge the Government to get busy. They have a lot of jobs to create, 29 986 more. They have created 14 so far and they have to get busy. .If they do it by way of providing facilities for small vendors it will have my support, but it must be a serious programme and not one that is done on a spasmodic basis where they are just seeking to facilitate 1, *2* or 3 people and subtly undermining all.

It is a fact that very shortly they will be removing the vendors from Swan Street. The vendors have established themselves in Swan Street. They are part of Bridgetown but there is a clean-up exercise going on in Bridgetown and it includes the removal of black people because they are an ugly sight. That is the problem. We have reached a stage in Barbados where you have to look a certain way. You must be dressed a certain way but if you look like the people who were in Rockers Alley they have no chance with the Barbados Labour Party administration. They will get raced out of Swan Street. They will get raced out of all the alleys and I will tell you today, Sir, if any confusion ever happens behind us here in Palmetto Square they are going to get raced out of Palmetto Square too.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has now established himself as the parliamentary jester.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, order please.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: The Honourable Member's historical excursion can easily be refuted. It was the Barbados Labour Party that pioneered the creation of markets in this country. There was Fairchild Street Market in 1956, Eagle Hall, Six Cross Roads, a continuous attempt from the days of the late D. D. Garner as Minister of Agriculture, a continuous carrying out of the policy of providing modem up-to-date market facilities for small businessmen. I remember when the Fairchild Street Market was built and it was such a progressive act that Ministers from the rest of the Caribbean came to see how enlightened a policy the Barbados Labour Party was pursuing.

11.45 a.m.

Now, Sir, there cannot be any doubt that the record of the Democratic Labour Party, in this respect, is disgraceful. I want the Honourable Member to know that the first Government that ever removed people from prominent areas in Broad Street was that of the late Democratic Labour Party Leader, Errol Barrow. He came in here one day and said that all those women who were selling on Broad Street had to be removed, and hounded them out of Broad Street. The Honourable Member's memory is quite deficient.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: No. Nicey Belgrave was converted into a Dem because she went and begged Barrow to allow her to go back and, in the usual method of trying to divide and rule and to grant extra privileges to certain people, he granted her that favour.

The Honourable Member should have been the last person to come in here and say that the Barbados Labour Party hounds small businessmen and that the Barbados Labour Party supports any viewpoint that there should not be proper conditions for small vendors in Barbados.

I want now to bring the Honourable Member up-to-date of the period 1976-86, because it is in that period that the most enlightened bit of legislation was passed in Barbados. So mindful were we of the need to upgrade and update the laws relating to this that this Government, as a matter of policy, came here with legislation to ensure that there should be legislation for people who carried out this legitimate activity. The Democratic Labour Party did everything in their power to pervert the purpose of that legislation, to encourage people not to carry it out and, in the end, the people who listened to the Democratic Labour Party suffered as a result.

With respect to beach vending, the Honourable Member should never have mentioned that. Because I am now in a position to make the record very straight. I had a lot to do with beach vending. It was the declared policy of the Barbados Labour Party that there should be public access to every beach and where there was a history for vending or there was a potential for vending, that the Barbados Labour Party would build vending stalls of such a calibre that we could all be proud.

We went further. We encouraged hotels such as Marriotts, Paradise and other places which had large areas of beaches with a long historical record of family selling there for generations, to build stalls. So did Marriott's. So did Paradise. We, in turn, built one at Holetown. When the Democratic Labour Party came into office, they converted that into a restaurant and rented it to a German woman at the back of the Police Station. That is what they did.

But there is still other visible evidence of other work. Go in Dover and you will see the mall at Dover which was one of the prototypes of the malls that would have been built all around Barbados. That mall remained in exactly the same condition for all of the years of the Democratic Labour Party from 1986 with all of the almond trees falling on it, with the roofing overladen with the almond seeds and leaves and the gutters blocked up. It took us to come back in office to go up there, at the request of the people up there, and clean up all of that so that the water can flow. What is more, we intend to see to it that that area is upgraded and that that mall is open and lit as it was intended to be.

Also, we left a plan for the acquisition of land opposite Southern Palms after we diverted the road and drained it for the creation of food stalls in conditions that those who are responsible for the public health of Barbados would be satisfied.

I want to hear the Honourable Member on that whether he is going to encourage people to sell food in such conditions that Barbados could be exposed to the potential threat of cholera. I want to hear the Honourable Member on that.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I am known to be a gentleman who is a vendor and I certainly would never encourage any conditions to prevail that are not good. If he is annoyed because of a restaurant that was put on Dover and he does not want the people in Dover, that is no problem.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I am glad that the Honourable Member has got up and said that he is in favour of regulation of food vending, to such an extent that the public health people will be satisfied and that the potential threat of cholera does not arise in Barbados.

But I want to know how you can reconcile that with having people on Swan Street peddling food with no toilet facilities, with no running water and in total contradiction with the public health laws. Advocating that on the one hand and, on the other hand, you can get up in here and say that you are a responsible person.

I want to go further, because I remember these things very clearly. When the Barbados Labour Party was in office in 1986, a presentation was made by Design Collaborative, with Mahy, Chaderton and Ridley as the engineers, for the complete refurbishing of the Cheapside Market. I know that. You had 8½ years before the Government collapsed, because the Honourable Member for St. John reminded us that after June 1994 there was no Government in Barbados. It was a series of people drawing money. That there was such division. The knives were drawn. The daggers were drawn. In 1986 Design Collaborative produced a plan to completely refurbish the

Cheapside Market. In the 9 years they did absolutely nothing to execute that plan. They did absolutely nothing to execute the plan in Fairchild Street. It is like the Sewerage Scheme that you had 10 years to do and did nothing about either.

The position is that the good Lord has spoken and he has given us an opportunity now to implement the plans that we have there. We started on Dover. We started on Holetown. We had Marriott's. We had Paradise. And, of course, we had Oistins. You did nothing at Oistins in that period of time to implement Phase 2. But they have water facilities and they have toilet facilities. Check right now.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: That is the Public Health Officer's duty. That is the duty of the Public Health Officer for the southern area. It is also the duty of the Chief Public Health Officer. That is her duty as well, to see that the law is carried out. We have created the physical framework. It is the duty of the Public Health Officer to see that those who are the operators carry out their terms and conditions. But you must admit that the physical infrastructure is far superior to what it was before.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: So much the better. The Honourable Member is trying to say it is just a little thing. Why did you not do it for all these years?

This concept of the development of a physical infrastructure to facilitate the expression of small businessmen in vending is something that is part and parcel of the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party since the 50s as I have spoken, shown and demonstrated it. Then we came to the Fairchild Street terminal, an example of foresight and vision.
11.55 a.m.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Vic Johnson. I remember when a Cabinet Paper ...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I am just checking for my own benefit. This is an acquisition I take it ...

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not sound like a point of order to me.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am getting to it, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I cannot hear, Sir. I wish to hear what you are saying, Sir. My point of order, Sir, is that the Honourable Member is irrelevant in relation to the Resolution, Sir. I am making the point, Sir. I draw it to Your Honour's attention that this is an acquisition. I just wish to be certain, Sir, that this is an acquisition.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Proceed, please.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I sat in here and listened to the Honourable Member, the spokesman for the Opposition. Why didn't he object to him when he was outside the parameters? The fact is that you did not think that we had the ammunition on us to reply to the irrelevancies and the distortions produced by the Honourable Member. You think that our memory is short.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please! Order, please!

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that they put people out of Rockers Alley? Is it not a fact, Sir, that under the Democratic Labour we negotiated and approved a loan for the refurbishment of the Cheapside Market? Is it not a fact that we acquired land at High Street for the provision of further spaces for vendors? Is that distorting facts?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point of order, please.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: The Honourable Member accused the Barbados Labour Party of pursuing policies which were detrimental to the interest of small business vending in Barbados. That is the distortion.

Now, Sir, I am not worried about the Honourable Member. Sooner or later the Honourable Member will be further exposed. Now, Sir, the basic position is this. The Honourable Member was in charge of Health and the Honourable Member should know that the files are replete with concerns being expressed from the Director of Medical Services or the Chief Technical Officer, Medicine or by whatever name called. With all of that concern about the vending of food in Barbados, serious concern has been expressed, particularly since the outbreak of cholera in Latin America and something has to be done.

Now, Rockers Alley. The Honourable Member knows that the Commissioner of Police in a public statement said that he and he alone took that responsibility. The Commissioner of Police publicly stated that it was his responsibility because in his opinion the law was being broken daily there, that drugs were being sold that challenged the authority of the police. The Honourable Member forgets that.

Now, if there is one thing that the Honourable Member can never accuse the Labour Party of is giving directions to the Commissioner of Police for he so hated the Labour Party.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Let me talk.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member, Sir, is violating the rule which says that you must not speak of a person who is identifiable in his public capacity. To say that the former Commissioner of Police hated a particular group, is to speak of him in a manner which is both unfair and unparliamentary

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please, could we proceed with the debate on a professional level?

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Very professional, Sir. I am very professional in this respect because I remember the circular that was issued after the 1986 elections. I remember it very well so if you push me I will quote it. The basic position is, Sir, the responsibility for the removal of people in Rockers Alley was claimed by a public officer and the Labour Party has never given any directions to public officers in that respect. We have never given the Commissioner of Police directions to remove the Rockers Alley people. You know that.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: You have got full opportunity to move. This is your era.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, Honourable Members.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: So that I commend the Minister for bringing forward this Resolution and I look forward to an exemplification of an excellent design by the architect which would bring vending in Barbados into such a condition that people would come here and say, look what a Government has done for these people. I have been all over the world and I have seen in Hawaii, both on the beaches and off the beaches, that they have proper kiosks for the sale. I have just been to Russia and I see, even in that country, they have recognised that there is such an urge among small people to participate in economic activity that they will, in defiance of all governmental constraints, indulge in that activity. Even in Cuba, within the Caribbean, the pressure has been so great to satisfy the demands of small people to participate in business activities that although it is contrary to the philosophy or the professed philosophy, they still have to permit, to a certain degree, enterprise in this area. The Labour Party is very cognizant of it and we are implementing it. We have not been in office for any long period of time and the people have visible effects.

There is one last thing that I am going to speak on. I was privileged to participate in the decision for the acquisition of a large area of land in Bay Street, land between where the CARICOM Export Promotion Unit is sited and the old Ice Company. All of that belongs to the people of Barbados for beach access and for the best designed facilities you can have if you wish to have beach vending. Nobody is going to buy that. That is not for sale. That area of land cannot be for sale because it has been acquired for the people of Barbados for ever, a perpetual access for the people of Barbados. That is a Labour Party policy. Just as we did Rockley Beach and all of these years have passed and they still have not built vending facilities there. I hope that I will live long enough to see proper vending facilities on Rockley Beach. On many occasions attempts were made and we had a lot of objections from technicians but now that the sewerage scheme is in they cannot be any more objections to vending there in proper conditions.

Anybody who gets in this House of Assembly or in the public press or anybody who repeats the things that have been trumped out today by the Honourable Member and the suggestions that have been made that the Labour Party does not want black people to vend will know that they are flying in the face of facts which indicate the contrary. I commend the Minister, Sir. I just want him to know that Oistins has started. We want to extend that too. 12.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to give this Resolution my full support. I listened with great amazement to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. He said that we must not engage in the policy of sticking people here and everywhere and that the Democratic Labour Party had a plan for small people and craft vendors. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a document of the House, the Development Plan of Barbados 1993 to the year 2000. There is no mention of it in this document, none whatsoever. This is also a document of the House, the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party 1994, General Election. There is no mention whatsoever in this.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. If I can get a copy, I do not even have to quote it. If the Honourable Member would look through that document ... Up to last night...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Give me the copy and I will identify it. Pass me that copy. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this House. The 1994

Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party on page 19 under the heading "Market Development" says as follows:

> "A Democratic Labour Party will implement its plan to refurbish and upgrade the market facilities at Cheapside, Fairchild Street, and Eagle Hall as a matter of urgency. An area has already been chosen to locate a facility in Bridgetown to permit vendors access to first class accommodation and provide for easy access between clients and vendors without causing traffic congestion and breaches of the law."

The last point that I want to make, Sir, is that the 1991 Manifesto also set that out quite clearly and what we said in the 1991 Manifesto has been reproduced almost word for word in the Barbados Labour Party 1994 Manifesto. It is amazing.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: **Mr.** Speaker, Sir, I repeat my point. The Democratic Labour Party Manifesto of 1994 makes no mention of accommodation for handicraft and other such vendors. This general statement which appears on page 19 appears in every manifesto of every party over the past 25 years. Anybody can make a statement about markets. But I would want to refer Honourable Members to the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto of 1994 and more particularly to page **28** where it states, and this is a document of the House, Sir, the following:

> "The new Barbados Labour Party Government will among other things:
>
> (a) establish a programme for the 'greening' of Bridgetown and for urban green areas in Jubilee Gardens, Cheapside, Fairchild Street and Church Village,
>
> (b) implement the Bridgetown Waterfront Development Project,
>
> (c) encourage the restoration of buildings of architectural interest as a means of both preserving the national heritage and providing jobs."

All of this, Sir, is to be found in this document which was presented last week in a town meeting at the Frank Collymore Hall in respect of the Urban Rehabilitation of Bridgetown. I go on, Sir:

> "(d) to construct on the sites of those public markets which the Barbados Labour Party had already earmarked for demolition large multi-purpose markets for arts and crafts as well as for food and general merchandise."

It goes on to say:

> "(c) renovate and promote Pelican Village as a craft market,
>
> (d) upgrade facilities at Temple Yard,
>
> (e) renovate the old Customs House on the wharf and any other suitable and available Government owned buildings in commercial for use by small entrepreneurs."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was my great privilege to introduce the Pre-Feasibility Study on The Urban Rehabilitation of Bridgetown last week. This is what the Barbados Labour Party is proposing now, not 8 years down the line. The Democratic Labour Party had 8 years from 1986. This is what is on the way now and the Minister of Housing should be commended that he moved with speed to develop the Palmetto Mall. I have difficulty with black people who stand up in here and seek to make an argument as to why other black people who are not as well off as they are should be in the sun and the rain in Swan Street and other places and **try** to make it into a virtue. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the vendors in Swan Street do not come from Bridgetown but come from St. Michael East and St. Michael West. Why should they be persuaded that it should be their lot in life for evermore to operate running from the Police without proper facilities and amenities in the sun and rain in Swan Street and elsewhere?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West never did anything in all the more than 20 years he has been in here to the Eagle Hall Market so that the people in St. Michael West can have somewhere to go to take their produce. I do not listen to them. He is the close-downer of 400 small shops, so I do not want to hear anything from the Honourable Member for St. Michael West when it comes to small people, entrepreneurs, vendors, craftsmen or anything like that. You were the original "downsizer" in Barbados. You downsized 400 small shops. We know about the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. There is on record in the Government a survey that was done that gave the lie to the foolishness which was put out about 400 shops. It is a diabolical lie, Sir, that 400 shops were closed down. A survey was done and I can make the document available to Your Honour, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this House.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I hear the Democratic Labour Party over and over again playing the racist card, I smile. It did not work for them in September, 1994 and yet this is the same Democratic Labour Party. I do not like to get into this racist talk because we are all Barbadians. But nobody did more for the white people in this country in the last 8 years between 1986 and 1994 than the Democratic Labour Party. A whole cruise terminal in the Port was handed over to the white people. So desperate was the Honourable Member for St. John when that was turning against him in the campaign in 1994 that he got up on a platform and shouted out at the top of his voice and said: "I am going to build another one for the small people." All that kind of desperate talk went on. When you look through this DLP Manifesto, it even talks about a supermarket. This manifesto makes reference to the development of supermarkets. Government is not in the retail business. But do not let me digress from my point, Mr. Speaker.

When I hear the DLP making these racist points, I know that they are extremists and their backs are to the wall and that there is no rational argument that they can bring. Because nobody has done more for the so-called small people, the vendors and the small entrepreneurs in this country than the Barbados Labour Party. It was the Barbados Labour Party who came into Government again in September, 1994 and Prime Minister Arthur saw fit to create a Ministry called Commerce, Industry and Small Business. That speaks to the priority that the Barbados Labour Party has for small business and development.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, there is no Ministry called Commerce, Industry and Small Business. None. I do not know what it is called but it is not called that. The Honourable Member cannot get in here and tell the Speaker blatant untruths. There is nothing called Commerce, Industry and Small Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of course, the Honourable Member, I always thank you for what you call your wisdom. But, of course, I rely on the honourable nature of all Members.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear to me that the Honourable Member for St. Michael East will go back in his constituency and tell the small vendors and the small entrepreneurs that really and truly they should be out in the sun and the rain. That is the place for them, because that is the essence of what he is saying in here.

12.15 p.m.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Sir. I never said anything about anybody being out in the sun and rain. I never mentioned it once.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I am saying that is what you have to go and tell them.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: You can't tell me what I have to go and tell the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: You cannot tell me what I have to go and tell the people. I tell them what I want to tell them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: She is always out of order. Nobody can get her to behave. She is talking foolishness. She can't tell me what I must say in St. Michael East. I am the governor in St. Michael East.

Mr. SPEAKER: Take your seat, please.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The only small entrepreneurs the Honourable Member for St. Michael East sought to help were those who required licences. How many? 500.

Certain remarks made by Mr. J. O. TUDOR were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: What I am saying is that they must not say in this Honourable House that I gave 500 licences to vendors.

Aside.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I am not talking about permits, I am talking about licences for the vendors to operate small businesses in Bridgetown.

Mr. SPEAKER: So you are saying, the Honourable Member, it is not 500.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was your point of order.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I want it to be very, very clear. When the structural adjustment programme was taking effect and had an impact on the constituency of St. Michael East, I sought to have for them licences so that they can operate businesses in town. . .

