
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 **a.m.** on Tuesday, July 16, 1996.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed., (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. H. **deB.** FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.

(Hons.)

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.)

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL

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

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

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

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 Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, July 9, 1996.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of Assembly of its meeting of Tuesday, July 9, 1996, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. The Exchange Control (Fees) (Revocation) Order, 1996.
2. The Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended December 31, 1993.
3. The Annual Report of the National Productivity Board for the year 1994/95.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

1. The Financial Institutions Bill, 1996.
2. A Resolution to approve the sale to Michael Cozier of a parcel of land together with the building **thereon** at Glendale, in the parish of St. Thomas.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

The Financial Institutions Bill, 1996.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY
SPEECHES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a former Chairman of Committees of this House and representative of the parish and the then **constituency** of St. George, Mr. Russell Lowe, passed away. I think it is appropriate that we pay tribute to his memory for his contribution to public life in Barbados.

I knew Mr. Lowe from February 1976 until he left Parliament. When I became a Member of this House in February 1976 the Democratic Labour Party was in Government and he was the Chairman of Committees. I cannot say other than during his tenure I found him to be a most accommodating and humane person in the Chair, whose interpretation of the Rules generally, I **think**, trying to speak as objectively as I can, was sound. He was not a person who had the benefit of a high education but he was a man of innate, intellect, native intelligence, and a wealth of common sense. I found him very fair in his dealings with both sides of the House. I **think** all Members of the

House - I am **trying** to think carefully as I speak - got on well with Mr. Lowe.

In his constituency, of course, he came along at a time when it was the norm for **MPs** to render service of a very local nature to constituents. Twenty years later, the kind of service we are called upon to render, particularly in Government, more and more requires us to be involved in matters of high national or international or regional content and moment.

Mr. Lowe was essentially the **type** of politician that the late Reynold **Weekes** was. He stuck very closely to his constituents in St. George. Indeed, even though he did not live in St. George, as I recall it, he had a shop around the Greens area. He was always in his shop until late at night. That was a meeting point for many of his constituents.

His was a very simple style of life but a very effective style and a very effective style of political management he had. The kinds of things that politicians used to do in those days he was very adept at it. The little services that you rendered to constituents from signing passports to giving a lift in his motorcar **as** you pass through a constituency, all those came second nature to Mr. Lowe.

I have never heard in my 20 years in Parliament anyone speak ill of Mr. Lowe. He had that kind of personality that endeared him to everyone. He obviously had his political views, a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party, but that did not interfere with his ability to interact and have good relationships with people on the other side.

I think in every respect Mr. Lowe was a good man, a nice person. I have seen him once or twice since he left politics. He did not show any sign of change. He **was** still the warm kind of person that I knew. It was a pleasure knowing him.

I just wish to say that for the people of St. George in his time, he rendered very useful service and to this Parliament as Chairman of Committees, having regard to all that I have said, he was an excellent Chairman of Committees, Sir.

On behalf of the Government I would **ask** that condolences be tendered to his surviving relatives and in due course the usual Resolution be sent on behalf of the House.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it is with much sorrow and yet some joy that I find myself able to speak for this side in relation to one of the fine old men of Barbadian politics. The history of this Honourable

House is replete with stories of great Barbadians who have served in this Chamber.
11.30 am.

In many ways, as will be the case 30 years from now, when they speak of some Honourable Members here each story is separate, each story is distinct even though one can find what they call in law, a golden thread, moving through the particular stories. The ones that are perhaps of most **importance** and certainly the ones that are most colourful are the ones told of those parliamentary representatives whose only claim to fame was that they rose up from among the ordinary people and by the sheer force of their integrity, their commitment and their understanding of the road which they travelled, they became **great**.

Woodroffe Russell Lowe was one such a man. He belonged to the era of a great representative from St. Joseph, Lloyd Smith, a great representative from St. Michael, Mencea Cox, a great representative from St. Lucy, Sir **Theodore** Brancker, he belonged to a group that we who **are** now the elder spokesmen in this Chamber found when most of us came to this Chamber. We found Russell Lowe a man who was first and foremost a representative but almost at the same time a parliamentarian par **excellence**. Their's was the method of waiting until they had something to say before speaking. Their's was the willingness to allow those who by dint of fortune or circumstance had had opportunity to broaden their experiences and their education to take the forefront in the high matters of the day. But theirs was also the tenacity of he or she who knows what he or she stands for.

No one who has ever heard Russell Lowe making what he would describe as the particular "pint" and that was his trademark, Sir. He always would define the word "point" in that remarkable way as the "pint" and when he was making a "pint" or when he held steadfastly to a "pint" it really did not matter which side had what opinion, he was sticking to his "pint".

I have not yet, Sir, reached his sterling performance as Chairman of Committees because that would come to be the highlight of his parliamentary career. Mr. Speaker, cast as he was into the role of presiding officer, he adorned the Chair with a substance that made itself immediately apparent when one fell **afoul** of his ruling. Mr. Speaker, I do not recall anyone ever mentioning having seen Russell Lowe angry but everyone remembers having seen him serious. For when he determined that the point, or 'as I said earlier "the pint" was a serious matter then he rose to his full height, all 5 feet 9 inches of it and he let no one, and that included the Prime Minister of the day, the Leader of the Opposition of the day, the golliwogs of the day, and, Sir, he was Chairman of Committees when there were some very heavy rollers sitting on both sides of the House.

He, Sir, would make it known beyond any shadow of doubt who was the presiding officer and when he ruled, he ruled and he once told me quietly that the worst thing a presiding officer could ever do is to allow himself to appear to be wrong. Mr. Speaker, I make no recommendations to Your Honour in this regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, nevertheless.

Mr. B. M. **TAITT**: I make no recommendations to your Honour in this regard, Sir, but I give you this information as it was passed to me by that illustrious and distinguished gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I had the good fortune to have known him in another capacity. His daughter, Lestine, and my late wife Marjorie, started as student nurses on the same date and were in the class together and formed those lifetime friendships of which all of us **are** familiar where we have been classmates in one form or another and they were part of a seven-woman or seven-girl, they had no objection to being called girls in those days, they were part of a **seven-girl** contingent that studied together, that feted together - very little of that, and did almost everything together and so to know one was to know all. To be rebuffed by one was to be rebuffed by all but nonetheless some of us managed in that manner to which we all used to be accustomed to inveigle our way into the midst of groups like that and in my case I was fortunate to inveigle my way into that particular group and I am able to say that we had lifelong friendships. Those of us who have been close in that particular group have remained friends throughout the years. It was in that context that I was able to meet her father long before he became a parliamentarian.

He used to preside over a shop. I think that is the only way one can describe what it is that Russell Lowe did in his shop in Greens, St. George. I think it is fair to say that there are more people who owed him money in any given week than paid. It is true to say, Sir, that he represented a breed of small business persons in this country that demonstrated very clearly and very early that the customer was always right even if the customer was always broke.

Mr. Speaker, there is not one from St. George North or South who will not regale you with the magnificence of the gestures of this distinguished man as a shopkeeper. He never allowed anyone to come to his shop and leave his shop without the number of goods they had called for notwithstanding the fact that most of them had over called so to speak in relation to their capacity to pay.

Mr. Speaker, he like other shopkeepers I used to know when I was very young understood that existence in Barbados **during** those days required a certain

tenacity, a certain perspicacity and above all a special barbadianne finesse to allow them to exist on the resources which were available in the circumstances. There is hardly one of us in here who is unknowing of that kind of existence.

11.40 a.m.

I certainly, Mr. Speaker, grew up in a family which even now I marvel at the capacity of my mother literally to get blood out of stone and the Reynold Weekeses of this world, the Russell Lowes of this world and many others who formed part of the rich history of Barbados are singular in the honour which should be paid to them for helping to keep this society together in times when it was virtually impossible. They are the real heroes of this country, Sir, and Russell Lowe was a hero in Barbados long before he became a Member of Parliament or Chairman of Committees; for from that small peddling shop which was very steadily and slowly expanding to a medium-sized business in Greens, St. George, he was able to preside over and assist with the development of a large cadre of young people who today make their mark in the development of Barbados and whose children will continue to make a substantial contribution to the growth and development of our society.

I recall, Sir, when I returned from the United States after we had been gone for some considerable time to take up a position as a Senator and Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce. Some of the earliest advice on how to perceive my responsibility came from Russell Lowe. By virtue of the fact of responsibility for Commerce, I necessarily needed to get a perspective of what commerce was like in Barbados from people who were engaged in it in a real way. Russell Lowe helped me to understand the difficulties which the small shopkeeper suffered, part of which was the inability to break out of a cocoon that had been very carefully and very selectively woven by those who had power in the society. Shopkeepers were required to take the good, bad and the indifferent when the truck turned up at their shop "to deliver the goods". It was Russell Lowe who helped me more than anybody else perhaps to understand that particular phenomenon which many of us would have observed from afar but few of us would have known the gritty details of how the small shopkeeper lived or rather existed in our time. From time to time one would go to his place and run by him policy positions which one was about to take in relation to commerce and the small shopkeepers in this country. He was a tremendous tower of strength in that regard but more particularly, Mr. Speaker, he was a colossus in terms of his advice as to how one should approach representation of people in Barbados.

I will not detain this Honourable Chamber with the details of that kind of advice except to say that it is in

observing people like Lowe, **Hoppin**, **Weekes** and **Brancker** that one understood that the first and foremost responsibility of a Member of Parliament is the representation of his or her people as the case may be. It is a lesson which has stood me in good stead and which I commend to all Honourable Members here and to come in terms of the role they will play in the history and development of this country, for in the end we are no more than the epitome of those who send us here to represent them. Collectively what we do in one form or another constitutes the sum total of what all of the people of Barbados do irrespective of their political position. I am grateful that in my lifetime that I have had the opportunity to share experiences, thoughts and words with people like the late **Woodroffe** Russell Lowe.

Mr. Speaker, as happens in many such circumstances, I was **unfortunately** travelling in Washington and then in Geneva in between the time he died and his interment. So I was unable personally to share in the condolences which would have been issued on that occasion. I take this opportunity now on behalf of my family and I speak also on behalf of the Democratic **Labour** Party, the Party to which in the end he was committed and a Party to which he had given more than he received, a Party which will always revere his memory. I speak on behalf of our side as I offer to his family and to his friends our condolences and our wishes for their sustenance over the long haul as they miss this dear and distinguished gentleman. All of us in this **Chamber** will be saddened by his loss but many of us will be glad by the fact that we were touched by his greatness in one form or another as he sought to serve his country and his people. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it is with some degree of sadness but also with a sense of appreciation for having shared with Mr. Lowe many fine moments in the parish of St. George and indeed, as I think and reflect on his life and his contribution which he made to that parish and to this country as a whole, one wonders how it is that someone who at all times maintained such a profile of humility, a profile of self-denial was able to achieve so much during his lifetime. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that I refer to him as Mr. Lowe and not Russell Lowe because I do not know of anyone in St. George who ever referred to him **either** other than as Mr. Lowe and there is a good reason for that. There is hardly anyone that I have known who has commanded that kind of respect from all age groups within a community that no one seems to dare to mention his first name in referring to him. He had built such a deep relationship with the people of St. George that it was difficult for anyone observing political campaigns in the sixties or seventies to understand how Russell Lowe ever won a seat, but he never lost. That is a most interesting phenomenon because in the proceeding years his involvement in the local politics like persons as

Reynold **Weekes** and so on that was the foundation on which he built his relationship with the people of St. George.