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member,

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: . . . . and certainly that had nothing. . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, please! The Honourable Member, will you take your seat, please? A point of order is not an excuse to give any explanation or a speech. You have made your point of order. Could we proceed, please?

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City, could we proceed with this debate bearing in mind the Resolution and also bearing in mind the dignity of this Honourable Chamber, please?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East is seeking to misquote me. I didn't say that he gave licences to the vendors. I did not identify the kind of licences I was talking about, but the cap fit him and he jumped up. That is his business.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. At no time did I issue any licences to anybody, so if the Honourable Member is saying I issued any licences, *ask* her to check her facts. I never issued any.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of any reference in the Development Plan to take us down to the year 2000, in the absence of any clear and specific reference in the 1994 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party, and in implementation of the 1994 General Election Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, I am pleased this morning that not only is the Honourable Member for St. Andrew in the process of fulfilling one of the several mandates given to small people, and particularly vendors, and more particularly craft vendors, in the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto, but there are other plans getting underway, some about to get underway. Palmetto Mall is underway.

I shop over here in the Old City, Sir, buying vegetables from the same lady for maybe 25 years. Her name is Gervais, she comes from St. Joseph and she has a stall out there, so I am out there weekly. The comment I hear is: "God bless the Labour Party."

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Not from Gervais only, because Gervais is not the only person I buy from.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Her hand would fall off first. I am telling you what Gervais has told me herself. She said her hand would have to fall off first.

Mr. Speaker, I am out there on a weekly basis and I hear the comments. The people who are out there, still taking the elements and still without the best facilities and amenities available to them, are looking forward to the Palmetto Mall. I can say that of my own knowledge. In addition to that, Sir, accommodation is going to be prepared for craft vendors in what is sometimes called the old spirit bond, or the Queen's Warehouse, on the Wharf. It is proposed that that would house almost exclusively genuine craft workers who will work their craft – whether it be baskets or leather – and sell it in that facility. It will of course house restaurants, cafés and other facilities, including good public conveniences, for members of the Barbadian public and visitors to Barbados.

It is further proposed, Sir, that the Cheapside Market, when it is refurbished and rebuilt, will be able to house not only a number of people who are now in the Temple Yard who are genuine craft workers, but other handicraft workers as well. Several months ago, quite early last year, I walked with the Honourable Member for St. James North, the Minister of Agriculture, at the Cheapside Market. We spoke to vendors of all kinds, both inside and outside, and it is proposed that a mezzanine floor will go in at the Cheapside Market and that it will be all handicraft. It is going to be a beautiful sight to behold, Sir. A food court with an atrium, which already exists, but we go in there and we don't look around. We see but we don't see. Sections for vegetables, sections for fruit, sections for meat and poultry, and then upstairs on the mezzanine the craft workers again working their craft, displaying and selling at one and the same time.

It is further proposed, Sir, that when the Lower Green becomes a green again – and it is hoped that that will happen well before the year 2000 – none of this was in the Development Plan, but it is in the Development Plan of this Barbados Labour Party administration – it is proposed that accommodation will also be made available for particularly craft and other vendors too in and around the regreened Lower Green.

12.25 p.m.

At Pelican Village, even as we speak, Sir, the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation is in the process of finalising plans for a total upgrade and refurbishment. It will look quite different from what it looks like now. That, again, is earmarked, as it was from the very beginning, for handicraft vendors predominantly and other people who are into arts and crafts of one kind or another.

It is further proposed, Mr. Speaker, that when the Fairchild Street Market comes on stream again a special section would be made available there to accommodate the craft workers of Barbados. There is going to be more square footage in and around Bridgetown, and not only Bridgetown, Sir, Speightstown as well and St. Lawrence Gap. I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will be pleased to hear it. I can only speak to the matters that fall under the tourism development programme, Sir. I suppose that other people will speak for Oistins, but accommodation will be made for small vendors and small entrepreneurs in suitable surroundings. There is going to be more square footage available in Bridgetown than we will have vendors and crafts people and arts

people to exhibit and to work their crafts and to sell at one and the same time.

Only 3 or 4 weeks ago, I visited the exhibition of Jelani in Queen's Park House. Wonderful work that she does with basketry. She is one who went off to West Africa to learn new techniques of basketry and new ideas. Beautiful work! Needless to say I made a purchase and one of the things I said to her was, "Jelani, you have to be one of those people who will get into the old spirit bond. You need to be there doing your basketry, selling your work at one and the same time." She was excited at the prospect of it. And a whole bunch of other people as well.

This is not any development, like the cruise terminal was some years ago, only for people operating at a certain level. People at any and every level who would want to be described as a vendor of some kind, as a small entrepreneur of some kind, these are the people whom the Barbados Labour Party is giving priority at this time.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I smile when I hear all of that talk and flannel and fuzz coming from over on the other side:, because as the Honourable Member for Christ Church...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Flannel and fuzz is a well known Barbadian term, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you referring to the Honourable Members' contribution as fuzz?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, they call me all sorts of things, but nobody never ever referred to me as fuzz.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would you want the remarks to be withdrawn? Honourable Member, I believe in all fairness to the Honourable Member...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I was not saying that the Honourable Member was flannel and fuzz. It seems that Honourable Members do not know the expression. It just means a lot of talking. Pure waffle. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is suggesting that I should say bag fuzz, but I don't mean bag fuzz. Bag fuzz cannot apply to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East as he has rightly pointed out. I would not make personal remarks of that kind.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to support this Resolution because indeed what this Resolution is doing is pointing the way and this is one of the opening salvos in a massive programme that the Barbados Labour Party Administration has – it is no longer on the books now but up and running – to assist in small business development in almost any meaning that you would want to give to that phrase.

I am pleased to commend the Honourable Minister for moving with speed and with resolution. He did his business well and he consulted with these people. I attended a town meeting with him for discussion in the steel shed in Queen's Park where the plans were on display, and so people who are earmarked to move into the Palmetto Mall already have a feeling of some ownership of the project and are looking to see what they feel is going to become theirs. As I say, I am out there and I hear the comments and they are all positive.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to understand how this Resolution which my honourable friend, the Member for St. Michael East, started out to speak on by saying that it will meet no objection from Honourable Members on this side. It seems to me that the Honourable Members on the other side came in and they recognised or believed that the breadfruits over here hang low. I don't understand. It is as if they ate razor blades. I am amazed at the amount of heat generated on this simple Resolution that seeks to carry on a policy that was adumbrated by the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party came into this House and articulated the issue relating to that area and I can think of no better way in a few minutes than to read again from the speeches made in this House in the debate of 1990. In 1990, we came in here to acquire property just across the street from here, Sir, in High Street, to do exactly what the Honourable Member has come to do.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member for the City had taken a hiatus, a much needed rest, and she had been despatched by one Peter Miller and the people of the City to a place of rest.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Your entire life has been devoted to destroying me. I understand that. You have not forgiven me, because I brought Peter Miller to oust you from the the City seat which you thought was yours in perpetuity and for other reasons which are not the business of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand why the Honourable Member, the distinguished gentleman from St. Andrew, in introducing this Resolution did not say to this House that he in fact would have found the related plans in the Ministry over which he now presides. I really am disappointed that he, by that inadvertent slip, would have allowed the Baron of Oistins to have to vent some of that expression which he does so

well as even to bring in the poor, former Commissioner of Police.

Mr. Speaker, I walk with my details all the time and know how the other Members on that side feel about the former Commissioner of Police. Three former Attorneys General had signed a document which they published saying why that Commissioner should go. I lived to hear one of them say that all is well with him, at the point when the man was going. But the time will come when we will discuss that kind of hypocrisy.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I haven't quoted from a document. Pull those old tricks for the youngsters. I do not intend to quote from a document, but I know the Honourable Member can read from over there and he wants me to read it and repeat the awful things they said about that Commissioner; but I will not do that. What I will do, Sir, is to quote from that debate. I think that would be the only thing that would help here, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, we were in fact discussing the acquisition of some land, a property to bring... On page 6245 of Hansard, the Honourable D. G. Blackman was speaking and I am quoting him now. He said:

> "Mr. Speaker, this matter with the location and relocation of the Swan Street vendors and others in the environs of this House is a matter which has received the painstaking attention of the Ministry of Transport and Works..."

This is December 1990.
12.35 p.m.

I continue to quote:

> "The plans took at least two years in their making and the Ministry put together a team involving expertise, not only from the public sector, but also hired engineering consultants, architects and landscaping consultants, in order to present the final proposals to the Cabinet of Barbados. In all of these discussions, as the Honourable Member for the City can attest..."

That Honourable Member was Mr. P. J. M. Miller who had spoken fully and I will give you a paragraph from what he said to give the lie to some of what has been said from the other side here today. But I continue:

> "...he was a participant of all of the important meetings. Businessmen in the City of Bridgetown were involved as well as the Barbados National Trust. Yes, the Barbados National Trust. That organization which has taken upon itself to purvey untruths, deliberate untruths about the location of vendors' mall on the perimeter of the Careenage.
>
> At the time these gentlemen were busily propagating the fiction that a market would be located in juxtaposition of the statue of Nelson, they were in possession of the actual plans. I have never seen such criminal dishonesty in my life from an organization that dared to describe itself as patriotic. They were in possession of the plan. They were consulted extensively. They knew what the final proposals were. And yet had people in this country believing that the location was going to be right next to Nelson. I was so flabbergasted I could not even break my silence."

I pause here now, Sir, because the same kind of misinformation could possibly be put forward as a result of the information which was put in here today so far from the other side because only the ones who are unfamiliar with, or misinformed about the development of the Palmetto area could even remotely suggest that this acquisition today is pristine, that it a result of some pristine policy that would bring the people from Swan Street out of the sun and rain, in the words of the Honourable Member for the City.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member from her seat now wishes me to divert to why we did not build it. I am dealing with the untruths which could go forth that it was not even conceived until the Honourable Members came in here today to acquire the land. The Honourable Member for the City when she sat down left the impression that she was there at the Town Meeting and anybody who hears this would think this is the first time in the history of Barbados that we have been discussing this.

Don Blackman in 1990 said that it took 2 years of painstaking examination to arrive at the plans.

Mr. Speaker, we continue so that we do not get confusion compounded by confusion. I continue to quote:

> "The plan therefore for the allocation of places in Bridgetown to vendors arising out of the specific problem of the Swan Street vendors, therefore was very carefully and painstakingly constructed. It was carefully gone into, with consultation, in the light of the problems which the persons who were removed from Rockers Alley, in the confusion together with the club wielding police officers, in the light of the problems that they experienced when they were put into a location in Temple Yard, where there was no proper plan. Everybody who goes to Temple Yard can see the eyesore that it is because of the haste in which the location was done. That is why we were

very careful to take our time about it and to consult as widely as possible.

At the time of our discussions, the participants became aware of the fact that if they had solved the problem of the Swan Street vendors, in isolation from the vendors in the centre of Bridgetown, such as those who sell right on this street to the east of this building, that as soon as they finished with that problem, they would have to address the problem with the Rickett Street vendors and those that were encroaching on the premises of the Central Bank. And therefore, it was decided...."

Listen here, Sir. This is the policy. I am quoting.

"And therefore, it was decided to incorporate all of the vendors within this central Bridgetown area."

I pause again, Sir. There is the nexus of my concern with the presentation by the Honourable Members on that side. This is an issue that requires light, not heat. This is an issue where the young people in this country should be able to see a scheme, a thread, albeit it is not so golden, going through the policy making of the people who have taken over the responsibility for their Government.

The Honourable Member said in her presentation that she is embarrassed when she hears black people getting up in here making statements about other black people and leaving them in the sun and rain. But the Honourable Member should be even more embarrassed when she hears black people getting up in here and making statements about one another which can only lead to the misunderstanding of other black people out there about what is their true position in this country.

We, Sir, sought to make the whole issue of vendors in Barbados a total issue and if we as a Government erred in not being able as quickly to put in place the plan, then it was an error, but there is not a single intelligent being in this country who is unaware that all capital projects were put on the back burner precisely because we had to turn to saving the currency and thereby the economy of this country. It behoves not the Honourable Member for the City, or the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, to come in here subsequently in the acquisition of a property to continue a policy that has been long accepted as desirable by both sides, to give an impression that we were fiddling while Rome was burning.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Please, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member cannot divert me from the course I am taking now because I am putting it in perspective for those who wish to hear in relation to this acquisition which is going to be done now.

Let me continue to quote:

"There were plans to beautify Parliament ..."

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please. Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member is trying one more time to get me to pay attention to her.

Listen to this now, Sir. I am quoting:

"...and it was felt that it would be an intolerable situation to have rickety stalls lining the street right next to this building. That is why the numbers were greater than those initially thought to be provided for."

You see we are not now talking about the Careenage? I am quoting again.

"That is why there is an extension, not only of Swan Street, but also the establishment of malls on the northern edge of the Careenage."

That is part of the programme. We were acquiring the land in High Street. This Resolution is to acquire the land in High Street.

Asides.

12.45 p.m.

Here again I must advert to the comments of the politicians in the Barbados National Trust. I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat that. He wanted to interfere with that.

He discussed at great length the merits of location on the northern periphery of the Careenage and he discussed that. Then he went on to say, Sir, and I am quoting again:

"There will be a permanent mall."

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know it is strange. They are now questioning whether I can give my speech and why am I relying on quotations. I will explain. Having given sufficient speeches in here, I can feel free if it is going to enlighten the other side to give a quotation from a Minister who has worked on that side and this side. That Minister was able to put the record for the articulation of a policy that was acceptable to all people of goodwill.

That is why I am quoting him. It is good enough to be quoted. But no one who hears me quoting it can doubt that I am capable of making my speech myself but this is part of what is necessary. You do not want this part to come in.

I am going to quote again, Sir. Nineteen ninety:

"created in Swan Street limited to 40 vendors."

That is why the Honourable Member asked why you are moving the people out of Swan Street. Because there was a philosophical position that the Barbados Labour Party would move the people out of Swan Street so that Swan Street would be left entirely, completely and only to a certain group of people.

It was the Democratic Labour Party's position that ordinary Barbadians ought to be able to vend in Swan Street so long as they were not inhibiting those whose businesses are in Swan Street. There is a group of people who believe that Swan Street belongs entirely to them.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER.. Please, please. Order, please. Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, in 1988 a decision was taken by the Cabinet, of which the Honourable Member was a member, to move the vendors out of Swan Street and not to construct any mall at all in Swan Street. Let him deny that.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I categorically deny that we decided to move all the vendors out of Swan Street. That is what is wrong with the Members on that side. This is 1990 and the Honorable Member gets up and quotes 1988. Let us assume for the sake of argument that we made that decision in 1988, by 1990 we had repudiated it. But it is not true that we made it.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There is no subsequent Cabinet decision recorded repudiating the decision that was taken in 1988 to move the vendors from Swan Street. But then that is the same denial that they had made about university fees.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member will learn that the decisions that are made in this House are superior to the decisions that are made in a Cabinet. The Honourable Member will learn that the Cabinet is only an Executive Committee of this House. I am quoting from a decision that was being made in this House. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member will learn. I hope the time will come.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, please, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: We came down here and bamboozled by acquiring the land, Sir. That is how we bamboozled them.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are still quoting, I take it?

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, no, no, no. This was a resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bridgetown, St. Michael for extension of the Swan Street Mall.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, please, please.

Mr. B. M. TAI'IT: Give me some time to answer them, Sir.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You see, Mr. Speaker, they are not going to stop me from reading Don Blackman's speech.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The same one.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT:

"There will be a permanent mall created in Swan Street limited to 40 vendors. When the whole problem is settled and all of the vendors are properly located, if the 41st vendor moves into Swan Street he will find himself charged. The number will be strictly limited to 40 and not another person will be permitted to go there. All of the sanitary and other facilities which will enable the vendors to keep the area clean will be installed.

I myself have proposed, and most people within the Ministry of Transport and Works agree, that if a

huge fun fair like Disney World, for example, where tens of thousands of people go every day, and such large areas with far more people can be kept spotlessly clean, there is no reason why we cannot keep the Swan Street Mall spotlessly clean, the Mall on Palmetto Street spotlessly clean as well as the perimeters."

That is the point I wanted to make. I can understand the Minister if he thought we were talking about there. But it was over here, behind this Parliament or in front of it. There was no divide. It was only a question of which land should be acquired, which property. Because there was a fire and you had decided to acquire that property. We had no difficulty with it.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

In giving my presentation on this resolution, I stated the facts. I did not go into any long speech as to why the Barbados Labour Party was doing the acquisition at this time and the Democratic Labour Party did not do it for some reason or another. I did not go into any reason as to why people were relocated from Rockers Alley. That type of debate originated with the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. I stated the facts. That is all I did.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the next time the Honourable Member comes down for an acquisition, he would be fuller so that we would not have to spend time drawing information out of him and so that his colleagues would not mislead themselves. There are some of his colleagues who are ignorant of what has gone on and one can appreciate that because wisdom does not come until some time after.

But the Honourable Member for Christ Church South spoke and that is a horse of another colour. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South – I am sorry he is not in his place – has his own reasons why he has to take a certain position concerning the selling of food in places like Dover. That is not a matter which concerns me because that is not vending in the same sense that we are discussing it.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am always moved by the way the debates turn in this House. If the Honourable Members are going to do research, the Honourable Members should do the research completely.

Let me repeat. I said that I am not going to get involved in discussing with the Honourable Member, at this stage, certain matters which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would have a major interest in because he is concerned about the sale of food at Dover. That is what I said. He understands what I mean.

Sir, when all is said and done, what we have to do in this country is to ensure that ordinary people who become involved in vending in the streets of this country can do so in dignity, can do so with a measure of dignity and, at the same time, not contaminate the environment which is so important to all of us.

I do not believe that it is necessary for us to come in here and try to prove that this group was more interested in the vendors than the other groups.

Aside.

12.55 p.m.