11.50 a.m.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, during the **1971** elections the tremendous effort that was being made when it was felt that Russell Lowe would lose his seat. Many of us made enormous efforts to get Mr. Lowe to leave his shop and he would tell you that he is doing his campaign from morning till night, and he would never leave the shop to go anywhere. Such things as going from house to house or doing all the other things that people were doing, flyers, et cetera, he was not in the least bit concerned with. He was campaigning and that was the end of the story. Then, all of a sudden, in the last week of the campaign we saw a completely different person altogether. He came out and he moved swiftly and very decisively. He knew exactly where to go, he knew who to mobilise and wherever you went with Russell everybody referred to him as Mr. Lowe, almost humbly before him.

I recall the first night that he appeared on the platform during that campaign. It was in Bourne's Village in St. George North. As he was about to finish speak that night, he told the people of St. George: 'Remember this, you are hopping high and flying low.' Of course, referring to Eyre **Hoppin** in the north and Lowe in the south. That became the slogan for the last week of the campaign. Simple, straightforward, hopping high, flying low, and that completely knocked out all his opponents in a matter of a few days, so much so that they never understood how they were defeated and assigned quite a disproportionate amount of blame to me, when in fact I played a very minimal role in the campaign, but it was that slogan that made the difference.

That was an interesting evening, Sir, because the system that was used at that meeting was almost prehistoric. It seemed to me to consist of an accumulation of old tots, but somehow it made the appropriate noise in the district.

That same evening I left there and went to Christ Church East to listen to a meeting. Then I saw a very similar thing happen. Here was the late Sir **Edwy** Talma addressing a meeting, with hardly any equipment, a large crowd, everybody was saying that Sir Edwy was under a lot of pressure and that he would lose his seat, and then came the time for Sir **Edwy** to speak. All he did was to get on the platform and say: "**Rommel!**" Then there was a roar and he repeated three times and got down. That was the end. He said nothing more.

This is such a remarkable experience that I could not understand what was going on, but clearly what was

happening was here you had two politicians who felt so secure and who had done so much at various levels in politics over a long period of time, that they were able to meet their challengers in this particular way. Those of us who were interested in bringing modern techniques to political campaigning and political exercises never understood the solidity with which these men held their seats and could never possibly be removed until they decided to relinquish their seats.

As an individual Russell Lowe was an extraordinary gentleman. He was generous in his thoughts and his expressions about his political colleagues and also about his political opponents. He always looked out and identified the virtues of his opponents and spoke to those virtues and concentrated on beating them by analysing their virtues and strengths rather than trying to denigrate them. I have never heard him at any time being offensive towards any politician whatsoever on whatever side of the political fence that person was.

I think that such persons made a major contribution to the political life of this country not only by the support of their political parties but by their conduct and by their personal lives. By the way in which they functioned within their communities they set the standard by which people viewed their representatives and also they established a level of expectations of conduct by which all representatives, those present and in the future, would be assessed.

Today, Sir, one of the things I have always noticed in Barbadians is the degree of respect which they offer to their representatives. One recognises that this was not an automatic matter, that this is something that was earned by our predecessors in office and it is very important that all of us **try** to maintain and live up to the expectations which the people foster in their minds and to the standards set by a man like Mr. Lowe.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke of the advice and the soundness of his advice. I ignored his advice in **1976** and I paid the penalty. I recall on several occasions he advised me to **run** in St. George South and not in St. George North, but being new to this business it seemed to me that St. George North would be the more appropriate place for me to **run**. Having **been** defeated, as Russell expected me to be defeated, when I saw him again he said: 'What did I tell you? I told you to run in St. George South and you would have had no problems whatsoever.' It took me many, many years to begin to understand exactly what he was telling me, and I understand today very well why he gave me that advice. But at no time did he spell out to me why he was giving me that particular advice.

12.00 noon

So, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be a part of this tribute and part of this record of Hansard because I believe that down the ages as historians **try** to analyse and interpret political events in Barbados that these tributes that we pay to our parliamentarians as they pass to the Great Beyond will be very important historical records.

To his family, to his **friends** and to the people of St. George, both North and South, whom he represented in this Parliament at one time or the other, on behalf of myself, my family and the ever-growing family of the National Democratic Party I wish to express my sincerest condolences. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would want to add my voice to those who have paid tribute to the goodly gentleman who has now passed on. Mr. **Woodroffe Russell Lowe** was indeed a fine gentleman who served the wider St. George between the years **1961** and **1976**. Indeed, Sir, I believe he was a senior Member of Parliament who represented the entire St. George during the years **1961-76**.

He was a person who gave of his best, who gave service. One cannot see any tribute in **terms** of buildings, in terms of fine roads, in terms of structures, but I believe that this gentleman that we **are** paying tribute to provided service in **terms of** providing the basic necessities for those persons in those days in **terms** of providing food and some form of shelter.

I believe that Mr. Russell Lowe who served unbeaten between the years **1961-76** was a fine example of what a parliamentarian **ought to be**, a person who will go to the constituents. He was not interested in providing lavish roads, lights and so on because he served at a time when the economy was very low and some of the basic necessities could not be provided. When he finished his term in **1976** there were still a number of roads and problems in terms of service within the St. George community but he provided the basic necessity, service, which is important.

I believe that we can emulate some of the things that this gentleman stood for. In fact, I **first** met Mr. Russell Lowe as a student at the elementary school. It was during those years that Mr. Russell Lowe and Mr. Eyre **Hoppin** came around to schools. He came around and told the students that he was offering himself as a candidate for the constituency of St. George and it was during those years that men like Mr. Russell Lowe and Mr. Eyre **Hoppin** paid tremendous effort to the small things that matter, what people wanted food, proper wages, what people wanted in terms of a decent – job. Therefore, one can say that this

gentleman provided the necessary things, service. Therefore, we like to pay tribute to him.

Mr. Lowe also was parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works between the years **1966-71**. He was also Chairman of Committees in this Honourable House between the years **1971-76** and then he gave way to a Mr. **Cyril Walker** who was defeated by our present Member for St. George South, Mr. Louis **Tull**. This gentleman always believed that a person despite his education, despite his position in life should be **truthful** and he committed himself to see things his way and therefore he said that a Member had to respect the Chair. He told a former Prime Minister "When I rules, I rules."

He did not see status as important. You see respect for the Chair. He also told Members when he was Chairman of Committee that a Member of Parliament should only speak once during the Committee stage. Before him, I believe the Standing Orders of the day allowed Members of Parliament to speak unlimited time and to speak more than once, but he ruled that a Member in Committee should only speak once and despite it not being a written rule, Members adhered to that **ruling** between the years **1971** and **1976**.

It is important to know, Mr. Speaker, that here was a man who served and who served and was never defeated but yet in his latter years, I was told quite recently, that he was almost forgotten. So many of us, Mr. Speaker, serve from time to time in this Honourable Chamber and when we have departed from here we **are** never remembered.
12.10 p.m.

I believe that something should be done. Especially when you provide service. You leave your family, you leave your friends, you leave your children and provide service for the wider **community**. Something has to be done.

I think that I have seen in many Parliaments where scrolls **are** provided, where you have Members of Parliament names on these scrolls. So that, at least, someone in their later years can see that Russell Lowe, **Eyre Hoppin** or some of the persons who have served, you can **see** those names being there. I think that something should be done to remember these **fine** gentlemen because the community, at large, sometimes forget that these Members have served and have served with distinction. I believe that this gentleman Russell Lowe would be remembered best of all for the service he has rendered to St. George as a whole, and to the wider Barbados as such.

We also must remember that he was also a Parliamentarian at a time when he replaced the

planter class. I think that it was he who defeated the conservative Member of Parliament, in those day, Mr. **Dowding**. It was he who put an end to the system of oligarchy in St. George. Both he and Mr. Freddie Miller served with distinction during those pre-independence years and post-independence years. So I believe that we can best remember them for the service they provided for the people of St. George.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution before the House, Sir, and also as Chairman of Committees. Although I do not know Russell Lowe, I have been able to gather that he was, indeed, a great man.

Sir, I am particularly impressed by the fact that here was a gentleman who was a shopkeeper in his area of St. George, and who had been able to represent these people for fifteen years. Never once being defeated. Having defeated the conservative in 1961.

I think what this says, Sir, is that this gentleman was respected by the people in his community. This respect could only have come by the fact that he was perceived to have been making a contribution to the community, and also by the fact that he was seen to be a man of the people.

We well recall that he defeated one of our own, the Honourable Member for St. George South, in the Election of 1971, when we all felt that this young, **sharp** attorney would have defeated whoever came before him in 1971, especially in view of the fact he had been a member of the under forties and would have had a lot of exposure before the Election in 1971. To our surprise, Sir, Russell Lowe, the shopkeeper, defeated the attorney, the Honourable Member for St. George South, Mr. Louis **Tull**.

What that showed, Sir, is that the people of St. George, at that time, were determined to stick with a gentleman who they put there before and they felt that they owed it to **him** to return to him to Parliament. Sir, this is how communities, such as we have places, like St. George, some places in St. **Philip**, St. Peter, outlying rural areas. **This** is how they respond. When there is community spirit people rally around their folk heroes.

Also, before I come back to looking at the folk heroes of Barbados, I also want to speak of the impression I have received of Mr. Lowe as a Chairman of Committees. Having sat in that Chair for nearly two years, Sir, I would be under the pressures which Mr. Lowe would have had to undergo during that period of time.

From what I am hearing, it seems as though Mr. Lowe was a man who understood the Rules of Parliament and he was prepared to apply these Rules fairly to both

sides of the House. I am also told, Sir, that he had a certain sense of order, for example, when **he said** that Members should only speak once on a Bill in Committee. What that said, Sir, is that he understood that time was of the essence and to allow people to get up and speak again and again, which obviously would prevent other people from speaking, or which might defer a matter too long, or which might prevent another matter from coming before Committee.

He understood that as a Chairman, he had to bring some order. Therefore, he appealed to the gentlemen to speak once on a matter in Committee. From reports I understand that he was so well-respected that the Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister of the day, adhered to the ruling of Russell Lowe.

Sir, that is particularly outstanding to me because here was a gentleman who did not, in anyway, feel that he was inferior because he did not have the academic background of many who were in the House around that time. He knew what he had to do. He knew what he was there about, and he understood that he was there to do a specific function. That shows that the gentleman was pragmatic. He was a community person. He was respected.

Sir, it **brings** me to the fact that when we have these persons who have contributed to the extent of fifteen years to a community, and then there is no way of remembering what these people have done and so on for the public. There is no way for the public to remember the great work that these people have done. We hope this Parliament could look at ways in which Members of Parliament who have served for a certain period of time can be remembered by young people of Barbados.

I do not know if any person is writing a book on these people, particularly the political heroes of Barbados. In this day we need to do that. Many times people believe that to represent a community or to represent anything, you have to be blessed by an academic education or some other kind of professional status. The folk heroes such as Russell Lowe, **Edwy Talma** and those gentlemen, showed that was not the requirement. In some requirement that the people in the community are aware of, and I believe that we have to understand what this requirement is.

I am making the point, **Sir**, that these gentlemen must be immortalised. We must have their stories recorded in books before all of us are gone and no one remembers what they have done. That is the **first** thing that we should do, Sir. Secondly, Sir, I believe that we on both sides have to put partisanship aside and recognise that any person who can serve their community, in the political arena for fifteen years, should have something, some monument, something in their memory. Whether it be a school,

whether it be a block, whether it be a street, whether it be a sign post, whether it be a building in town, whether it be a section of Parliament.

There is no reason why people who have given of their time, from 5 o'clock in the morning back to 5 o'clock in the morning, to serve the community, should be forgotten. We have to address these matters and it is appropriate that we do it now because we are now in our thirtieth year of Independence, and I believe now is the time for us to look at these matters and ensure that the history of Barbados would reflect those to come.
12.20 p.m.

With these words I wish to give my condolences to the family of the late Russell Lowe. I must apologise for not being at the funeral but I also had another matter relating to the death of two children in my constituency and I really had to be at that funeral, but I had intended to be at this funeral in support of a great man.