The truth is that Mr. P. J. M. Miller had indicated that all of this business started when, for the first time the people of the City were getting some representation of any quality. Mr. P.J.M. Miller who for the first time brought some measure of decent representation to the people of the City came in here, Sir, and it was that distinguished gentleman, Mr. P.J.M. Miller, when he was in the Democratic Labour Party, who managed to brinp the whole issue of vending to the fore and which led the Government to spend some serious time examining the whole issue of the vendors. I hope that the present Minister will not fall prey to any partisan claptrap. I hope that the present Minister will continue the sterling efforts to transform the Palmetto Square area into a thing of beauty in keeping with the policy guidelines which the Democratic Labour Party have so admirably set.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been to Boston in the United States and the people of Boston have been able to create a moveable market. I have never seen anything like it in my life. It is a fantastic phenomenon where people of all descriptions and all kinds can come in and do come in and they sell their wares and as the Honourable Member was saying, some of them actually manufacture as they are selling. They have a kind of built in manufacturing and marketing system all in one and they are allowed to sell outside the major hotel areas. It is only in places like Barbados where certain types get very nervous as soon as they see more than 3 or 4 black people gathered in the same place.

You can suck your teeth as much as you like because you all do not like to hear the word "black". Some of you do not like to hear the word "black". I am saying that there are some people who get nervous. When you go to London, Sir, you can go into the heart of London and you will find markets. The people have a street closed off every weekend in parts of London. If you go to New York you will find people selling on the streets at certain times of the year. You walk down the streets of Fifth Avenue and

people are breaking off your shoulder trying to get you to come and buy something. I do not understand why people in this country seem to feel that if somebody is not fortunate enough to get a hifalutin booth in somewhere like the Port that that person is somehow not permitted to sell. They have to learn how to behave themselves. They have to learn how not to harass people. They have to learn how to keep the place tidy.

I watch the Rastas who used to sell coconuts down by Stanmore Crescent, every Sunday morning they set up, they sell their coconuts and every Sunday afternoon they clean the place immaculately. I watched it for years. They are a people who have entrepreneurial spirit in this country who do not have the opportunity or the capital to go past a certain level. What Governments like ours should be doing is finding ways and means to fuel that particular machinery so that those people can get an opportunity to put their entrepreneurial capacity at the disposal of the rest of the country.

Not everyone of them will prove to be immaculate in their approach to the laws and that is why we have laws and that is why there are people to enforce the laws. You have Public Health Inspectors, you have Policemen and they are to make sure that the laws are enforced but it does not mean that when we come to look at policy we are to run and hide from dealing with these issues frontally. We are to deal with them, we are to tell people enough is enough and that is why we had said 40 in Swan Street would be enough.

When we looked at setting up the Mall behind here we understood that the people who were then in Rickett Street would be going to Palmetto.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, let me withdraw any imputation that we had made the decision to move the people from Rickett Street to where they are now. If that is what is understood, that is not what I am saying. I am saying that when the Mall that we were going to create, when money afforded it, because the Honourable Member is saying you did not do anything . . . I challenge anybody in Government anywhere to be able to do all the things they plan to do at the time they are holding office for the first 5 years.

The Honourable Member just made a speech, which if the newspaper reports are correct, suggested that they are going to spend $45 million transforming the Bridgetown area. It is not the first time that somebody has made a statement about what they are going to do. It is not the first time that we want a blueprint. This Parliament itself, Mr. Speaker, when you came in as Speaker you would have found blueprints for transforming the Parliament yard and the West Wing. We have always been ready to make these transformations.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The fact is that it is this Government's time to be on the watch. They have the opportunity. It is their opportunity now and they are going to be judged as all Governments are judged. The time cometh when this Government will have to account for its stewardship just as all Governments before it, so in the meantime remember to make hay while the sun shines for procrastination is the thief of time and this Government has already been functioning for nearly 2 years. As parliamentary Government goes, it has been functioning for nearly 2 years.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: That is all right. You let the people judge. According to the people in my constituency who are either out of work or being dismissed wholesale....

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am too busy doing things for the City. The Honourable Member, for the first time, has a constituency office. The first time the Honourable Member has had a constituency and people from the City are still coming to my constituency office. The Honourable Member better not let us talk about who does what for whom.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, your time has expired. Will the Honourable Member conclude, please.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. MISS B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.00 o'clock this afternoon.

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

The question was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. Speaker suspended the sitting accordingly.

1.32 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Resolution and I must say that I was very impressed with the speech of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who was able to give us a very vivid history of the role of the Barbados Labour Party in assisting small business persons in this country. I believe Honourable Members of the House must have benefited

from that exposition by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Sir, this matter of vending is nothing we would want to politicize and it is unfortunate that the Member for St. Michael East found himself on that road. I think that he took the wrong turn at the wrong place and perhaps he was the wrong person who was making those kinds of comments. Sir, looking at it futuristically in terms of small vending in Barbados, I wish to suggest that the vendors join themselves in a group to market themselves. So that once we provide the facilities for them they would market themselves in such a way that people would naturally buy their products. I believe, Sir, that they have to recognize the need for marketing of their products and services in order for this to maximize profits.

Sir, in addition to that, I believe that Government could also look at initiatives to cooperate with them in their marketing efforts. I am talking, Sir, not only of the street vendors but I am talking as well of the beach vendors and I think as an entity that for the future we can look at having them marketed when we are promoting Barbados overseas in the audio visuals and we can have them projected in the printed literature especially, Sir, now that we have this great initiative of having placed them in Palmetto Square. Once we have the kind of adequate facilities that are necessary, I think that we would have laid the ground work for the effective promotion and marketing of small vendors in Barbados.

I would also hope, Sir, that the hoteliers give the vendors the encouragement which they need. I remember conducting a seminar some 2 or 3 years ago for beach vendors and water sports people and there was the complaint that they were not being given any assistance at all. As a matter of fact, they complained that hoteliers were acting as a hindrance to their being allowed to market their services. I believe that there is need for collaboration because vending reinforces the efforts of the hoteliers. In fact, it enhances Barbados as a product because it facilitates interaction between the visitor and the local person and it should be encouraged. I am hoping that the hoteliers will understand the importance of facilitating the marketing efforts of the vendors. In this regard, Sir, I believe that signage at the airport and seaport which will show where these vendors can be found and the kinds of things which they sell will help these vendors in their marketing efforts.

Sir, the Government is on the right track and with the cooperation of the tourism arm of Government and also with the support of the big private sector I believe that vending will be able to provide the kind of economic enfranchisement for the small businessman in Barbados. So we are seeing a catalyst for real change and, once all the sectors cooperate in these endeavours, Sir, I believe that once again this Government will prove that it is really working in the interest of the small man and will not only be giving rhetoric and not supporting the rhetoric action. But we will, as have been proven historically, act on behalf of the small people of Barbados.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in this debate to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. Much has been spoken, Sir, on both sides about manifesto promises and I wish to turn to page 9 of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto, which is a document of this Honourable Chamber. It says, Sir, in very explicit language:

> "A BLP Government will seek as a matter of urgency to establish permanent vendors' sites, with adequate sanitary facilities in and around Bridgetown and off the highways.
>
> Existing produce markets will be refurbished and brought up to modern day standards of retailing. Craft markets will be established in Bridgetown, Speightstown, Oistins and Holetown."

The speakers on the other side have made much of the fact that at one time or another each party has enunciated the construction of some sort of facility for vendors. The Opposition says, Mr. Speaker, that we are acting on their plan, The fundamental point which must be made here amidst all of the quoting of 1990 speeches by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and all of the claims made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is that a person cannot exist on a good intention. It is all right for them to say that there was a plan, but until that plan actually becomes a reality, it benefits nobody to remain at the stage of the concept only. That Party, Sir, had 8 years to take it from the stage of conception to construction, from the stage of being a plan, to the stage where it was a product in existence from which Barbados could benefit as a whole and in 8 years they did not manage to move it from the level of a plan.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, they must be tested against the other plans that they had when they say that they had a plan. We must test them against the other plans which they also alleged that they had. In this Chamber too, Sir, in the 1990 or 1991 Estimates Debate – I do not have the page with me, Sir – but the Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke of a plan that was to start very soon where there would be significant amounts of cosmetic surgery done at the St. Joseph Hospital, that contact had been made with the surgeon and that it would start within a matter of weeks after the financial year began. That, too, was a plan that never came to fruition, just like the Vendors' Mall Plan of the Democratic Labour Party, was never carried out.

We must look, too, at the St. John Development Plan which was to be sited in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. John, a person who was the

Minister of Finance. That was another plan that was never realized. So it is all right, Mr. Speaker, for them to get up and quote themselves in debate and beat their breasts and say that they had a plan. But many of us have plans that never reach fruition and, when we judge them by their deeds, you see that other plans that they had never moved beyond the planning stage. In 8 years, they never took the Vendors' Mall Construction Plan from the stage of a plan to the stage where it was a product existing beyond the minds and tongues of the Democratic Labour Party as a product that Barbadians can benefit from. I therefore want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Andrew for not only having a plan but for bringing it before the Chamber in a way which can be of benefit to all Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, I must also commend the Honourable Member for the alacrity with which he has brought this matter before this Honourable Chamber. We have only been in office for a year and he has been able, Sir, if I may use the language of conception, to give birth to what the Democratic Labour Party could not even manage to consummate.

What are the benefits to be derived from this Vendors' Mall? I want to speak, Mr. Speaker, and frame it in the broad context of the socio-economic benefits which will devolve on Barbados as a result of this. I would wish, Mr. Speaker, before I do so, however, to make one further point in relation to the Democratic Labour Party Plan. They said in this Chamber this morning that it was in their Manifesto. I wish to remind this Chamber, as indeed I wish to remind all Barbadians, that the Democratic Labour Party itself has repudiated the Manifesto as a social contract. That the Leader of the Opposition has said on record that what they put in a manifesto is not important, that you can say anything in a manifesto and you must judge them not on what they say but on what they do. So that we know, Mr. Speaker, that on the basis of that statement repeated over the last 8 years by the Democratic Labour Party that what they had in their manifesto with regard to the Plan is of no import and the fact that they have never done it, despite the talk, is itself ample evidence that they never intended to do it.

2.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I was to speak in broad terms of the benefits which people would derive from the vendors' mall now to be constructed.

Mr. D. J. H. **THOMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. According to my knowledge I am the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member just attributed certain statements to me. I wish to categorically deny that I have eyer said in this Chamber or otherwise that what is placed in a Manifesto is irrelevant and therefore I believe that the speaker should withdraw that statement as being entirely untrue and something I have never said in this House or anywhere else.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the benefits to be derived by Barbadians from the construction of this mall are myriad.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, you made a statement which the Honourable Member is suggesting cannot be attributed to him and you are being asked to withdraw the remarks.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the remarks are those of the Democratic Labour Party. It is true that they have been attributed in two ways.

Mr. SPEAKER: You did attribute these words to the Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I am not seeking to deny it, I am simply saying . . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: All I am asking you to do is withdraw them and let us move on, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Very well, Sir. I withdraw the comments, particularly in the light of the point the Honourable Member for St. John made, particularly in the light of his denial, though, Mr. Speaker, I would wish to say for the record that these comments have been repeatedly attributed to the leadership of the Democratic Labour Party, and the Honourable Member for St. John has never denied them before. But he now uses this occasion, many years after the fact, to deny it and if he wishes so to do, then I will withdraw the remarks, but Barbadians will well remember that this was part of the national discussions. It was in the national newspapers, it was never denied at the time it was published, and this fuelled a lot of national discussion over whether a Manifesto is a social contract or not.

I go on, Mr. Speaker. The benefits to be derived from the construction of such a mall, Sir, are myriad. I would wish to point, first of all, to the fact that a possibility exists that those who are producing craft and wares in such a mall have the opportunity not only to make a living for themselves, but that such a mall could act as an earner of foreign exchange for the Government. Once people are put in a place that is attractive, clean and central, tourists are going to go into it, so that what the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is here creating is a new enterprise in Bridgetown that itself can be foreign exchange generating. There is always tremendous benefit to be derived by the economy and by the Government to have hard currency, to have good foreign exchange and to have a good balance of reserves.

But more than that, it recognises and pays tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit of the Barbadian, and particularly the small Barbadian vendor. Many of us do not recognise or often give credit to those people who sell, who accumulate small amounts of capital and turn it over and the businesses become significantly revenue generating for themselves. People have sent to school children out of enterprises such as these. They have gone from wooden to wall houses and the fact that this opportunity is now being given to them to work in an environment that is up scale, that is attractive, will also cause other people who may have. been reluctant to sell from the street to themselves want to get into a vendors' mall and sell from a setting such as that.

I have for a long time been concerned about the people who sell along Swan Street and other areas. The honourable Member for St. Michael East spoke of the running of people out of Rockers Alley, but the point must be made that in eight years they never at any time took any steps to invite these people back into Rockers Alley or anywhere else on Swan Street to ply their trade. Had the last administration felt that there had been such a terrible blow to the small man, that was an option available to them. This new mall, with bathroom facilities, brings dignity to the working conditions of those people who have, up to now, sold in the open air on Swan Street. In the last eight years the last administration never even saw it fit to provide a chemical toilet for those people so that they could have bathroom facilities. Some of them live in my constituency, some of them are women. That administration did not see the need to provide any basic social amenities, not a tap anywhere that they can go and wash their hands, not a bathroom that is covered and pleasant smelling and as a result people were forced to use the alleys off Swan Street as bathroom facilities and every day they smell temble and have to be washed down. You can see people going down the alleys to use the place as a public convenience. That is part of the social problem that this vendors' mall is now going to be redressing. It will bring dignity to the conditions in which people ply their wares and their trades. It means that people will not be subjected to the elements morning, noon and night, rainfall or sunshine, and that is significant, because everybody wants to go to a place where they can work in an atmosphere that brings dignity to them as individuals. This vendors' mall will do that.

It is also significant, Mr. Speaker, that this vendors' mall will have a serious impact on the preservation of health and the environment of the area. During the day, and during the evening in particular, once business is closed, when the bits of fruit and vegetables are placed by the wayside, often you can see rats and other rodents, cockroaches and other insects feeding on the scraps of fruit and vegetables. It has become, in some respects, a public health problem on what is one of the main streets in the city centre of Barbados. Placing these people in a vendors' mall will eliminate that problem, because there will not be large concentrations of people throwing fruit and vegetables and other things that will feed and help to harbour rats in this area.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The impression is going out that the vendors brought rats to Bridgetown and I would like that corrected.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, please. Proceed, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is capable of tremendous feats of illogic. We have sat in this Chamber and heard him "move Bulkeley factory back to St. George", and I am quoting him verbatim, when those of us who are right minded know it never left.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I challenge her to bring the records to prove that. As usual, she is doing the norm.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, given his leaps of illogic he will interpret what I am saying to mean that vendors brought rats to town. Wherever there are concentrations of places that can exist for harbouring of rodents, where they can get food, whether it is cane grounds or people's residences, they are going to go. It is a fact that because there is a source of food in town you can see them going there. I am not suggesting that people brought them there.

It is the embarrassment, in my view, of the Democratic Labour Party which is making them cast the argument in a way that would suggest that to give a mall to these people and to give them this degree of dignity in the place of business from which to operate is of benefit to people of certain colours and certain social classes and will benefit a certain select group. Mr. Speaker, it is because they are embarrassed that they have never done anything to help this group of small black people, the very group they have indicated that they are the champions of, that they are now trying to frame the argument to detract attention away from the fact that it is this administration that is really holding out hope to those vendors.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the absence of bathroom facilities for people who work in Swan Street has been a cause of major concern, not only to the people themselves, but to the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

2.25 p.m.

The fact that there are no adequate facilities for even washing their hands, all of these are public health problems that could have been and should have been addressed by the last Administration if in fact they were looking out for the vendors or if in fact they were concerned about the public health problems. It was not dealt with. It is all being dealt with now.

There is a sense of hope and gratitude amongst those who now sell on Swan Street, who see the possibility of their having a business place in central Bridgetown with proper facilities for them to sell from and with proper bathroom facilities that they can use for the first time. This is an important development for small business and small vendors and itinerant vendors in Barbados. Some people have sold from their particular spots for years. There are people who have a regular clientele and they are well known for selling certain products. They will now have an opportunity to have a space in the mall identified as their own from which they can sell and trade.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael East has also sought to make the point that the Barbados Labour Party Administration did not look out for small people and was trying to suggest that over the course of the last 8 years they were the people who looked out for small businessmen. I feel there is a need to revisit the opportunities that the Democratic Labour Party had to invest in the small man, in small business and small vendors. One of the first opportunities that they had was to upgrade Pelican or, alternatively, to give small men the opportunity to own certain types of businesses within the Cruise Terminal setting from which they could benefit from the cruise ship trade. Instead, they chose to give that opportunity to a large entrepreneur of the type whom they would now come in here to seek to condemn.

As a result, many of the small businesses in Pelican have been adversely affected. Pelican Restaurant, which to some extent was an institution in Barbados, has closed and other business have had to close down within Pelican because of the way in which the Port development was done to the exclusion of the small vendor at Pelican. That is a fact.

It is also a fact that in the way they developed and allowed to develop the all-inclusive hotel trade that they did not ensure that the small entrepreneur in the person of the taxi driver and other small businessmen were ever allowed to get contracts to work in these hotels. They could have done this because you can use moral suasion as a government to influence this sort of development. Instead, they ensured that these contracts continued to be monopolised and were monopolised by large companies, the very sort of companies that they now come in here to suggest that we are trying to benefit. All of that, Mr. Speaker, had to do with whether or not you are catering to the small man or the large man, and the point I am seeking to make is that over the last 8 years every opportunity they had to invest in the small man and to open opportunities for business for the small man they did not do it.