Thank you.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to join with those who have paid tribute to the life and work of the late **Woodroffe** Russell Lowe, former Member of Parliament for St. George South, who distinguished himself in his service to Barbados, to the people of St. George South and to the Democratic Labour Party.

Perhaps, Sir, as with many of our other distinguished parliamentarians who served for such a long time, and who contributed so much to the development of our country, it is a pity that during his lifetime no honour was bestowed on **him**. I think it is regrettable that my own party did not **see** it fit during his lifetime at a national level properly to honour him for his contribution to the politics of Barbados. I would say it is a sad reflection. It is certainly not something emulated by the Government. When they have to honour their **MPs** they honour them.

Most regrettably there has been no attempt to honour some of those very distinguished parliamentarians who served in difficult times for little reward, who were viewed as gentlemen, who were viewed as individuals who genuinely ministered to the needs of the people who they represented, who remained men of integrity and who at the end of the day touched so many lives in Barbados at a personal level, and in a direct way. Their rewards in old age were only the memories of that achievement and as time passed on the memories of that achievement became less significant because there were less people who remembered.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that is the only regret I have. I wish on behalf of the members and supporters of the late

Russell Lowe to express that regret on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party that no formal national honour was bestowed on him, particularly in the period between **1986** and **1994** which would have been the most appropriate time to do so.

However, Sir, that, nevertheless, brings me to a second point and that point being that until I attended the funeral I did not know that there was any **connection** which I **could** discern between myself and the late Mr. Russell Lowe, but as I got my **programme** I realised that his granddaughter, who delivered a very eloquent and moving Eulogy, was a contemporary of mine. We did not attend the same school, but a contemporary of mine when I was at school, and she spoke most glowingly of her grandfather's generosity, of his life among the people, of the things he loved, and from a family perspective, of the challenges and difficulties which he would have experienced in politics.

There certainly was no rancour. There certainly was not a moment's doubt in my mind that his family was exceedingly proud of his achievements and that regardless of what may be written or said about him by us in here, regardless of any honour that he did not receive, in their heart and **mind** he had given of his best to Barbados and they were proud of the fact that somebody like him from humble origins had been able to reach the heights which he reached, had been able to serve at the level at which he served, and had been able to bring some satisfaction and hope to the lives of so many Barbadians.

Regrettably I cannot speak about him at a personal level because other than meeting him on a few occasions from time to time I did not have any political contact with him. Therefore, my memory and tribute to him is based on what has been said about him and the way it has been said. Based on that, it appears as though he has made, quite a phenomenal contribution in his own way to the development of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have great honour and pride, on behalf of the family of the Democratic Labour Party, our supporters and friends, to extend our sympathy to the family of the late Russell Lowe and to say to them in their time of bereavement and sorrow, or joy, at the achievements of this distinguished Barbadian, that we **too** are very proud that he chose the Democratic Labour Party, our philosophy and principles as the force which guided him in making that contribution to the development of Barbados. I extend my condolences to his widow, children and grandchildren and all those who suffered any sorrow during the time of mourning and after his passage.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The late Mr. Russell Lowe was not a person I knew very well. In fact,

when I came into this House in May of 1976, as I was coming, so to speak, he was going out because three months later, in a General Election, he left this House and I came back into it. It is a truth to say that I hardly knew him, but his reputation went before him. Every account I have heard, and I have listened to Honourable Members eulogising him today, I am quite satisfied that my own assessment is a correct one, that he was indeed an excellent officer of this House of Assembly and that he was a good and **firm** Chairman of Committees. I heard the Honourable Member for St. George North making the point that he had a way of saying, "When I **rule**, I rules," that was sort of his hallmark and spoke to a **firmness** and clear understanding that he brought to his role as Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said. There is not much more that I can add to it but I would certainly like on behalf of the Government, generally speaking, to add condolences and support the motion that the usual Resolution should go forth to the relatives of the late Russell Lowe.

Hon. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: Mr. Speaker, I rise also to associate myself with all that has been said before. I first met Mr. Russell Lowe just some time before the 1991 General Election. He was a constituent of mine and I obviously would not have known him from his days in active politics. But what I appreciated was that when I met him he invited me into his house. He said to me on that occasion, of course, you know I was a member of the other party. I said, "Yes, that is true." He said: "But that does not stop me from giving you some advice." I sat there and listened to him. He spoke to me specifically in terms of representational politics being very much that, that it should be at the level of the community and that he regretted that too many parliamentarians once they reached Parliament forgot the nature of who put them there and what their duties were to their constituents at the level of the constituency on an individual basis.
12.30 p.m.

Certainly all I have heard from Honourable Members this morning in terms of his style certainly suggest that his actions while he was a representative reflected that advice which he gave me on that occasion. The last time on which I would have seen him, Sir, would have been some time just over some 2 years ago and by that stage he was already ailing but still found it possible to give encouragement in spite of his stated political position and I welcomed, Sir, his frankness but also his desire to offer and impart knowledge and experience to someone whom he felt now was following in the footsteps that he himself had gone and certainly had learnt from.

In the circumstances, Sir, I would wish to extend my sympathy to his family. Unfortunately I was out of the island at the time of his death and his funeral but certainly,

Sir, I believe that the appropriate Resolution going from this Honourable Chamber would tend to suggest the high esteem in which Members of this Honourable Chamber certainly have held him and reflect our own sense of satisfaction for his contribution to this Chamber, to St. George and in general to Barbados. I thank you.

Mr. **SPEAKER**: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with all of the sentiments expressed about our late Member. My family and I join with Honourable Members in expressing our condolences. Although I did not know the Honourable Member **personally** I have heard of his outstanding qualities, his commitment to his constituents. His honesty and his integrity are all qualities which of course we as parliamentarians will seek to emulate.

This House with acclaim will accept the Resolution of Sympathy and the appropriate condolences will be sent.

As a mark of respect for the passing of the late Honourable Member I now ask this House to stand and observe one minute silence.

The House stands in silence for one minute.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. W. **PAYNE**: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23, asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY 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. Miss M. A. **MOTTLEY**: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT PALM COURT, FORTESCUE, ST. PHILIP TO HOMESITE (BARBADOS) LIMITED

Hon. G. W. **PAYNE**: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution seeking parliamentary approval for the lease of 16 square metres of land at Palm Court, Fortescue, St. Philip to Homesite (Barbados) Limited. It is a matter which has engaged the attention of the Ministry for

some time dating back from the year 1975 when the first Cabinet decision was given on this matter. At one time it was thought that there should be a licence for one year with an option to renew. The area I am referring to is an old railway track at Fortescue. Those of you who might have been in the days when we used to travel by train, I do not know if there are any in this House, would be familiar with the area. I certainly am not very familiar with the area.

At the time when permission was given Government had indicated that it would be subject to the applicant obtaining the Chief Town Planner's permission which was subsequently obtained. The Barbados National Trust did not raise any objection to this lease, the purpose of which is to allow a private developer to build a road to the development in order that people could travel to and from their respective lots.

I dare say that many prospective purchasers have been frustrated by the long delay in having this matter completed. Subsequent to 1975 there was a change in the decision that the lease should be in perpetuity and subsequent to that there was a further view that the lease should be for 99 years. The lands cannot be transferred to the prospective purchasers because of the fact that they were awaiting this final documentation in order for formal permission for the lease to complete the title deeds.

The lease, this Cabinet has now agreed on is for a period of 99 years, The capital sum of \$8 300 for use of the area will be paid by the lessee. The parcel of land will continue in use as a vehicular access. The developers will be required to maintain the access and the Crown will obviously reserve its right to use the said access. **Parliamentary** approval is now sought in order to have this lease to **Homesite** (Barbados) Limited from the Crown completed. I move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. N. **GREENIDGE**: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this Resolution but I want to report that this area at Fortescue about which the Honourable Minister has just spoken has caused the residents some concern over the years. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Fortescue is an area which, unlike many of the residential areas in St. Philip, has maybe 90% of its residents made up of persons who used to live very near to Fortescue in the first instance. While others would have come into Ruby, into Mangrove and so on from other parishes, a lot of the residents at Fortescue are residents who lived nearby and they have been complaining.

Let me be quite frank with you. It concerns the open area which is just beside the water course and the railway track which the Honourable Member has referred to. I believe that the open space concept is a condition which

Town and Country Planning would have laid down over the years, that in these residential areas you do have what we call the communal area. People have called them the play parks. But the people of Fortescue never had their play park. In fact, many of the residents are of the view that the area which is left as the open space was left precisely because there could be no actual building put on it. We have a water course right there and then a little way beyond that is a mound which has some massive boulders on it. Those have been referred to and treated as the open space or the open spaces.

12.40 p.m.

Now it would take I believe, Mr. Speaker, about 30 truck loads of filling to really and truly level that area off so that the residents could use it as a play park. They have complained to me time and time again about it. I have actually written the developer and the developer has visited the site, and has made promises that he would make sure that a play park is provided and so on and to this day, Mr. Speaker, nothing has been done. I do not know whether this particular lease or this particular Resolution which we are bringing before this House now would make the matter any easier. I would hope that we could say one good turn deserves another and that we will shortly see some action in that particular area. There are lots of young children there and the families have to take the children over to Blades Hill when they want recreation and so on and they put them on the pasture there. I would therefore have to make it quite clear that the time has come when the people of Fortescue should be given their play park. I believe they should be given their play park. I want to admit up front that I have not actually seen the conveyances of the residents and I am therefore not in a position to say whether the document says an open space or whether the documents says a play park. But if it is worded as a play park, Mr. Speaker, then I believe that the developer has a legal obligation to put it in a state where it can be suitable for play. Now I also believe that if the document says an open space that the developer has a moral obligation to make it suitable for a play park. Because when Town and Country Planning gives the permission they give it nowadays with the view in mind that it will become a play park and all Barbadians know that that is what the open space nowadays is for anyhow. I do not think that any gully, because that is what it really is or any mountain of boulders and so on, should be put in the way of the people of Fortescue. I am therefore saying that the people of Fortescue deserve better and I am calling on the developer to do his part as from now. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the area in which this land is sited in Fortescue is on the boundary of my constituency and I myself am quite familiar both from a conveyancing point of view with the matter which is in hand and the Honourable Member for St.

Philip South who indicated to me that he also did a number of those conveyances. My recollection is that provision is made in the conveyance for the usual common area. It is not specified as a play park. It is one of those standard form **drafted** provisions which comply with the **requirements** of the Town Planning Department. I am also a resident of St. **Philip** North so I will give my MP, the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North a bit of advice and that would be that I consider it as one of his duties not to employ the owner necessarily to construct a play park but to mobilize the community, the Government and if feasible the owner in the process of constructing that play park. It is not as difficult as the Honourable Member may be thinking although I am not in his mind and I do not know what he is thinking. There is a club called Sussex Cricket Club. Last year they won the James Bryan Division. It is a very successful cricket club in St. John. Their success was enhanced ten fold when the Democratic Labour Party moved an old prefabricated classroom from St. Marks and sited it on the field which they have now developed into a very successful pavilion and community **center** on their own resources. I know that cricket club is very interested in developing some **kind** of facility like a play park in that area. It may not be feasible to do it on the Sussex side but it may be feasible, since some of its members come from Fortescue, if it were to consider **working** with Government on getting that play park developed elsewhere. In other words, not in College Savannah but elsewhere being in Fortescue **and** I know that the club has invited the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North to address them. I do not know if he has done so already. But I would suggest that when that invitation is extended that, if I were in the audience as an Honorary Member of the Sussex Cricket Club which I am, Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to hear my representative say to the residents of St. **Philip** North and **surrounding** areas that he is going to assist in mobilizing the community, mobilizing Government's resources and whatever else is necessary to have these facilities constructed in that area.