Again, another example can be produced in the sale of the Cement Plant and other national assets that were sold off, like the shares of BET. The last Administration had an opportunity to create small blocks of votes that small men could buy. They didn't. In each case it went to large business or outside interests so that telecommunications, which is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, has been given, not to Barbadians, not to small men, not to Barbadians living overseas to invest in, but has been given to an external, international conglomerate. The same applies to everything that they sold off that used to belong to Barbadians. So there is no evidence that over the last 8 years...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member but, Sir, first of all, only last week this matter of BET was debated and it is against the Rules of the House to refer to a debate that has already occurred.

Secondly, Sir, it is not relevant to the acquisition. I can understand reference to the small man but going into BET I submit is carrying it a little too far.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please. Honourable Member, bear in mind the point that has been made and don't stray too far from the acquisition.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept the ruling of the Chair. The point I am making is in relation to the acquisition is that the acquisition presents to the Administration an opportunity to give support to the development of small business and presents an opportunity for the small entrepreneur to invest in business that will not only earn revenue for himself but will earn foreign exchange. I was simply making the point which is analogous that when the last Administration had the opportunity to create similar investment opportunities for smdl businessmen by the sale of shares of properties which belonged to Barbados that they chose instead not to invest in small men or in small black Barbadians.

On a number of occasions we have heard the last Administration try to say within this Chamber that they are the champions of the black people of Barbados and every time we make some step towards further investing in black people or to champion the cause of black people they become so embarrassed that they try to make it appear as if we are doing something for a non-black upper class.

The people of Barbados need to be vigilant about this. They need to mark the Administrations on both sides, not only by what we say but by what we do.

2.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the last administration on June 25,1988 at a decision of Cabinet decided that the Swan Street vendors would be relocated to an area north of the Careenage. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is now trying to say that that is Palmetto Square.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I never said any such thing. I quoted a Minister who spoke to the House who said that there would be a permanent mall for 40 persons in Swan Street and that debate was in this House in 1990. The Honourable Member must not distort the record.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West quoted the speech and adopted it. I remember he said he was adopting it. The point I am trying to make is that they are now trying to suggest that the Barbados Labour Party Government is acting pursuant to a plan which they conceptualised. But when it was given birth to in their Cabinet, the plan was to purchase land north of the Careenage, not at Palmetto Square, so the Barbados Labour Party is acting on its own initiative.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. I quoted the Resolution. I said it was a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bridgetown, St. Michael for extension of the Swan Street Mall. I quoted it. It was for land on High Street.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honorable Member has 2 minutes more.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would just want to say that the Minister is to be commended for this effort for the speed with which he has brought it to the House. I wish to assure the Honourable Member for St. Michael East whose concern is about jobs that, indeed, the Barbados Labour Party is going about the business of job creation. This too will help to create jobs because more people will want to get into this sort of activity. We are ensuring too that the concept of red caps went to a person who had more jobs than you were in fact, offering so do not worry about jobs. Job creation is our business.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The tender that was submitted to the newspapers on the red caps contract stipulated that 60 porters should be tendered for. What has happened, Sir, was a variation of the tender and an award went for 80 persons when that was contrary to what was asked for in the tender in the newspapers, and she has the gall to come in here today to talk about an additional 20 jobs? It is dishonest and it is going to create serious confusion at the Airport by putting an additional 20 people up there.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: But it is ignorance and the Honourable Member must know that she must not come in here and distort things in that kind of manner. It is patent dishonesty.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in the 2 minutes which I have remaining I will...

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not have two minutes anymore.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I will simply say that the Minister is to be commended.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am not interested in whether Bulkeley has been moved back to St. George or not, neither am I interested in whether Mount Stinkeroo will be closed by June 1994 or 1995. What I am interested in today is that we are dealing with a resolution looking after the interest of the small man. As you are aware, Sir, whenever you are speaking about the small man, you are speaking my language.

I would like to make a couple proposals, Sir. In setting up any business, location is the key, and by making the point that location is the key to setting up a business, I want to make a couple suggestions that not only should we be setting up in Palmetto Square, but I honestly believe that some land should be reclaimed at Trevor's Way, right outside the Port. I have been hearing a lot of talk about the big businessmen getting the opportunity to operate within the Port. I am saying that what should be happening is that the small businessmen should be able to get some land which the Government should reclaim at Trevor's Way so they could set up a section for vending.

When I say that, Sir, I am not talking about vending only. I am talking about vending in craft, et cetera. That can become one of our tourist centres where people would move from the cruise ships and go on to Trevor's Way. I am not sure that when they come into Bridgetown they will come into Palmetto Square. It might have been easier for the tourists to come into Swan Street or Broad Street but if they are located on some reclaimed land at Trevor's Way I am sure the tourists would have to pass by Trevor's Way on their way to Bridgetown.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to compliment the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. He was very clear in his mind that when the $45 million on urban development is being spent, and he warned his party, that they should leave a space on Bay Street for the small man, and I will support him on that. He also recommended that in Rockley the small man interests should be looked after and I support him in that. But it is rather strange that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would have to remind his party that they should look after the

interests of the small man when they are looking at Rockley and Bay Street.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be serious about vending, and if we are going to be serious about the economy of Barbados, what we would have to do is to set up an agro processing plant because then we would be able to network. What would we have on the one hand? We would have small farmers on the Spring Hall Land Lease Project channeling their produce to vendors to Bridgetown and other locations. Those farmers would be able to produce knowing, and I am talking about small farmers, that the produce that cannot be sold by the small vendors in Bridgetown that the surplus will be able to go to an agro processing plant.

I am saying, Sir, that there is room also for the big fish, and I am not making a case for them but I would make this point now because in order for the agro processing plant to be successful, we must also have produce coming from the large plantations and we need not quarrel because the Democratic Labour Party in the early 1990s set up the Barbados Agricultural Management Company which has now about 40 indebted estates, so we need not fear that we are setting up an agro processing plant, as some people will tell me on the other side that we are making way for the large fish. I am saying that once we have an agro processing plant operating in Barbados, most of the problems for the small vendors and farmers will be eliminated.

I also want to move on to another point because we have to regard the people in water sports as small vendors too. There is a problem in this country that these people are always accused of doing wrong things to the tourists. I am always hearing that they are overcharging, *et cetera* and I am saying that is nonsense. You have a system where large hoteliers in this country charge a rate for water sports in their hotel rates, and the tourists do not enjoy the facilities, but yet still you do not hear one soul in this country accusing those people of robbing the tourists. They do not get an opportunity for water sports but they are charged for it. You do not see anything in the newspapers in this country which says that they are robbing the tourists.
2.45 p.m.

But now, if the same things were to be done by the small beach man, you would hear that the jet ski men are robbing tourists. There would be a big headline. We have to change these things, because we are giving the impression that only small people commit crimes and do things that are wrong. That is not true. Those people work hard.

As I pointed out earlier, those people bring a lot of tourists to this country. When the tourists come on to Broad Street or Swan Street they make contact with the vendors, not the owners of the stores. They also make contact with the taximen. When people say that there are no bathroom facilities for the vendors, that is true. We need to have some bathroom facilities for the vendors and also for the taximen who have been operating in Broad Street for years.

No Government or no side could come talking about you have not provided certain facilities for vendors because taxi men must be brought into that circle. As you would know, Sir, those gentlemen have been operating for years without bathroom facilities. I should also like to see that vending is regarded as an industry, not as if it is some ad *hoc* situation where, when you are scrambling, you decide to give a couple people licences to operate. I should like to see that at every tourist attraction area in Barbados that vending is allowed and that there is some provision.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I should like to see the day when vending is allowed at Redman's Village in St. Thomas. Because the location is right, Four Crossroads. I would like to see it at Archer's Bay, River Bay, Cove Bay, also down by the Naval Base, Six Men's and all of those areas. Also in St. Philip. But the vendors must get the necessary concessions if we are going to really give them the opportunity to exploit what they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the impression was also given in this House that by giving stalls to vendors you give them dignity. I object to that. Those vendors always had dignity. Giving them stalls does not give them dignity. Those small people always had dignity and integrity. This nonsense about giving them stalls to give them dignity, I do not associate myself with that remark.

We talk about sun and rain when it is convenient to us. But if you want to talk, you have to be careful how you push that argument. Because soon from now, somebody will be arguing that a cane cutter should have a parasol while he is cutting cane. You have to be careful. You cannot have one law for one type of worker. Not only that, Sir. The cane cutter has no choice. Because that is the only way he can cut cane. But the vendor can decide how he wants to sell his produce, whether he wants to put something over his head or not. The argument for the cane cutter must be put forward.

I will support this resolution but, at the same time, the impression that vendors will get dignity when they get stalls and cover over their heads, I will not support.

Thank you very much.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to be very brief because of the request of the Minister. There are one or two points that I feel I must raise. I am supporting the resolution. All sides seem to be agreed that the construction of mall facilities are pending in Bridgetown

and that it is critical. I do not think that anyone has any quarrel with that.

I only want however, Mr. Speaker, to ask that until the facilities are provided that the Government, through the Minister of Transport and Works and the Attomey-General should use their good offices to make sure that all these women from St. George who come to town trying to sell their own products to make a living be not hounded and run all around Bridgetown like common criminals. I know the law has to be observed and I understand, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that there must be discipline in the way we conduct business in Barbados and that we cannot have a general free-for-all.

But there is a number of concessions that should be made. I know what the law is but I am sure that, with proper direction, there can be an easing of the application of the full brunt of the law in respect of these people. I am not talking about some young men from around Bridgetown who go in to the back of Spry Street and buy 2 boxes of apples from the wholesalers there and come around town trying to sell the few apples. I have nothing against them, Sir. But they are very different from the old women in St. George who plant a few vegetables, okras, peas and so on. They cannot take them to the supermarkets any more, Sir, because the big producers monopolize the supermarkets. All those supermarkets only buy from big dealers. Small people who are selling their own produce that they grow on a small piece of land next to their houses now find it difficult to have access to the buying departments of supermarkets. But they need to have their goods sold.

They come to town with a basket maybe one day a week and try to sell off the few things they have grown and the policemen are running them all around Bridgetown because they do not have permits and cannot sell here and there. I am concerned about that.

I was in the law courts this morning and I saw a large number of vendors brought before the court. It happens all the time. But I only mention this moming because it is the most recent. People who are selling okras that they grow next to their house, red peppers, peas and this kind of stuff are the people who are appearing in the courts. I saw a middle-aged woman this morning. When she went into the dock, the first thing she did was to close her eyes and say a prayer. Then she said that she was guilty of selling without the requisite permit and she went on to say that she had these things that she had raised, she was not working, she had children and she wanted to raise some money for her children. In 1996 she is sitting down in a dock in a criminal court in Bridgetown.

There is a difference between, as I said, those who buy and then sell. They have to make a living too. But their position is very different from those who grow and then have to sell. If we do not ease up this system, we are going to cause a lot of problems in this community.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: You may not understand. The people in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West as I say may go at R. S. French's wholesale place and buy a box of grapes or apples and go and sell them on the bridge or wherever. There is nothing wrong with that. But I am talking about the people who produce their own crops and have to sell them.

Aside.

Mr. L. R. TULL: I find the Honourable Member for St. Michael West a little obtuse in his approach to this matter. I am trying to make some very serious points and he is bothering me about these differences. I do not want to get into any long debate today. I hope the Minister will heed my words in respect of these people.
2.55 p.m.

In respect of these outlets we get the feeling that only Bridgetown can sell products so you will build your markets in Fairchild Street, in Cheapside and Temple Yard and over here at the North of this building, Sir.

Some years ago the Barbados Labour Party administration had started making provision for the Barbados Marketing Corporation, as it then was, to open a number of outlets in certain strategic areas of the country to make sure that small fanners could have these outlets for getting rid of their goods and one was identified in central St. George in very close proximity to St. George Parish Church. It started, Sir, and a number of the persons of whom I speak were able to take their crops to this outlet in central St. George and get them sold. That outlet has now been closed. Nothing has replaced it and I am trying to urge those concerned, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Public Works and whoever are involved in these things, to see whether they cannot return to that sort of decentralised situation where the people in the country can find outlets to get rid of their crops without having to go through all of the problems of what goes on in the central markets in Bridgetown.

That is the only point I want to make, Sir, and I hope that my words, very brief, would be hearkened to by those who are in position to do something about it.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that this is an important debate and I want to add my voice to it. It is probably a tribute to the 2 major political parties that both of them, in some way, dealt with the problems which confront vendors in Barbados in the Manifestos far the last election. I wish to put to rest the very mis-leading, specious, untruthful, allegations that neither the

Development Plan nor the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto dealt with matters relative to the redevelopment of Bridgetown and to the whole range of other things which the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said were not dealt with in our Manifesto.

Nobody reading this Development Plan would fail to recognize the tables at the back of the document which relate to the public investment programme and projection of capital expenditure. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a projection for Cheapside Market of something like $4 million. There is a projection for Fairchild Street Market in the sum of $4 million. There is a projection for roadside markets. There is a projection for Eagle Hall Market in the sum of $2.5 million. All of these constitute part of the Development Plan which the Democratic Labour Party put before the public of Barbados. The Member for the City got up in this House and gave the impression that the Development Plan was silent on that issue.

What is even more shameful, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that on page 195 of the Development Plan new marketing facilities will be provided at the Cheapside and Fairchild Street sites while the existing facilities at Eagle Hall will be upgraded. These facilities will offer a new concept in marketing whereby agricultural commodities can be presented for retailing under more hygienic conditions and in a more attractive manner. I heard the Honourable Member with all of this talk about meats and poultry. She always has to add some dimension to these debates as if she has visited us from North America or Europe with other people's ideas and is trying to supplant them on a community which has its own language and its own concept for these things. She comes up with, where you separate the meat and poultry from the vegetables and ground provision and a lot of foolishness in my view, Mr. Speaker, Sir, which is irrelevant in the context of the debate which we are undergoing inside here.

It goes on Mr. Speaker, Sir, "In order to attract a larger clientele to these markets, limited accommodation will be provided for handicraft vendors and other small scale traders. This will assist in reducing the problem of street vending around Bridgetown". Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Development Plan speaks to the issue. I do not have to say much more. What I can say is that in the last days of the Democratic Labour Party Government the then Minister of Economic Affairs and myself were raging a war to try and get the money which the Chinese had made available to this country, diverted from projects like the completion of the pedagogical unit, to upgrading markets in Barbados. We had to try on all fronts to get concurrence by the technicians, because that was the first hurdle and then the other processes that were necessary to get funds diverted in the sum of $4 million for the upgrading of Cheapside Market. We left Government, and Mr. Speaker, Sir, that project was not completed. The Government acts as if the Democratic Labour Party administration was able, between 1991 and 1995 to have an ambitious capital works programme.

Now, this is a Government that itself has an entirely under executed capital works programme – under-executed by as much as 50%, and the Minister of Public Works can sit in his seat and act as if all the projects which he came and found and the new ones are all on stream. But the Central Bank and all of the other economic documentation would tell the public of Barbados that the capital works programme, small as it is, is under-executed.

Those terms may be foreign to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and hopefully before he finishes his term here he would better understand them. Even projects that were up and running, Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have somehow been able to foul them up such that they cannot be concluded in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, look at the 1991 Democratic Labour Party Manifesto, page 14, we made it clear in a section entitled "Small Industries Development Plan" that handicraft and handicraft development hold out many opportunities for creative employment and developing the creative talents of Barbadians.

> "A DLP Administration recognized this in the past and will therefore continue and intensify its programme for the development of this sector. The Party is committed to the following:
>
> The redevelopment of Pelican Village."

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Democratic Labour Party Administration left office, there was a model on the table which the Cabinet had inspected relative to the building of new facilities at Pelican Village in Barbados. There was a model designed which, of course, we were unable to execute. I have not heard anything about that development in the course of this debate.

The Honourable Member for the City talked about the Queen's Warehouse. Let us see what was said in this manifesto, Mr. Speaker, because the 1994 Manifesto which Members on that side extol as "choice for change" has copied word for word what the 1991 Democratic Labour Party Manifesto said. I will read both documents so that the Attorney General who likes to send information to the DPP and elsewhere can read them to see whether this level of plagiarism is not an offence against the Laws of Copyright in Barbados. I will ask that this be sent to the Director of Public Prosecution or the relevant authority for inspection and they can interview the parliamentarians who are responsible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to continue:

> "Utilization and modernization of the Queen's Warehouse in collaboration with the private sector to provide an outlet to craftsmen.
>
> Development of a Craft Centre at Belleplaine in order to better utililize the indigenous materials which exist in this area."

This is all part of the planning which the Democratic Labour Party undertook before the 1991 campaign but it does not end there. Because if you want to hear the similarity between the 1994 Barbados Labour Party Manifesto and our 1991 Manifesto, listen to this. Beautification of Bridgetown. You would think based on what the Honourable Member for the City said in the Frank Collymore Hall the other night that this is the first time in the history of this country that anybody has come up with a plan for Bridgetown. Listen to this, Mr. Speaker, page 29:

> "The DLP attaches great importance to the environmental enhancement of Bridgetown. The next DLP Government will complete the following projects:
>
> (a) Parliament Buildings courtyard and their immediate environs;
> (b) restoration of Jubilee Gardens;
> (c) redevelopment of the Princess Alice Omnibus Terminal;
> (d) Independence Square;
> (e) the Waterfront Development Project"

All of this is what the Honourable Member is walking around Barbados trying to conceive. He is trying to conceive, not conceptualize.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not make those kinds of comments because she and I have already had a contretemps. Let us go on to Vendors Mall:

> "The DLP Government recognizes the need to promote small business development and commits itself to the following projects:
>
> (a) the Swan Street Mall;
> (b) the redevelopment of the Cheapside/Temple Yard market complex;
> (c) the provision of three selected areas off the ABC Highway for vending activities;
>
> The markets/vendors' outlets will be well appointed, well regulated and will provide adequate amenities, including toilet facilities."