I want to make it clear that I would not be satisfied in my mind that there is any developer in Barbados other than the National Housing Corporation who is going to undertake the construction of a play park. I think that it would be a bit **too** much, not **too** much to expect them, but it is too much to even conceive that they will do it because it simply will not happen. So that I would like to **reorient** the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North's thinking towards an approach which involves the community and Government in partnership as was done at College Savannah with the relocation of the pavilion. That community has raised substantial sums of money from activities from the pavilion. They maintain it themselves, they have annual prize givings, they have successful cricket and they have involved the fishermen from **Consett** Bay in domino competitions and a whole range of other related activities. So there is good will. It is for Members of

Parliament to mobilize that good will and if not others are going to step in and do it on their behalf.

12.50 p.m.

The second point I want to make relates to the contiguous development, and that is the area of College Savannah. Since I entered this House in 1987 I have been calling on the regulatory authorities to carry out a thorough analysis of what is happening at College Savannah in St. John. The **Codrington** Trust has permitted people to locate houses willy-nilly on lots, unlike years ago when you would take somebody and tell them this is your lot on the assumption that they were putting down a chattel house, when the Trust told people this is your lot people built wall houses, some facing the sea, some facing where the road was likely to be, some built at an angle and you have a planning disaster at College Savannah which needs, in my view, immediate attention. Because of the way the development has been carried out in that haphazard manner, it has been difficult, as I understand it, for the Water Authority to lay water mains. It has been difficult for MTW to align a road. Not that I am saying that a road would be constructed, I don't have high hopes about the construction of that road, and I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker.

As I pointed out to a Member on that side and he tried to investigate it for me, work was being done in that area recently, leading into Fortescue, and the work stopped right at the boundary of St. **Philip** and St. John and the materials were removed, put back in the truck and carried back to the Depot. But we are used to that, because on a previous occasion, 20 years ago, the Democratic Labour Party was constructing a **bus** turntable at the very end of the College Savannah Development. We lost the Government in September and in October a MTW truck went down **into** College Savannah and they loaded the **marl** back on the truck and carried it back to the Depot. So when the resurfacing of the road stopped at the end of Supers and the junction of Fortescue it did not surprise me.

That is an area where a bus driver lost his head, Mr. Speaker. He was looking back and another bus came up the road and removed his head. That is in the area of Fortescue, just beyond that junction, and nothing has been done in relation to planning a proper development in that area of College Savannah. A lot of people have spent substantial sums of money putting up wall houses and there are no amenities, no street lights, no water mains, and based on the way in which the development has been planned, I do not know if it is going to be feasible for Government to instal those amenities without realigning some of the properties. So I understand what the problems are. I am not blaming either Government, except in relation to the removal of the materials. I am not blaming them for the layout and those problems, because when I

asked the **Codrington** Trust, which was very badly managed for many years, and probably still is badly managed – I have no fear in saying that, because I know that they have prime lands in Barbados, for which various kinds of development could be taken out, under bush and they still act as if we are living in the old plantation system where, as I say, you take people out and say that is your lot, and then the next week a wall house starts to be constructed. When the Codrington Trust was told that these houses were being built, for nearly four years the Chairman of the Trust said he did not know anything about it, that he told people they could build on wall backs, meaning toilet facilities. But if he took a drive down to College Savannah he would have realised that people built four and five-bedroom wall houses on the land which was essentially tenantry land and it is treated as a tenantry.

This is about the **fifth** time in this Chamber I have called on the Town Planning Department and the other Government agencies collectively to examine what has happened in College Savannah. People do not pay much attention to it, because you do not pass College Savannah going anywhere, unless you are going out to the house at the point which Town Planning said they were going to knock down, the house owned by the former manager of Fisherpond. Unless you are driving down into College Savannah there is no reason for you to pass it and see what has been happening. It is an area that has one road in and one road out and therefore I do not think that planners are sufficiently aware of what has taken place in there over the years and I once again would appeal to the Minister of Housing, who has assured me that he is going to be paying a lot of attention to developments in that area, to see if he can mobilise the regulatory authorities to bring some order to what is happening in the area of College Savannah.

One last point I will make now, getting back to Fortescue itself. The Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North should also know I would not say that the people who have already constructed in Fortescue could be **as** many as 90% from the area. In fact, Fortescue probably has percentage wise one of the largest populations of returning nationals. A large number of people, certainly all that I work for, who bought houses in Fortescue are Barbadians who lived in England for years and those, certainly in my estimation, outnumber the people from the immediate area who bought houses in Fortescue. But I am only a resident in St. **Philip**. Mr. Speaker, I am not running for office in St. **Philip**. I would **ask** the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North to **resurvey** the area, because he may find that in fact there are more people living in that area who are returning nationals than are Barbadians who have **been** here all the time, and that there may be some other ways in which he can mobilise their resources to provide some of the facilities which they are requesting and for which this Resolution may be relevant.

They may have expertise which can be used in the construction of the play park or those **kinds** of facilities, and particularly when you have **areas** like that where people are building, many people will give you materials which you can then use for these kinds of facilities. So with a little creative intervention by the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North on behalf of the people in that area, I believe it would be feasible to get this play park up and running. But in the event that is not working, I want to pledge the support of the Sussex Cricket Club, which I am authorised to do, in constructing a play park. Once an area is identified, I am certain that just as they put up their own pavilion, reconstructed it in a day, and have it up and the facilities in, you can count on the young men and women in Sussex Cricket Club to assist you in providing a play park at Fortescue. And **anytime** the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North is ready to take up that challenge, he can rest assured that we in Sussex Cricket Club will come forward and assist him even beyond our means with every ounce of energy which we have available to us.

So I support the Resolution and look forward to the Minister perhaps paying some **attention** at the appropriate time to what is happening in College Savannah and to start **as** soon as possible on providing those facilities for the people of Fortescue.
1.00 p.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I was particularly pleased by the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North on the need to make sure that there is adequate lighting facilities, play park or whatever, even making it a condition of Government actually signing this lease **after** this Parliament has approved it.