Now listen to this language in the Labour Party Manifesto. Unbelievable is the level of creativity which they have brought to bear on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you would turn to the relevant section of the Party's Manifesto in the event you may have forgotten its content, I want to remind you what it says. Well, you know the language:

> "Establish a programme for the "greening" of Bridgetown and for urban green areas in Jubilee Gardens, Cheapside, Fairchild Street and Church Village."

Listen to this, Mr. Speaker, straight out of the DLP 1991 Manifesto and it has found its way into the 1994 Barbados Labour Party Manifesto:

> "Implement the Bridgetown Waterfront Development Project"

The language is almost the same. Our Manifesto was said to have said nothing about it, Mr. Speaker. The allegation was that it said nothing about it. Mr. Speaker, listen to this:

> "Construct on the sites of those public markets which the BLP had already earmarked for demolition..."

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please on this side.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Something is hurting, Mr. Speaker. Something is stinging, Mr. Speaker, and I do not know what it is. I know what subject I want to hear you on and it has not come up yet. I know what I want to hear you on. Do not worry about the markets. You have to account to the public on certain things and, when I am ready, I will listen to you on that. Until then, you should really keep quiet. Remain in suspended animation. We are on page 28.

I am not certain that the record will state that I am referring to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Page 28:

> "Construct on the sites of those public markets which the BLP had already earmarked for demolition large multi-purpose markets for arts and crafts as well as for food and general merchandise.
>
> Renovate and promote Pelican Village as a craft market."

That is no different from what we promised in 1991. I go on:

> "Upgrade facilities at Temple Yard."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sum total of what I am saying is that what we set out was even more than what was set out in the 1994 Manifesto. But we did not stop there because we continued and the Honourable Member for the City also attacked us and said that there was nothing in the 1994 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party. Let us start on page 20 and this relates to this debate:

> "Establishment of a Vendors Mall at Palmetto and High Streets.

This is 1994, Mr. Speaker. I do not see anything in this manifesto about that. Yet, people over there are claiming credit now for something which is in this manifesto. This is an unbelievable debate. It demonstrates a level of ignorance of public affairs in this country, Mr. Speaker, which is shameful. That people who have before them the public records are ignoring what is part of the political record of this country and are making up as they go along to substantiate their point. It is unforgivable. It is unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, we heard the whole debate and I was not going to sit in silence and I prepared myself. Turn now to page 44 of the same Democratic Labour Party Manifesto and listen to this, Mr. Speaker, under Land Use:

> "The overall objectives of the policy will centre around the following:
>
> urban redevelopment for the revitalization of Bridgetown and Speightstown;
>
> the provision of adequate sites for vendors, craft persons and other small business activities at appropriate locations throughout the island."

This is the Democratic Labour Party Manifesto that I am reading from, Sir, and it goes on:

> "Embark on plans for the refurbishment of the markets at Cheapside, Fairchild Street and will soon be focusing attention on the Eagle Hall Market."

But do you know what is worse? We heard a big announcement from the Honourable Member for St. Andrew as if he was a Messiah offering something to the vendors along the highway. Every Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party since 1986 has said that we will make sites available on the ABC Highway for vendors including the 1994 one:

> "Identify 4 additional sites off the ABC Highway for vending and plans are already in place to make vending a reality."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we lost the Government. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew came and found them and claimed them as his own. That is where they are. Both Parties have made a commitment to the issue of vendors and I want to move beyond the trivialities of this debate in which the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and those who followed her sought to focus on things. You know if my life ended at 1986, Mr. Speaker, Sir, even at that point, I could not credit the Honourable Member for Christ Church South with all of the things he credits to himself.

3.15 p.m.

I want to move beyond the trivialities in this debate in which the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and those who followed here sought to focus on things... He has had all the opportunity in the world. About 15 Ministries were given to him after the 1976 election, a few were taken away but he had the key economic ministries and the sum total of his contribution to this House is what happened at the point at which they left government in 1986. That is all the Honourable Member for Christ Church South remembers. Then there is a leap backwards to the 50s.

He has called me a neophyte in this Chamber on several occasions, even when he wasn't a member. In 1956 he couldn't be more than a neophyte so how can he play... Mr. Speaker, in 1956 the Honourable Member would have to be as much a neophyte as I was in 1986 when he was demitting office. Yet, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would believe that that is part of some record which the intellectual genius of the 19 persons who now constitute the Barbados Labour Party Government can claim credit for. But if the people who really did it were alive today in Barbados they would not recognise the Barbados Labour Party which is presently in government, because none of those tenets which you would have admired in the 50s Mr. Speaker, Sir, form part of this Administration's pledge and philosophy. That has all been lost and forgotten.

What the Honourable Member for St. Michael East said about the perspectives of the Government in relation to vendors is true because Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East did not need to say it because his predecessor who once was part of the "Great Combination" also said it about them. He was very consistent in that regard. So let's not be so vainglorious in this debate as to believe that in any single individual in here there is any greater sincerity of purpose in providing more opportunities, particularly for vendors.

When the Honourable Member for Christ Church South places the role of vendors in relation to Government only against a background of facilities provided or spots identified, he is missing some of the important points which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East made about what other things Government needs to do in 1996 to advance the cause of vendors in Barbados. There

are severe constraints. We can identify a private spot in St. Lawrence Gap that the vendors are complaining that the direction Tourism is taking leaves them out. Up to yesterday – I cannot quote from the newspaper – the vendors were saying that the direction Tourism is taking in this country sidelines them. I mean those who deal with tourists, not the type the Honourable Member for St. George South says are the people who come to town with provisions – I will deal with that matter separately – those in the tourism sector whom the Honourable Member for Christ Church South claims to be his constituency, not his constituents in the sense of living in his constituency, people for whom he fought and is now repudiating that fight.

People are coming and not spending any money. They say they are not part of the economic life of this country. That is the message they are sending. That is what this debate should be about: is it true that the policy being pursued by Government is sidelining individuals and what can we do to ensure they have a stake in the economic development of this country? Not just identifying sites and putting down chemical toilets. They cannot be the only issues affecting vendors in Barbados. All the public relations posturing and site meetings, if they are not careful the facilities will go into a state of disrepair.

There was another concern I have. I don't mind hearing about the Bridgetown Development Project. I am happy to hear about it, but it reminds me of the problem in Washington D.C. Everything goes north of the Capitol Building and is fine and rosy – beautiful houses, development, the Potomac River, lovely gardens and golf courses and everything south you will see is degradation in all of the areas in which crime is a major or leading problem of the United States of America.

How many people will see change in their living circumstances and as a result of development in the city feel it has nothing to do with them – the lifestyle, the conditions of poverty and having to sleep on the streets of the city? The people still have to live around Murphy's Pasture and the Government is giving away property to developers. Why does the representative for the City not promote solutions to the problems and find solutions for the thousands of people living in her constituency whom she alleges have been marginalised for so long?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. If the Honourable Member for St. John had come to the Town Meeting he would have heard the proposals for putting before the IADB in respect of the Orleans and other parts of Bridgetown. He know not whereof he speaks.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: It is thoroughly and highly inappropriate that a parliamentarian should go to the town meeting to hear proposals. They should be brought here to this House first before going anywhere else.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I can only say I know where I am needed and wanted and I am not begging for an invitation for anybody to grandstand on a $45 million project when we know people from Murphy's Pasture were not there either. They said nothing about them. The focus of the BLP is political because if that were not so its public relations mechanism would be to develop the lives of people in the City but the focus was on the Harbour Police Station and the old Eye Hospital.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Member has 2 minutes...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The last point I want to make is that I believe the truth relative to the cruise terminal will come out in due course. I don't intend to sit here and let Government allow anybody in Barbados to believe that it is powerless to change anything at the cruise terminal. If there are any wrongs at the Port, which is a major investment by the taxpayers of this country, the Government has the duty to right it, not sit and allow people without the backbone or resolve to make changes. Once Honourable Members want changes they can be made.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. John is getting beside himself, Mr. Speaker...

Mr. SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is saying that a wrong thing was done at the Cruise Terminal.

3.25 p.m.

I need to be clear. Is the Honourable Member for St. John saying that a mistake and a wrong thing was done at the Cruise Terminal at the Port? That is what I am understanding from what he is saying, that something wrong was done and that we must now right it on this side.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I never equated my intellect with the Honourable Member's and I do not propose to now. I knew what I said and if the Honourable Member does not understand it, well she will have to resolve that internally or externally.

The point is this, Mr. Speaker. If there are wrongs that need to be righted, no Government that comes to office on a charter for change can spend 18 months talking about what an Opposition did. The arrangements at the Port are very easy to undo. If you think they need undoing, undo them. You can breach any contract and pay damages. If you feel it is immoral, if you think it is wrong, right it.

Mr. Speaker, in the history of this country there have been several wrongs which have been perpetrated on the people. The very Democratic Labour Party came out of the need to right all wrongs at whatever cost as long as we felt

it was necessary to advance the cause of the people. If you say there is a wrong going on down in the Port, well right it, and I expect you to right it immediately if not, forever hold your peace because, Mr. Speaker, we do not condone hypocrisy in this Chamber. You do not condone it. I do not think you would want me to condone it and the Government alleges that it does not even pass near hypocrisy and therefore if things need to be done, if wrongs have been perpetrated, the Government should expose them and go on to right them.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, we have had a fairly long debate and I would just like to correct one or two misrepresentations which have been made by Honourable Members on that side. Certainly we would not be in this debate speaking about things not connected to this acquisition if the Honourable Member for St. Michael East did not carry us back to Rocker's Alley. I just want, in dealing with the member who just spoke...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I do not recall carrying anybody to Rocker's Alley.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the member who just spoke, I believe if he had the same enthusiasm as a lawyer as he did in politics he would not have mentioned any likely breach by those who wrote the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto in copying the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto because I think what he would have to do is to go right back to 1986 to look at the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto and then he would know which Attorney General should have prosecuted whom. But he did mention those various projects verbatim and I am going to go through that same exercise to respect with our 1986 Manifesto, which dealt with the same things, or most of the things he did mention in their 1994 Manifesto.

I am looking at page 12 of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party, 1986:-

"PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridgetown

In the spirit of building for the future, the BLP will, very early in the life of the new administration, bring to fruition the Carlisle Bay Development Project which will add a new dimension to the amenities of historic Bridgetown.

The redevelopment covers the areas between the Pier Head and Needham's Point. There will be improved infrastructure for the creation of a pedestrian mall linking a variety of commercial, social and cultural facilities. Specifically, it is proposed to erect a promenade along the beach frontage to the Grand Bay Hotel, formerly Holiday Inn.

The entire project will combine extensive urban renewal with expanded tourist and business activity and increased economic benefits to the country in general.

In addition, an urban development project, already started in New Orleans, ..."

I have to emphasize New Orleans because the Honourable Member for the City has had to go back to this same programme as a result of the failure of the last administration to do anything during the past 8 years.

"...will aim at further improving recreational and other facilities in that area, while the Bridgetown Waterfront development (including the proposed marina)..."

And we have even gone as far as Speightstown now. We have moved from Bridgetown to Speightstown.

"...and the Bridgetown Fisheries Project will contribute significantly to activity in the City.

Other elements of the BLP's plan for Bridgetown include highlighting the Lower Green as a tranquil area flanked by the proposed National Art Gallery (referred to under Culture in this Manifesto), the City Church of St. Mary's and the century-old Barbados Mutual Building.

The Party will transform the Jubilee Garden Bus Stand into an urban garden which will permit traffic to circulate freely around the area. The markets at Fairchild Street and Cheapside will be re-designed and upgraded."

Here again practically nothing had been done apart from a few plans by the last administration during the last eight years. This administration will be dealing with these matters like how the old people used to use the saying "actions speak louder than words." With respect to Cheapside and Fairchild Street, we are presently in the process of finalizing loans with international lending agencies and hopefully the refurbishment of both Cheapside and the Fairchild Street markets which they spoke about and did nothing during the past eight years will be effected.

I continue:

"The BLP's plans for the Empire Theatre, for two ultra modem Bus Terminals - one of which is nearing completion, for extensive renovations and additions to Queen's College and the Queen

Elizabeth Hospital and for the erection of a new Supreme Court complex, are mentioned elsewhere in this Manifesto.

The Party will also complete the renovation of the Houses of Parliament.."

I believe the members on that side would not like to hear us mention that because ever since I was in this House I was hearing talk about the completion of the renovations to Parliament and practically nothing has been done during the past eight years.

"The housing development (and this is very important) at Kensington Lodge will be joined by others at Pondside."

We have already started plans for Pondside. It is a new concept in building these types of facilities for the lower income brackets. We will be having may be a 3-storey building with modern-day shops, facilities for day care centres and parking on the ground floor.

"The provision of adequate parking facilities, including a multi-storey facility for Bridgetown, will be an important priority."

Part of that has been done.

"The Party also intends to redevelop the entire area bounded by Graeme Hall and Highway 7, involving the planning of a Park in the eastern and western sections of the Graeme Hall Swamp and the improvement of the road systems to tie in with the construction of the Airport to the West Coast Highway."

So the development which the Honourable Member for St. John spoke about in their Manifesto ties in with this. 3.35 p.m.

The Barbados Labour Party regards the south coast sewerage system as a priority. As you can see we have moved swiftly to do what the last Administration failed to do with respect to the south coast sewerage project during the past 8 years.

I should also like to correct the repeated misrepresentation by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West who keeps talking about the plans the last Administration had for the relocation of vendors in Swan Street. I did not see any plans whatsoever in the Ministry by the last Administration for the relocation of the vendors in Swan Street. There were none. There were no plans by the last Administration for the relocation of the vendors in Swan Street and for the provision...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Earlier today Your Honour indicated that in the course of the debate you had to rely on the word of the Minister. I read from the documents of this House the statement identified and outlined by the then Minister responsible for Transport and Works, the Honourable D. G. Blackman. I quoted. Therefore the Honourable Member must not leave any impression. It is true he is saying he has not seen. I did not quote from his Ministry or any other Ministry, I quoted the Minister who was reporting to the House. It has to be presumed that the Minister was telling the House exactly the details that he has.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is not entitled to make that presumption. This is the same Minister who came here and told the whole of Barbados that he was a doctor and had a doctorate when he had none!

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, please. Let us continue, please.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for the City is misleading this House. No one in this House, at any time, has ever said of himself or herself what he had or did not have. I think it is disreputable for anybody to get up in this House and ascribe unto a person who sat in this House words which the person never would have said, in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you proceed, please.

Asides.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to create any impression...

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: ...as stated by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West. I am just stating the facts as they are. There were simply no plans that I found in the Ministry with respect to the relocation of the vendors in Swan Street. We practically had to start from scratch. A technical sub committee was set up within the Ministry of Public Works together with personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture and in response to a concern which was raised by one of the previous speakers – I do not recall whether it was on this side or that side – with respect to the facilities themselves. I should just like to say that the fruit and vegetable vendors would be located on the ground floor of the new complex while the dry goods stalls would be located on the top floor. The booths on the top floor would be movable. Storage space would be provided in these booths and storage bins would be provided near the booths. Provision would be made in the building for an interview room. I found none of these plans when I came in. We had to conceptualize these. Public address system. The installation of a surveillance camera.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: All for security purposes. Of course the toilet facilities will be on the ground floor. But I should like to repeat again, just for the benefit of the record that there were no plans in the Ministry that I found for the relocation of the vendors in Swan Street to Palmetto Street or elsewhere. There was, in an earlier Cabinet Paper, I think it was on July 25, 1988, mention of resiting the vendors to the north of the Careenage and that is a matter of record.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT AND IN THE VICINITY OF CODRINGTON HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 2 war ***called - To move the passing of a resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at and in the vicinity of Codrington Hill, St. Michael for road improvement.***

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a resolution for the acquisition of 26 parcels of land at Codrington in the parish of St. Michael for the road improvement of the Codrington Hill junction. I would not offend the Honourable Member for St. Michael West by saying that this is a project which was started under the Barbados Labour Party's Administration in terms of the actual conceptualisation.

This is part of the World Bank's second road maintenance and rehabilitation project. Included in the loan was $2 million for the improvement to 6 junctions of which the Codrington, Cave Hill junction is one. This particular project is being constructed by C. O. Williams Construction Limited who was awarded the contract in the sum of $1 444 145.

The project started in March, 1995 and it is hoped that it would be completed by the end of the financial year. The actual works involve the widening of the junction at Cave Hill and Codrington Hill to provide additional turning lanes.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: You were not listening to me. That is what happened. I said it was not conceptualized under us. I gave you that. The provision of 2-metre sidewalks on both sides of the road. The setting back of the road of the wall at Tyrol Cot by approximately 2 metres and its reconstruction, according to the specifications approved by the National Trust. The construction of a lay-bye immediately north of Tyrol Cot. The cutting down of the rock bluff and the relocation of the wall outside the Barbados Water Authority's pumping station. The provision of traffic lights at both junctions, that is, the Codrington Hill and the Bow Road junction. The relocation of utility services and, of course, it also involves this acquisition together with the construction of a park to the south of Tyrol Cot.

The project is about 90% completed. As I said, it is hoped that it would be completed by the end of the financial year. We have had to refine certain aspects of the project. It was felt that the sidewalks did not blend in very well with the junction close to the Lawrence T. Gay School which leads to Gazettes Housing Area. As a result, we will be extending the sidewalk and the remedial works down to that junction. It would involve additional acquisitions. We have already had a costing of these works done. It is hoped that the contractor would be able to complete that aspect of it as soon as the present works have been completed. The estimated cost is approximately $412 000.
3.45 p.m.

It is also hoped that we would be able to extend the sidewalks to the junction leading to the National Conservation Commission entrance. One wonders why, in conceptualising the project, the last administration which included the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, did not actually take these minor details into consideration.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just wish to say a few words on this particular resolution. This road development, as the Honourable Minister stated, has really been extremely beneficial to the residents of the Codrington Hill, Upper Spooners Hill area, Cave Hill and Whitehall area because it has allowed, for the first time, sidewalks to be constructed on what was otherwise a perilous walk up Codrington Hill. As those of you may remember, the wall of the National Conservation Commission, particularly the side where the Water Authority occupies, as you came to the junction of Storey Gap, literally left absolutely no sidewalk on the left hand side of the road going down and more perilously on the right hand side you had the junction with Whitehall Road which was in effect a blind corner at a particular point coming out of there.

We are particularly pleased, and I am speaking now on behalf of the residents of that area, to have this type of road widening activity as well as road improvement in

respect of the sidewalks there. One of the critical things too is that anyone who knows the area will know that on the above side as you go up the hill there is in fact a shop there so that the pedestrian traffic was considerable in that particular area.

The other matter of note, as the Honourable Minister stated, was that while it was properly conceived as a project meet to be done that it was limited in its scope in that it stopped suddenly at Tyrol Cot so that you got a bottleneck between Tyrol Cot and Lawrence T. Gay School where the road widened again and we took a decision. Having had a site visit, the Honourable Minister of Transport went with me to the area after I represented to him about the bottleneck and we were able with the officials from his Ministry to take a decision that would see the widening of that road continued down past towards Long Gap so as to prevent the sudden bottle necking of the road, having widened the junction both at Codrington Road and at Whitehall Road.

The cost, as the Honourable Minister has said, will result in an additional $400 000 in expenditure and I do believe, Sir, that that $400 000 will be well spent, particularly if we realise the level of traffic in that area. We have Lawrence T. Gay School which has a considerable school population in excess of 400 and sees quite a bit of vehicular traffic there. We also have the Tyrol Cot heritage project which has, within recent months, opened up its doors to tourist and which has seen therefore additional traffic in that area with persons coming to visit that site. It was therefore of particular concern that we should remove this bottleneck between Tyrol Cot and Lawrence T. Gay School so as to ensure the safety of the residents who still have to use the roads when walking.

One of the other significant things of the project that I would wish to commend the designers in the Ministry of Transport and Works for is that it is one of the few areas in Barbados where steps are required to move from one level to another from Spooners Hill to Bow Road, that they have taken into account the interest of the disabled and have also placed a ramp besides the steps and it is of considerable value to those residents in the area who may suffer some form of disability that they may be able now to use this ramp rather than having to walk all the way around on the level and come back around to the other end which is the Bow Road.

The other significant thing that has arisen out of this project, and this was a representation, Sir, which I made even before we came into Government in 1994 and that is that the Bow Road very often was a dangerous road to pass through on evenings and on mornings just around rush hour traffic because it was a two-way road and people tended very often to zip through it as a short-cut in order to avoid the traffic at the junction with Codrington Road and Codrington Hill. As a result, Sir, we made strong representation as I said, even before we came into Government, that after two different persons had been injured by way of being knocked down on that road, that under all circumstances that road should become a one-way street. Well they have gone one step better and made it a cul-de-sac so that you cannot access now that road from Spooners Hill at all and you can only access it from Codrington Road. It has helped considerably because there are a number of children who are normally running through the road invariably to get to what is now being used as a car park with Tyrol Cot opposite.

I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for ensuring that in the interest of the safety of the residents of Bow Road and those other youngsters in that district have been taken into account by ensuring that there is two-way vehicular flow from Spooners Hill on to the Bow Road.

Sir, with those few words I just would wish to commend the Honourable Minister who put forward the continuation of this project. It is extremely necessary given the fact that the original design would have placed further hardship because of the bottleneck that it would have created between Tyrol Cot and Lawrence T. Gay School and in the circumstances, Sir, it is an example of righting wrongs that may have been left in terms of incomplete design.

Thank you, Sir, to the Honourable Minister and once again, Sir, the only comment that I would wish to make, and this is an observation, is that perhaps there was one fault in the original design as well which perhaps could be corrected as well, and that is the islands in the road. What has happened is that we have placed these islands in the road which I suspect, Sir, is going to restrict the mobility of any form of heavy duty traffic turning from Codrington Hill on to White Hall Road and we may want to revisit, Sir, the wisdom of having placed those islands in the road.

Other than that, Sir, it is a project that deserves to be commended and indeed, Sir, the foresight in ensuring that the expansion of the project could take place before the contractor moves off the site and therefore we are caused to incur additional fees in mobilisation, is also an example of fit and proper planning on the part of this Honourable Minister. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member who just sat down is a very intelligent parliamentarian. I think that no one will deny that and even when she was younger she was identified as an intelligent parliamentarian therefore it grieves me that after having made a quite succinct and useful intervention she would end it off with a congratulation to a Minister for continuing a project. Is that an apposition to say the failure to continue the project like say the St. John Polyclinic? I was not quite sure why she would want to congratulate the Minister.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member, Sir, obviously did not listen to either myself or the Honourable Minister of Transport. But the truth is that I was commending him for continuing the project insofar as the road improvement between Tyrol Cot and Lawrence T. Gay School is concerned.

3.55 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I still wonder but let me not dwell on and rather turn to the mere commendation of my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. I recall when he appeared during Road Safety Week, 1994 that his speech was very penetrative. I recall very well how he insisted that one of the things that must be done was the removal of all of these dangerous bends all around Barbados and, in particular, I recall the speech because I was travelling and I remarked that this was true and valid. I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael East should be commended as the Minister quite rightly acknowledged that this conceptualization occurred during the time of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. The Minister intended to say so, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not want the record to reflect that I said that this project was conceptualized during the tenure of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, because I am also on record as having said earlier that I do not recall any projects that took place while the Honourable Member for St. Michael East was a Minister of Government.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, it just demeans the process of ministerial government.

Mr. J. **O. TUDOR:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think the Honourable Member in all seriousness knows better than that. He clearly understands that there were several projects ongoing at the time of my reign at the Ministry of Public Works. I recall the South Coast Project. I recall work that was going on in St. Andrew with the repairs of the bridges. I recall the Springvale Rural Development Project and countless licences.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I just want to clear the record. I do not want the Member for St. Michael East to feel in any way that I was demeaning his contribution. I was only referring to the fact that he was only a Minister for a short time. You do not count the period from June because the Honourable Member for St. John said there was not any government after June. So only count for 3 months. It was in that context, Sir.

Mr. B. M. **TAITT:** Sir, we will not reduce the quality of ministerial contribution to how long a person served as a Minister. Sir, we know of some Ministers who have served for long periods and nothing can be seen and the Honourable Member in 7 months was able to bring forth a number of fruitful and worthwhile projects such as the one we are now discussing. I, therefore, will not move from the point I was making that the Honourable Member should be commended because he showed a particular precedence in relation to the area surrounding Codrington, an area with which Your Honour is very familiar.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate also the Ministry of Transport and Works. It is customary in the private sector especially to do a little public sector bashing and to suggest that the public sector is incapable of a certain quality of performance and, in truth in this Parliament over the last 25 years, I have been able to observe time and time again that the public sector constantly produces when necessary and in particular in the whole area of public works, road construction and road building. They constantly produce a high quality of work and when called upon they can do it efficiently and quickly and at a cost that is commensurate with what is reasonable. This project at Codrington has been done without diverting traffic.

I do not know how many people who have paid attention to the fact that this project has continued without there having to be any major disruption of traffic. As Your Honour knows, a massive amount of traffic moves pass the area where this project is going on. I think that we as a people can be proud of all of those who are responsible f a having brought this project to fruition without disrupting traffic in any major way.

The one little thing that I would like to suggest to the Minister that, even if there is an increased cost and if you look at the sidewalk that moves from Cave Hill going towards Spooners Hill on the right, it stops fairly abruptly. I am talking about the main road on Codrington itself as you move from Codrington going downhill, the sidewalk on the right as you are going towards Long Gap. It stops actually before it gets to Long Gap. I think it is worthwhile even, if there is an additional cost, to extend it to Long Gap.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. **TAITT:** I did not know that you had, in fact, decided to do that. I will commend you. When I last saw it, almost anyone who approaches the project will recognize that it was necessary to continue that sidewalk up to Long Gap or down to Long Gap which would be going towards Bridgetown. If that is what you have decided and whatever the cost is, I think that will be money well spent and the Government is correct. I commend the Government for continuing the project along those lines. Because, Mr. Speaker, if we would have done that project and stopped it where the design had stopped, the project itself would not have been as worthwhile as now you have decided to carry it to Long Gap. I did not know that you had done that and I intended to raise that question and to suggest that you in fact bulldoze a little piece, acquire the

land if possible, but go down to Long Gap because it will make a tremendous difference first of all, to the children who have to go to school not far down the road and, secondly and just as important, to the people who live in the area that turn into Long Gap. It also will make a difference to those who are driving who are coming out of Long Gap who will have a much wider vision as they can observe the traffic as it comes from the hill going towards Bridgetown.

I think all and all it is a good project and I share the view of the Minister of Education who just spoke that you should revisit the island which on paper probably looks good on the design, but in reality it augurs for an accident for someone who is not familiar with the area who might make the left turn at the wrong place. That very tiny island that comes up to the major road from Whitehall to Codrington Hill and the question as to whether you need that particular rectangular island is something which the engineers should revisit. Because it seems to me that when you come from Whitehall I do not know what the signs are going to be like. But I myself when coming to that junction was a little confused and I womed about persons who were coming up. The other thing is that, whereas before persons who were coming up the hill would take a fairly long time to climb the hill and persons coming out of Whitehall would, therefore, make a right turn even though there is traffic by Tyrol Cot, now that the hill has been reduced the traffic in fact moves much swifter coming uphill than it used to move. You might have to consider what is the appropriate corrective measure to take at that point, because otherwise there is going to be a misjudgment for people who are making the right turn if there is no light. It may very well be that what is required is a light in the Codrington Wall. It does not have to be a light that is very expensive, but it could be a light that deals almost exclusively with the traffic that is coming out of Whitehall and the traffic is going up and down. I think that will avoid accidents over the long term. But all and all, it is a worthy project and all of the persons involved should take credit for a job well done. When I was very, very young, there was a family called the Farrells that lived in a little gap there who was very close to my family. I have forgotten the name of the gap.

4.05 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: ... Thompson Gap. It's amazing how a psychological block...

I used to visit this little gap when I was a very young child and my sister and the Farrells were very close friends. The old man who lived there, old man Farrell, and Sir Grantley were extremely close friends. In those days, everybody was a Labourite, unless you were in the Conservative Party, which you might have been because your father was a landowner, but Sir, having spoken at his father's eulogy I withdraw that statement. He might have been a Labourite; but his father was not. His father was a stalwart.

Quite seriously, making the cul de sac in those areas has contributed to safety and I think that everybody can be well proud of the project and indeed, Sir, we are happy that it has come to fruition. We need to do a few more like that if we will allow the technicians at the Ministry of Transport and Works the freedom to do that which they do so well and not privatise every project to the point where only certain kinds of people earn large sums of money. I think that the Ministry of Transport and Works' technicians and technical people can take a bow.

With that Sir, we would be happy to support this Resolution. .

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to support this Resolution and to compliment the Honourable Member for St. Andrew because it is the second time in 2 years that I have had to compliment him for following the good policies left by the Democratic Labour Party.

On the Bow Road situation, Sir, I was saying earlier that it might have been an error in making it a cul de sac, but if you are going to remove the island, I think it might be a good decision to make it a cul de sac. If you are going to retain the island, then you wil! have to remove the cul de sac, because if there is an accident then you will need somewhere for traffic to divert.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ... you wouldn't understand. These are technical matters.

Mr. Speaker, another point I would also like to make relates to what the Minister said, that the contract was awarded to C.O. Williams for X amount of money, and I would like to say that in this day and age when we are talking about down-sizing we have to be very careful that we do not down-size too quickly. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Minister to use a social conscience in awarding contracts and to make sure that the other large construction company gets some of the contracts before we have a serious down-sizing in Barbados. As you know, Sir, we cannot afford to have a serious down-sizing at this point in time, because even your constituents will be affected by it. We cannot allow ourselves to find ourselves in a situation where there is a monopoly in the construction of roads in Barbados. That is why I think it is very important at this point in time that

contracts be awarded or diverted to other construction companies in this country. Thank you.

Mr. J. O. **TUDOR:** Mr. Speaker, my intervention is a very short one. I support the completion of the process of land acquisition for road improvement in that particular area and I would say that I was proud to be part of a team that conceptualised the process as a deliberate policy, because there are several areas in Barbados that threaten the lives of our travelling public. Only yesterday, I attended the funeral of the road tennis champion in Barbados, Tiny Jordan, who was killed on Bank Hall at that dangerous bend in Bank Hall.

Concern for loss of life must be a priority for us as a country. I think that not enough effort is spared to avoid loss of life and no amount of money is sufficient to spend in eradicating these dangerous road conditions. I recall Codrington Hill as being very dangerous. I recall the area in Sayes Court where there was that dangerous roundabout and as soon as I became a Minister one of the priorities for me was to make sure that some of those dangerous areas were corrected. I asked about it and immediately set about to correct those problems. I am proud of it and I would like to compliment the technical people who were involved in this exercise because they may have in fact made corrections. I am sure the Minister and the other technical people of today will go in and see whether they can enhance a project and that is proper behaviour, as far as I am concerned, in a Government that is continuing.

If we take that approach, and we accept from time to time that there are people who are responsible within the Democratic Labour Party when in administration and that they in fact had good projects and understand things that affect the people of this country and that they sought to prioritise different projects, if we can have this kind of process when there is a change in administration, that is the kind of behaviour that I find tenable, not seeking to give the impression that you are now in fact for the first time doing a new project which was not conceptualised by you in the first place.

There is a grave concern I have, Mr. Speaker, and I must say this. Throughout the length and breadth of development of this country, there has been a total disregard for disabled people in this country and all of us in the House from time to time whenever we speak on any occasion we must find it possible – I think it is necessary – to focus on building codes that always focus on the disabled. One of the stipulations that I indicated must be part and parcel of the project – the provision of ramps and facilities that would assist the wheelchair cases when they have to go up and down to be completely mobile.

Disabled people in this country do not want to feel that they are dependent on anybody. They feel that they should be free to travel from point A to point B on their own and not be assisted by anybody and I think that we have to prepare the way for them by provision of ramps and whatever facilities that are necessary such as sidewalks that are properly graded where they can get up and down with their equipment. That is very important.

What is bothering me, Sir, is that even though we have dealt with the physical infrastructure, and I hope that the Minister will take serious note at this point, there is a lack of proper signs as you approach these still potentially dangerous areas. I feel that out of an abundance of caution, we should try to put as many signs as possible warning drivers that the areas are still potentially dangerous. Even though you fix it and you try to correct it, if you do not have the accompanying signs to slow down the traffic and bring people who are driving to a Christian understanding that this is still a dangerous situation, we may still see a number of road accidents causing many Barbadians to lose their lives. If I were still the Minister, I would have made sure that adequate signs are placed in strategic positions to control the flow and bring it down to a respectable level of control.

I, too, would like to compliment the Minister and other members of the team who have gone ahead and finalised the project because it is important, as I said, for the development of our people for the safeguard of our travelling public and these are the kinds of programmes that were conceptualised within the Democratic Labour Party in the interest of the public.

With those few remarks I beg and indicate that I will be supporting the Resolution.

4.15 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify one or two points which were made by Honourable Members on that side.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy made a very serious request when he did state that when contracts are being awarded that there are certain small operators that should be brought into the scheme of things, and that we should be more careful when awarding these types of contracts taking into consideration certain social pointers. I am a little disappointed though that he did not take time before he got up to speak on the Resolution to check the history of the Resolution because we did say that this is a project which was conceptualized before the Barbados Labour Party administration in September 1994 and this contract was actually awarded to C.O. Williams Construction Ltd. even before the Honourable Member for St. Michael East became Minister, because this is a project which was in the planning stages, even before he became a member of Parliament, so I just want to get the record straight.

Even if he were correct, the impression should not be given that a Minister of Government, or even Cabinet for that matter, takes the decision in awarding a contract or contracts to any person or persons. There is a process, and I believe he is new to Parliament, but it is a process that he should be fully aware of. There is a tender process. I know that apparently there were some deviations during the last administration from this process, if you may remember the Kola syrup, but certainly in...

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I am reminded the Highway 2A contract as well. We intend to follow the tender process to the letter. Whenever a solid recommendation is made in accordance with that process, this administration will certainly comply.

I welcome the suggestions by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West with respect to the islands and the provision of lights on the Codrington Hill wall. I do not travel on that road very often so I would have to pay another visit up there with the technical officers from the Ministry together with the parliamentary representative, but these are concerns which have been raised.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael East did mention the question of the signs. We have been trying in the Ministry to at least do something about the signs throughout Barbados but I must say it is a bigger project than it might appear on paper. You could rest assured that certainly during our term we will try to see if we can do something in order to improve the road signs throughout the island especially taking into consideration that we rely heavily on tourism.

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT APES HILL, ST. JAMES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution for the acquisition of two parcels of land at Apes Hill, St. James for housing development. As you would recall, Mr. Speaker, our 1994 Manifesto had addressed the issue of the severe housing shortage in Barbados both in terms of the actual facilities, and in terms of the availability of house spots. We had pledged in our Manifesto to ensure that enough house spots were available, especially in particular persons in the low income housing bracket.

In addition, we had also pledged to restart the completion of the terraced units. You would have noticed that we have actually started and completed the first section of one of our terraced units at Maynards and we are now in the process of beginning another stage at Maynards, Phase 3, another 15 units. It is hoped as part of this policy that we would, with the assistance of all parliamentarians, including the parliamentarians on the other side, in particular though the parliamentarians in the rural areas seeing that there is more land available in the rural areas, to seek house spots on the periphery of existing villages so that we would be able to find additional house spots for persons who need them to maintain the village atmosphere in these new developments.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, we are facing a situation where, in addition to the low income earners who are in dire need of this type of development, we also have a situation especially in the Scotland District, where there are a number of persons who have been affected by land slippage and we have been unable to find suitable spots for them. Very little was done during the last administration to address this very serious problem which has become acute and from time to time, certainly during this year, I will be bringing a series of acquisitions to Parliament for land for this type of purpose in order to solve this long outstanding problem.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we also have a situation where the last administration had amended the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act where a Barbados Labour Party administration had given persons who were denied the right to purchase the tenantry lots on which they lived to purchase it at a concessionary price. The last administration had brought an amendment whereby they sought to increase the number of tenants that could form a tenantry in a designated plantation tenantry, or other tenantries.

We in the Barbados Labour Party, mindful of the fact that this was a problem which had plagued successive generations of poor people where plantation owners had promised in most cases to give their workers the land on which they lived, in some cases to sell them at concessionary rates, we decided we would have done something about it. In that piece of legislation a person was a qualified tenant if he or she had lived on land for 5 years or more, and there were certain designated plantation tenantries in accordance with that particular piece of legislation.

Sir, we did in our enthusiasm at the time in seeing this piece of legislation on the statute book state that a tenantry would include a parcel of land which had been subdivided in lots for the purposes of renting to these types of people where there was more than one such lot on the particular parcel of land. It was felt then by the last administration that 'this worked some disservice to the

rich land owners in Barbados who probably would have had two or three people on land and they were no longer able to enjoy the fruits of their labour in giving their land to their children seeing that a tenant would come and say that he now wanted to purchase his parcel of land.
4.25 p.m.

As a result of the amendment which they made which meant that a tenantry would no longer be a tenantry for the purposes of the Act if there were less than 5 tenants on one parcel of land, a number of persons became disenfranchised. But even though they made the provision in the Act for Government to compensate those persons who were disenfranchised, more or less, as a result of this Amendment they did not make the corresponding provision for these persons to be given house spots or alternative accommodation, as the case may be. It is true that we had one or two ridiculous situations where they sought to relocate tenants. We had had two ridiculous situations in St. John where they actually moved two chattel houses and the cost of moving one chattel house was $210 000.

What we have done or what we are doing in making these lands available is that we are ensuring that those persons who have been disenfranchised as a result of this Amendment by the Democratic Labour Party's Administration will have a house spot to go on as a matter of right So that there would be no talk of corruption on the part of any public officer with respect to any dislocation, we have instituted a policy since September 6,1994 where we will actually be paying each tenant who has been disenfranchised, in addition to giving them the house spot, the sum of $15 000 to relocate.

All of these acquisitions are necessary. This particular acquisition will facilitate a number of persons in the St. James and the St. Andrew area who have been dislocated for the reasons which I mentioned.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this resolution do now pass.

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

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am compelled to intervene in this matter because in my own constituency we have a number of small tenantries in the St. Lawrence, Top Rock and indeed Enterprise area whose tenants have been seriously affected by the consequential change in the law which increased the number of house spots from 2 to more.

Considerable hardship has resulted in that there are tenants in Top Rock and Dover, for instance, who have been on the land for over 40 years and who were comforted by the provision of the law before it was amended and some of whom are now over 80 years of age. They are faced with a problem of having to find a house spot because the landlords have given a 5-year notice and that notice has expired. Despite many efforts on my part to have the Housing Authority help, I have been unsuccessful to date.

The Government – and I am asking the Minister specifically to look at this – owns land at Harmony Hall next to the Pepperpot. The Government of the Democratic Labour Party had decided that the owner of the Pepperpot would be allowed to use some of those house spots as a car park. Those house spots are near to the dislocation arising from this tenantry in Top Rock. I want the Minister of Housing to reclaim those house spots. It is a very serious matter.

But it is not only there. There are parallel situations in other parts of my constituency and I am sure other Honourable Members' constituencies. There must be built up, by the Housing Authority, a number of areas of land that some of these tenants will be able to move on. There is no use saying that they can get $15 000. People who are 60, 70 or 80 years old who have been affected because of the fact that the Tenantries Act has been amended do not want any $15 000. This old lady does not want any. All she wants to do is to wake up one day and be taken to this house spot with comfort and security. There are lots of human problems that have arisen as a consequence of the Democratic Labour Party's amendment of the Tenantries Act to reduce the number of house spots.

I know that the Tenantries Act causes some concern among some small Barbadian land owners – it is a fact – who had an acre or maybe an acre and a half of land and they were not able to get the tenants off to develop the land. The original Act did have provisions for...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I beg your pardon?

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: If the Honourable Member had graced this House with his presence he would have noticed that the Honourable Member developed from Apes Hill into points of principle and the hardship that resulted from the Democratic Labour Party's premature amendment of the law, without thinking out the consequences. That is all he was saying, that you amended the law, a lot of hardships have arisen and it is this Government's duty to mitigate those hardships. One of those hardships is to acquire land in various areas so that you could provide an area for the resiting of some of these tenants who find themselves in the position where they have to move to the land because of the amendment in the law. That is all.

I am only saying that just as this problem has arisen in Apes Hill, it has arisen in Top Rock. It is a fact. In Dover, in Enterprise and a few other areas. All I am saying is that the Government had acquired land at Harmony Hall for this very purpose to remove them. I should like that carried out.

I should also like to point out that you do have a problem because other landlords now feel, small ones too, that the Government has come up with a policy of paying $15 000 to tenants who have lost their right to acquire the house spot and if they had had their right to acquire the house spot, they would be able to acquire the house at 10 cents per square foot. It would have to be a big house spot for $15 000. The whole thing needs to be looked at, in the light of what has happened since that amendment.

I understand, Sir, that, of the tenantries in Barbados, that there were 3 000 who have got their conveyances now under the Tenantries Act. Most of those would have been plantation tenantries. There is, probably, a similar amount in urban tenantries. I would wish that we continue the work of finding out how many people have actually been affected by the amendment. Just as there has been a need to provide land in St. James North for those tenants, I am saying that there is a similar need in other areas.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: St. James North, St. Andrew. It is the same thing. St. Andrew will soon be St. James North because people are moving rapidly from there.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I agree with the Minister. Try and stop them in St. James North. Do not let his people go in St. John.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I should like that. I should also like to point out that people feel that there is a need to look at this matter in the light of the experience now that people have received the 5-year notices. People have got the 5-year notices and they have expired. Honourable Members do not seem to recall that when the law was amended to reduce the number of tenants that made the land a tenantry for those tenants who had a preexisting right, before they could get off they would have to have had a 5-year notice. Those 5-year notices have now been served and-have expired so the cases are now coming up. Members of Parliament are now getting the cases coming to them and there is no use sending them to the Housing Authority. They have not got any land to put anybody on and nobody from Christ Church will want to go down in St. James North so we would wish that a special effort be made to see where people have been affected and that something will be done for them very quickly.

4.35 p.m.

I want to emphasise that the older people do not wish the $15 000. They do not want to get involved in the complication of having to build a house again and things of that kind. They would like to be able to have their house put in a particular place, very near to their old friends. People who have anything to do with moving tenantries would know that there is only one way you can get it successfully done, that all the people who have lived next to each other for all the years you have put them some place where you can put them next to each other and then they will feel happy.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The points which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has made are wise points which the Government should take into account but the Government has to go a step backwards. It is still necessary to do some work on some of the tenantries, on which there is no impact by the amendment, where the owners have not either agreed on a price at which to sell the persons who live in the tenantry or alternntively where Government is not going to list it as a plantation tenantry.

Now, as I understand the Act, you have to schedule an area for it to become a plantation tenantry and there are certain benefits that arise if you do that. Some people believe that an area which is scheduled has to be a former plantation tenantry. I do not agree. As long as it is scheduled it becomes a tenantry for the purposes of the Act so the use of the expression plantation tenantry is really irrelevant. So you have an area like Lynches in St. Philip. I always seem to have to be talking on behalf of the residents of St. Philip North. It concerns me but that is one area where there is a major problem. At one point Government had agreed to schedule it. Now you are at the stage where the landlord is trying to agree a price with the tenants and one of the major problems that is faced in relation to this is that landlords do not understand the formula for valuing the land. They do not seem to know that the second schedule of the Act indicates that the formula for valuing the land has to be the open market value of the land based on the use of that land as lots for chattel dwellings.

People on the West Coast who have tenantries near the Highway 1 seem to think that it is simply the open market price so they want to sell it at $8.00 a square foot, and $10.00 and $15.00 a square foot. I blame a lot of lawyers. They will not read the Act and understand that to write to somebody and say you are selling a lot at $10.00 a square foot ...

I cannot imagine that there is any where in Barbados where a piece of land which is used for the siting of

chattel houses could be sold to the persons whose rights are vested at $10.00 a square foot.

You have a situation in Lynches where I think the valuation is not in keeping with that in the Act. I have known of many in Paynes Bay, parts of St. James North but I am not going to trespass. I am sticking to St. Philip for the time being. I make a case on behalf of the people from Lynches because the case does not seem to be put and it needs to be put.

My recommendation regarding Lynches is, go back to the old position and schedule it and do not let the lawyers in the Ministry of Housing confuse you that it must have been a plantation tenantry with a smokestack and a windmill and a plantation house and so on for it to be designated under the Act. That is absolute nonsense.

The second point, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not entirely sympathetic with the plight of the Minister of Housing and I am going to tell you why. There is an area in Barbados, where as I stand here, 56 serviced lots could be available to the people of Barbados. Prior to demitting office the Democratic Labour Party put it out for tender. The contract, I believe, was awarded. That land is presently under bush and even though the contract was awarded the National Housing Corporation has put that project on the back burner. I will go as far as to say this, because I know the Minister is not going to contradict me unless he wants to know my sources. The Minister has said it is going on the back burner, that he is not doing any project in St. John to enhance the present sitting representative over other priorities.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I would be willing to sit if the Honourable Member wants to correct me and I will give chapter and verse on it.

Now, in relation to that matter, Sir, the tenants, in my view are going to have to consider some form of legal action under the Administrative Justice Act against the Government because the lots have already been awarded to them, the tendering process was put in place and unless the Government has a valid reason for not continuing with the contract I suggest the Attorney General advises the Minister about the liberality with which the provisions of the Administrative Justice Act are being applied in the British courts assuming that those provisions are going to be persuasive in Barbados.

Now, Clifton Hall, St. John, 56 serviced lots, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Weston, let us get to that, The Government wrote to the residents in that area and offered them $15 000 as what they call a reallocation grant, I think they meant relocation, for the siting of persons who are affected by the water in Weston and other areas. It took the people to various sites. I should declare an interest, Sir, I act for one of the persons.

There is a great concern. When Government is moving somebody who lives on Highway 1 where they have access to amenities, families and a whole range of other things, particularly elderly people, and takes them and moves them to Apes Hill or Bakers or somewhere like that, you are moving them away from the amenities which they enjoy and I think attempts should be made wherever it is feasible and possible to try to put those persons as close to the area from which they are being relocated. In the case of my client she is a very elderly lady to move her into those areas would cut her off from her family and from all of the other amenities which she presently enjoys.

Secondly, $15 000 relocation grant, Government itself, I doubt, has never been able to move a chattel house in Barbados, and I know from experience in St. John where we moved many houses which were under threat under the cliff in Bath Hill and so on rocks had dislodged the limestone cap and had moved off from whatever is under the limestone cap and left water holes and so on. We have moved several people and I do not think there has ever been a relocation that cost $15 000. Every single relocation based on what the Ministry tries to do which is to at least give the person adequate facilities, costs way in excess of $15 000. So $15 000, in my view, based on the trends which Government has adopted and what the public expects from them, may not be an adequate figure for the relocation even of chattel houses.

4.45 p.m.

I would suggest that, even though the grant sounds substantial based on past experience that we have had in the history of Government and the Honourable Member can check his file, $15 000 may not be an adequate figure. But on top of that, the Government has not given the people an opportunity to have their own estimate done at Government's cost. So nobody really knows whether to accept that figure and whether it will be enough. There are a whole range of uncertainties and I think that with regard to those relocations that Government needs to develop a special unit to handle those kinds of things as soon as possible, a unit that develops that expertise of dealing with scenarios such as that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Tenantries Act was amended. There was no doubt that it was amended and, therefore, steps I would assume should have been taken to make provision for the alternative sites and/or for the other forms of compensation which Government is going to make available to those persons who have been affected by the process. But what has happened is this. The time limit ran out, I think, on December 31st, 1994 or January 1, 1995. But the Ministry of Housing in many cases wrote to people and tell them that they are carrying out a survey of the area and that they will revert to them. While the Ministry is

carrying out this survey, the landlords are applying pressure on the tenants to move off these lots particularly in areas like St. Barnabas and I can think of quite a few. It is those kinds of tenantries which are going to be affected by the amendment to the legislation. Christ Church, yes it is true, and other suburban tenantries and some urban tenantries. Now it means that we will have to move speedily to ensure that the tenants do not find themselves during the period in which Government is carrying out this survey unable to find a suitable place on which to site their houses. So I would suggest that the entire housing scenario needs analysis not only from the point of view of the impact of the amendment of the legislation, but go right back to those scenarios like Lynches in St. Philip and others where there are problems which still exist relative to the conveyance of those lots under the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act.

I want to reiterate to the Minister and I am not doing it from Opposition that there are some unscrupulous plantation owners or I would describe them as operatives in this country who are still conveying land without Town Planning permission for subdivision under the Agricultural Holdings Option To Purchase legislation. I hope that I find one because the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said and quite rightly when I raised this before on the other side of this Chamber that it is the lawyers who should find themselves in problems for doing that kind of thing. I can cite several occasions where the person is not a qualified tenant. You can go to some parts of Barbados at age 25, which means that you could not qualify as a tenant unless you were living on the land from age 20, and buy an agricultural holding of an acre or more of land in let us say the fringe of a plantation. As you know, no Town Planning permission is going to be needed to convey the lot. So the person conveys it under the conveyance which is Schedule to the Act and I can point out places even in St. John. I am not going any further than that, but there are other areas I know in which it is happening. In one case, a young man came to me because the land that the plantation owner pointed out was not the land which was being conveyed. When I saw the conveyance, I said: "Do you mean that you were a tenant on this land since age 16?" And he said: "No." Then I went on to say that this land could not be conveyed this way and then there was a big ruckus. It was at thar point I realized that this last scenario is not as uncommon as it may have appeared from that case.

The Ministry of Housing, therefore, I believe should be able by now to identify the people who have rights under the various pieces of legislation. It should not be difficult to find out from each plantation who have vested rights under the Agricultural Holdings Option To Purchase Act, who have vested rights under the original Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act, Freehold Purchase Act as amended, or under any other legislation and let us have a clear position relative to housing, land purchases and role of the Town Planner to regulate the subdivision of land in Barbados. If not, we are going to continue to have a situation where there is uncertainty and where people have different kinds of rights to land in Barbados and nobody is able to assist them in resolving any of the problems which they may have.

I hope that those few pointers which from experience I have put to the Minister of Housing may assist him in devising solutions. The only point I want to make is that it is with great regret that I am unsympathetic to the Government's position relative to this question of unavailability of lots. But in the circumstances of what has happened in Clifton Hall in St. John, I cannot extend any sympathy whatsoever. If anybody comes to me, the same story that I have put before this House in which you so kindly allowed me to put on previous occasions, I will put to them and I will continue to put that point of view on behalf of my constituents.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support this Resolution and also look at some of the queries that were raised by the Honourable Member for St. John and also the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Indeed, the amendment to the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act five years ago did put some hardship on a number of people across the island. In fact, I believe in every constituency there exist a number of persons who are hauled before the Law Courts on a daily basis. I must say that the Honourable Member for St. John spoke about unscrupulous plantation owners, but there are many unscrupulous lawyers as well who should know the law but try to unfair poor people that we are talking about. Even in the raising of rents, we recognize that we cannot raise rent beyond 20 per cent. Yet people from time to time are asked to remove their homes if they do not pay substantial increases, and this is very important. We need to understand this and send a clear message to lawyers and plantation owners that you cannot increase the house rents beyond the 20 per cent unless you go and approach the magistrate. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South asked how many persons are affected by the amendment. My understanding is that there are only about 300 persons that Govemment has to find house spots for and in every constituency there are numbers. We have to find land not only in St. John, as the Honourable Member was asking, but a number of people have been affected in St. Andrew and St. Philip North. I think St. Philip North must have the most now.

4.55 p.m.

In every constituency the number is rising because after 5 years the owner can ask the tenant to remove his house. I must say the Court is not giving the owners a long time to remove their chattel house. So in many cases you will find that the tenant will only be given 6 months and at the end of 6 months he cannot find land. Sometimes the marshal threatens to come and put the tenant in the road. So we have problems and that is why acquisitions like

Apes Hill is important. Government is duty bound to find land to put the people on. The $15 000 that the Minister has introduced is not just necessarily to replace a home but to help in finding a solution, because sometimes persons are not working and the cost of removal, digging wells and a foundation and transportation costs are high. Sometimes it is not a matter of $5 000 but, in most cases, it is between $10 000 and $15 000.

As to the homes in Weston, that the member for St. John spoke of, in most cases the homes in Weston were rebuilt by the NHC so that the $15 000 for repairing the homes in Weston is not necessarily true because most of the homes will be repaired. I don't think many people were given the $15 000 at Weston at all. I think homes are being built for them. In many cases those persons who have to move ask for land so that the $15 000 is not to pay for land it is just for foundation and transportation.

I believe over time that this matter will be solved. It is going to take some time. The surveying has now begun again. Out of possibly 5 000 to 6 000 persons in plantation tenanvies over 3 000 surveys and conveyances were handed out. We still have more than 2 000 to go and it will take the Ministry of Housing 2 or 3 years to clean up the list and provide conveyances for those persons who are affected.

I want to give Honourable Members the assurance that the programme has begun. I know that many Honourable Members have been vigilant. Certainly, the Honourable Member for St. John has been very vigilant in looking after his tenants. He has been asking and sending many letters to the Ministry of Housing and I would like 'all Honourable Members – the Member for Christ Church South has been representing his tenants – to let us know in the Ministry of Housing what is happening in their area with respect to the tenantries programme.

I would also want to say in terms of the registration of tenantries, Francia Plantation, for example, in my own constituency will have to be scheduled. It does not necessarily have to be a plantation tenantry, but once we recognise the need the Minister of Housing has the power to schedule a tenantry. Over the next year or so, more tenantries will have to be scheduled to provide the statutory price of 10 cents for those persons who are affected. Thank you.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, in his presentation, recognised some similarity between Apes Hill and Harmony Hall in St. Lawrence. I just wish to put in the record that the former Attorney General, Mr. Maurice King, had assured us that in the context of the allocation of land to the present owners of the nightclub that it did not in any way derogate from the provision of house spots for those persons who are on the other side of the St. Lawrence Road, that there are sufficient house spots on the appropriate side.

I heard him talking about the car park but the people to be located who were on the flooding side, all of those persons, provisions were made for them to be relocated. Just in case there was any difficulty about that, I just wanted to be certain that there is no misunderstanding that the granting of a car park to the night club somehow deprived the tenants on the other side from their rights in the circumstances. I know about this primarily because when we were examining the whole question of the location of the cheaper plant for the South Coast Sewerage Project and the effect which the plant location would have on any tenants that would live in that immediate area to the south of the plant was of grave concern to the Ministry of Health at the time. And we walked the land and we checked to see that all the people in that general area would in fact be provided for. I thought that in all the circumstances that I should put that in the record.

I also wish to note that there is a problem for persons in relation to tenantries where as in the case of a tenantry in Richmond and surrounding areas the landlord of record has died. There seems to be some concern about the estate and in the meantime the tenants in the area are in tremendous difficulty because exercising the option to purchase land under the scheduled tenanvies the question as to whom the letter should be addressed. There is in essence a hiatus in the ownership of the property and it is creating tremendous difficulty for some of my constituents. We literally do not know where to turn. I do not feel it is fair that ordinary persons living in a tenantry should be required to go seeking high priced lawyers to work in this area when the lawyers themselves are only going to be able to tell them that they don't know what to do but would still in fact have a fee due and owing.

In all the circumstances, I believe that the Minister would wish to pay some attention to this particular difficulty with a view to finding a solution, or if a solution exists, because it is no responsibility of a parliamentarian to be giving legal advice in matters which may subsequently turn out to have difficulty. If a solution exists, I think it is the responsibility of the Ministry responsible to let the public be aware as to how these matters may be dealt with because attempts to discover from the Ministry what steps are to be taken have generally been greeted with response from the Ministry that they don't know what the people are talking about. In all those circumstances, I believe that the Ministry is the place where members of the public should be able to go to get answers to certain questions.

This is a theoretical issue which is a matter which is causing actual persons concern and no doubt it applies elsewhere because these estates have a way of being complicated and even with high priced lawyers the

complications are not settled. To the extent that it is feasible, I give advice to constituents as to how they may protect themselves. For example, there are some who have paid no rent or who have not known where to pay rent for more than two years. I have advised them to pay the rent into some kind of account.
5.05 pm.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I advise. I do not give legal advice. If the Minister feels that he wishes to risk his hand with a law suit against me, I cannot stop him from trying, but I receive no fees. I do not wish to give a lecture, but you have to receive fees in order to be charged. You can give legal advice. How good it is is another matter. I always tell my constituents that any advice I give them is political advice given in a legal framework. If they wish legal advice they would then consult a lawyer, and if they wish me to advise them which lawyer to consult, I would be happy to do so.

Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, these matters of tenantry concerns, as your Honour knows, little people and when it concerns little people it then becomes of big importance to some of us and, in the circumstances, I hope the Minister will address this issue.

While the Minister is at it, I hope he will recognise that the borders along which some of these tenantries run as they come out to the Highway have an absence of sidewalks. I wonder if the Minister in the meantime could pay some attention to this. I promise to write him a letter but since this debate has come up I will mention it. The tenantry that runs, for example, along President Kennedy Drive, has a sidewalk that has only been fixed in part from Eagle Hall to Richmond Gap. It would not cost a lot for the Minister to direct that the extension of the paving of the sidewalk could be carried all the way to Westbury Road to allow some of those poor people who live in the tenantries along Richmond Gap to walk on a sidewalk that does not destroy their shoes, and disrupt their toenails, and things like that. It is standing in the way of many an elderly person from going to market, that is to say, the Eagle Hall Market and/or Church, which is to say, Pasture Woods' Church just opposite Richmond Gap. I hope the Minister will take this in the spirit in which it is offered.

I particularly wish to hear him on the difficulty for persons who wish to exercise the option to purchase land in the scheduled tenantry where they do not know to whom they should address the prescribed form. I thought that something akin to the public defender should be able to receive this letter but the legislation is not specific and might not protect persons who thought they had exercised the option only to discover subsequently that they had not.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, in listening to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West I think there is a lesson to learn from what he has said and that is the danger in giving advice in an area where one is not competent. This happens in medicine and engineering. It happens in education because all of us feel that we are educational experts if only because we are parents and we went to school. Obviously it happens moreso in law than anywhere else because I have heard the Honourable Member refer to the amount of street lawyers walking all around the place and he has demonstrated what he really means when he talks about giving advice knowing the particular individual to whom he gives the advice could get that advice from someone else.

It is fairly obvious too, notwithstanding the fact that there are not many lawyers on that side, that except for the few times when they met in this House, that the Honourable Members on that side are not talking to one another because I believe that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition with their experience, or limited experience, would be able to advise the Honourable Member for St. Michael West as to the law in certain areas where, if not he himself, his constituents are somewhat confused. I have a difficulty in giving him advice since my advice is not normally free and I cannot speak as a lawyer on this occasion.

I am speaking from memory, Mr. Speaker, and to deal specifically with the particular matter the Honourable Member was talking about, the Honourable Member for St. John would probably be able to advise him. Addressing the specific issue of the tenant who cannot find his landlord, section 12(1), and I am speaking from memory, is very clear. Where a qualified tenant wishes to exercise his right under this Act, he shall give notice to the landlord, or his attorney and the Minister, and the form of the notice is set out in the Schedule. Where no attorney is appointed as requited, or where the landlord has refused to comply with the particular section, or where the landlord cannot be found, or his identity cannot be ascertained, a notice in Form 2, and the notice is set out in the Schedule.

I know the Honourable Member for St. John is not speaking to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West so he would not have had the benefit of his advice but we are not actually dealing with a legal matter here. I believe that after the proceedings we could probably.....

Mr. B. M. TAITT: If the Honourable Member would give way. In his rush to demonstrate that I do not understand the sections....

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of elucidation?

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The Honourable Member has given way. On a point of elucidation. In his rush to demonstrate that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West might not understand the law and might be akin to one of the street lawyers, he did not hear the point I was making because he was so busy taking advice from street lawyers who might be in this House that he did not listen to what I was saying.

The point I was making was that when constituents go to the Ministry for which he has responsibility, those constituents are being told that they do not know what to do. That is the point I was making. But the law which he is quoting says that the tenant should lodge it with the Registrar and the little people who live in those tenantries do not even know who is the Registrar. The Ministry exists to give advice and the point I was making is that the Minister should seek to see that these people get advice rather than they having to go to a lawyer and pay a fee to discover that they should send it to the Registrar.

It is not for any parliamentarian to be giving that kind of advice precisely because the parliamentarian is not a lawyer. No lawyer should be drawing fees on the back of a constituent because the constituent does not know what to do when they cannot find the landlord. There ought to be public information available from the Minister responsible for Housing and Lands. There ought to be a place where ordinary people can go and talk about the public defenders, Mr. Speaker. I talked about the public defender, Mr. Speaker. This is the point I was making. It had nothing to do with the specifics of the law. Almost any person who has read this section would know that you can go to the Registrar, if you cannot find the landlord. Who knows where the Registrar is?
5.15 p.m.

I have heard Honourable Members in here talking about how difficult it is to get things to the Registrar. As soon as you say Registrar, you are talking about paying fees.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I know he was not listening, so I am going to give him the benefit of not having heard what I said.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the Honourable Member meant to say what he just said but he did not say it. Because what he said just now is something completely different from what he said earlier. He did mention...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Speaker, if he would listen...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Why do you not sit down and let me make...

Mr. B. M. TAITT Mr. Speaker, you listen to me carefully when I speak. If what I have said this second time differed from what I said the first time, Sir, you could repudiate it and I would apologize.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think this is an occasion when I was following very carefully obviously for the benefit of my constituents, especially in Snagg's Land.

I would have to agree that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West repeated what he had stated earlier.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, with respect. The Honourable Member did say that, on occasions, where the landlord is dead that he is at a loss as to what he should do.

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: No, no, no, no. When he was about to sit down, he said he wanted my advice as to what he should do in a situation like that because the law is not clear. He said that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The general trend is that the tenant is not clear. Could we proceed?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Notwithstanding that, Mr. Speaker, I do agree with the Honourable Member when he spoke about the difficulty that some tenants have been experiencing in order to get their conveyances, even in situations where the landlord is available. There are situations where plantation owners are even refusing to comply with certain directives that are given from the Ministry.

I would not like to say that in these situations the Ministry is reluctant to issue a conveyance. The legislation itself is not as clear as it should have been and maybe a little bit more thought should have gone into the actual &aft. But as I said earlier, in our enthusiasm to have the legislation on the Statute Books, there are a number of things which were omitted. Maybe if it were specifically stated that in situations like the ones to which the Honourable Member for St. Michael West referred, the Registrar must issue a conveyance and had specified the form in such situations, even though a form is specified, that is a standard form. There is a lot that is missing in the Act and, as a result, a number of persons have been disadvantaged by - to use the words of the Honourable Member for St. John - some unscrupulous landlords in this exercise.

The Honourable Member for St. John did raise a very good point with respect to the scheduling of tenantries. But before I get to that, I just want to deny ... I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Member for St. John when he was speaking because I find that when he is speaking fluently

on occasions and you get up to interrupt him, he sometimes forgets what he is talking about. But he stated words to the effect that I, as Minister, gave instructions to put Clifton Hall on the back burner. That is not so. As a matter of fact, Clifton Hall is high on the priority list.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. At no point in my speech did I say the Minister gave instructions. I said what, as based on hearsay, and I am not going to reveal my sources, the Minister said. He may have said it in a jovial manner. I know politicians. I am laying the indictment at his feet only that the project has not proceeded in the time frame I anticipated. If he can assure me of that, notwithstanding that, I would not say anything else about it.

Hon. G. W. **PAYNE:** Mr. Speaker, just for the purposes of the record because when we are out of this Chamber other people will give some wrong assessment, at times, as to what they see in the record.

I have never given any directives to anyone with respect to placing Clifton Hall on the back burner. It is on the priority list. *As* a matter of fact, it is further ahead than Apes Hill because the acquisition for Clifton Hall has been completed. *As* he admitted, the tenders were out for the construction of the roadworks. It is fairly obvious that when you are dealing with priorities there are certain factors that must be taken into consideration. In this case, the factors have a lot to do with the low income earners in the area, the amount of persons who have been affected by land slippage, the persons in that area who have been disadvantaged as a result of the amendment of which he was part when the Tenanhies Freehold Purchase Act was amended.

If I were a voter in St. John, I certainly would be very disappointed that every time a resolution for acquisition of house spots comes to this Chamber he is saying that he is going to file a writ or words to that effect. He has not filed the writ as yet so it is obvious that he is not doing his job.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I am not any bread and fish operative in Bridgetown looking for clients. I want to make that position clear. Therefore I have no writ to file. I live in Mapp's, St. Philip. What I will do, however, is encourage my constituents to fight for their rights. It is up to them if they wish to do so. The problem is that I do not have access to all the information.

I am still on a point of order. The Honourable Member gave the impression, in the course of his presentation, that some factors like how many people were affected by the last legislation, land slippage and so on were relevant. Those are not relevant. The lots have already been allocated. People have already received letters in their hand allocating the lots at Gall Hill to them. It is at the stage where, once the sites and services are put in place, they should be told the lot is available, this is the price. Those factors are not relevant. I do not wish to fight with the Honourable Member on it, Sir. I am pleading. Let us not have acrimony. I would like the people of St. John to have the benefits of the taxes they pay like every other citizen in this country.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, it is strange that he is not a bread and fish lawyer, as he said. He lives in St. Philip but he is still using the language of St. John. I do not understand how the two fit in.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to rise on a point of order because it is a serious matter. I do not come in here to tout for my profession. I come in here as the representative of the people of St. John. I make a very sharp distinction.

The Honourable Member therefore should not be allowed to impute, in his presentation, that my comments in here had anything to do with the work I do as an Attorney-at-Law in Bridgetown because that is not the basis on which I speak in these debates.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, just for the purposes of the record I want to deal with this question of Clifton Hall because it is being mentioned, by the Honourable Member for St. John, every time an acquisition comes to this House. He will continue to do, it. He has mentioned the fact that lots have been allocated to certain persons.

I want the Honourable Member to know that it is the policy of this Administration to allocate lots with reference to a specific policy and not on the basis of any special relationship a person enjoyed. If persons were allocated lots, those persons have to be fitted into the policy. The policy as I mentioned had a lot to do with those factors pertaining to land slippage, tenantries relocation and low income earners. Even if those persons were allocated and they do not fit within that policy, it means that the reallocation process, when we come to St. John, will have to be looked at again. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question...

Aside.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: An issue was raised with respect to the Agricultural Holdings Option To Purchase Act and the fact that – I think the Honourable Member for St. John raised that point – persons, at a very young age, who obviously were not qualified tenants were actually receiving conveyances. While I share his view about unscrupulous land owners and I do not share the view of the Honourable Member for St. George North about

unscrupulous lawyers, I should like to say that you have to look at – rather than painting any picture or casting any aspersions on anybody's character – the legislation as it is. The definition of qualified tenant in the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act is completely different to a qualified tenant in the Agricultural Holdings Option To Purchase Act. This is the reason why a person who is 5 years old forgetting the provisions of the law relating to trust can actually become a qualified tenant, under the Agricultural Option To Purchase Act. But this cannot be so in the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act.
5.25 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have to rise on a point of order because that point is irrelevant. I am talking about people who clearly could not qualify. I am not having any debate with the Honourable Member about who qualifies under the Act. That debate is for other people.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That the Honourable Member is misleading the House because he is giving the impression that I was saying that there are some cases in which people qualify and land owners may have conveyed to them and I am saying that is unscrupulous.

I am saying categorically that the cases I am speaking of are people who could not qualify under any legislation for the purchase of agricultural lots or tenantry lots. I am saying that because the Town Planner is not required to give permission for the subdivision that there can be some back door sales of land under the Agricultural Holdings Option to Purchase Act where the person is not a qualified tenant. That is all I am saying. The Honourable Member does not have to demonstrate that he knows the law, we all know it including the Honourable Member for St. George North and I do not wish to be disparaging. I support your view. There are unscrupulous lawyers in this country and you are right to say so.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into any argument with the Honourable Member on these points. I would just like to say with respect to tenantries, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South did allude to the problem facing a number of tenants in the urban areas. At our last check there were about 6 000 tenants in the urban areas who have been affected by the omission of the provisions of this legislation to take care of them in the same way as the plantation tenantries did take care of the tenants on plantation lands.

It is a matter which will have to engage the attention of this administration because the problem is becoming more acute now than it ever was. There are situations where landowners in the urban areas are charging tenants as much as $6 per square foot whereas people in rural tenantries are paying 10 cents per square foot for similar lands. At the same time they are benefitting from the provisions of the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act in that there is no need to go to Town Planning for the subdivision. These are matters that we have to address.

We also have to address matters pertaining to tenants who have been living on land for a number of years. Only on Sunday a woman came to me. She was living on land for 40 years and simply because a Government has repaired an old road next door to her the owner, who is a grandson of the person from whom she rented in the first place, says he would now like to have the spot. After 40 years living on that land she has got to move simply because of an improvement to that area which has been done by Government. These are matters that we must remedy. These are matters that that administration failed to do anything about in the last 8 years. Mr. Speaker, I now move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to Friday 2nd February 1996 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning

Speaking on the Adjournment, Sir, we would propose, on this side, on Friday to debate the supplementary which was tabled today. I have spoken with the Leader of the Opposition to support our proposals that on Tuesday next we would debate the Education White Paper.

I have further spoken to the Leader of the Opposition about broadcast arrangements for next Tuesday. He is to get back to me and I will then, in due course, as is the custom now, write Your Honour as to what arrangements can be agreed between the Opposition and the Government or in the event that there cannot be an agreement what it is that the Government proposes.

We would further propose too, Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday February 6, to debate the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill. The Government is looking even further down the road at the Insurance Bill, which is in the hands of all Honourable Members, we would wish to give some time for research, discussion and consideration and it is proposed that we would debate the Insurance Bill on the 20th February 1996. In March then, Sir, it is anticipated that we would be getting into the debate on the Estimates of Expenditure and I will announce the date proposed for that debate at a later time.

We have a very busy schedule in front of us. Some matters need extensive consideration and I am trying to

be as accommodating as I can be to all Members. So that is the legislative programme for the immediate future.

There are other matters which are on their way to this House. There is the Financial Institutions Bill which is yet to come up to the Cabinet and its companion amendment, matters to do with the offshore regime as well as other outstanding quite substantial pieces of legislation as well. It is important that we do not do things in an ad hoc fashion and I, as Leader of the House, must plan the business of the House so that things will go smoothly and Members can take best advantage. So that is what is proposed and I would like to move that we adjourn now to Friday 2nd day of February, 1996 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

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

5.35 p.m.

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KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)
MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
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