I certainly support the general principle **behind** that and at the same time I wish to **condemn** in the strongest possible language the heresy being inflicted on the **people** of St. George North by the Ministry of Housing in taking up part of a playing field and dedicating it to housing. I think that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Development should take the strongest stand in stopping **the** Minister of Education from perpetrating such a wicked deed on the people of St. George North. That playing field is supposed to serve the people of Market Hill, St. Helens, Flat Rock...

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the Honourable Minister of Education is actually listening to the Honourable Member, but he is imputing wickedness on the part of an Honourable Member of this Chamber with respect to an action which has been taken by Government and I would like the Honourable Member to be **more** specific or withdraw the words mentioned.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, I am saying to the Ministry responsible for Housing... I am not talking about the Honourable Member for St. George North who is not the Minister responsible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please! The Honourable Member **has used** the words, "heresy" and "wicked".

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Sir, there is nothing **unparliamentary** about that. They **are** both listed words and I am saying it is heresy at a time when we **are** trying to build communities to go and take up part of a playing field and dedicate it to housing. It is quite wrong. A playing field that is supposed to be serving **Belair**, Market Hill, Flat Rock, **Newbury**, Bridge Cot, Groves when these people walked around Barbados for the past 100 years and suffered ridicule...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Member Please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is **misleading** this House.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I have been there a **Sunday** morning and I saw what is happening. I visited the site.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute, please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, this parcel of land that the Honourable Member is referring to was approved by the Town Planning for housing development. The point I am making is it is not true that we **are** taking the house **spots**....

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please! Honourable Member, will you take your seat.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until...

Mr. SPEAKER: Please!

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member said he wanted just two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please! Will you desist **from** interrupting the House?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: This debate is clearly an ongoing one and I am moving that this House be suspended until 2 o'clock this afternoon. We can resume it then.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, have you finished making your point of **order**? Will the Honourable Member continue, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: **Thank** you very much, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. I did not hear the ruling with respect to withdrawing the words.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member proceed please?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If I may conclude Sir. There was a Cabinet decision to **acquire** that land. This House acquired that land for the purpose of a playing field. Cabinet have made a previous decision and I am saying the Minister is also violating the express wishes of this Parliament by taking off part of that playing field and dedicating it to housing. **During** the break, I will go home and I will bring a copy of the Cabinet decision and I will also bring a copy of the plans that were approved by this Parliament as a playing field. You have no authority whatsoever to deprive the people of St. Helens and the people of **Belair** and the people of Market Hill and the young people of that area of the playing field, to **walk** around telling them that they do not need any tennis courts that the people of St. George should be playing road tennis... That is what they told them.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is referring to the Minister of Housing and I never told anybody anything in terms of what the Honourable Member is saying.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, in this House the Minister of Housing is responsible and I am saying representatives of your Ministry in this House have indicated to the people of St. George North that lawn tennis is not for them. They should play road tennis and they cannot get any land dedicated for lawn tennis.

I have visited that site on more than one occasion. It is a disgraceful act that is about to be perpetrated on the people of St. George North and I intend to stop it.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is constantly misleading the House just for political gain.

Asides.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: There is more than 1.2 acres of land which is superfluous land which does not interfere with the existing playing field. Already there

are 3 hard courts at Market Hill and this land is earmarked for housing. The only thing it is being used for now is garbage and dump. If the Honourable Member prefers us to allow garbage to remain, why didn't he say that? It is not true. He does not represent the area at all. We have created 9 house spots and a park for a playing area for the children and the Honourable Member does not understand what he is talking about.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised because the last Barbados Labour Party Government went into **Bel Air** and took away from the people the one small open playing ground that was there for 50 years and put housing on it. Now this Labour Party Government is doing the same thing and I promise this Honourable House that I will make those lands available, what was approved by Parliament. The boundaries are the roads between St. Helens Main Road and the cart road going into Moonshine. That is shown clearly on the map approved by this Parliament.

What you are doing here is taking out a part of the land between the angle of the road leading into Moonshine and the **main** road to St. Helens. It is a disgraceful act that you are perpetrating on the people of St. George North and I am calling on the Government of Barbados, I am calling on all your Cabinet colleagues to intervene on the part of the young people of Barbados.

I have **been to that** site only 3 Sunday mornings ago at the **request, Mr. Speaker**, of the people of **Belair, the** people of St. Helens, **the people** of Market Hill, the people of the old Post Office, the people of Bridge Cot, the people of Groves, the people of Rose Village, they all asked me to come **and meet with them there and see with my own two eyes...**

Asides: ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, eyeball to eyeball contact to **see** exactly what was being **done**. On **that** very morning, they actually started and had a tractor on the site that Sunday morning. The Honourable Member for St. George North has been hiding from **the people**. He **has** been trying to arrange a meeting to **meet** with **them** and they don't want to meet with him.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member knows what he is hiding from people, He ran in St. George in 1976 and he was defeated by Jack **Ode** by **over 1000 votes**. He is now seeking...

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a **point of order**, Mr. Speaker...

Asides.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.15 this afternoon.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I take it that you are still continuing and you will continue after lunch.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. **Michael** South Central.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE? On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. When the House was suspended, I had risen on a point of order to determine whether or not you had made a ruling with respect to the withdrawal of certain uncomplimentary remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. **Michael** South Central. For my information, I would want to know whether or not your **ruling had been that those words** were withdrawn.

I was speaking to the Honourable Member for St. **Philip North** and I do recall what the decision **was**.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, you have already ruled.

Mr. SPEAKER: **Let** us proceed, please. I did not find in the context in which the words were used that they were **unparliamentary**. Let us continue, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, in the very best traditions of Parliament, I made certain allegations on the Floor of this House affecting the Honourable Minister of Housing **and** the Honourable Member for St. George North, and I indicated that I was honourable, though not legally bound, to present this evidence to this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence against them is so overwhelming that I think that when I have completed it, it will be seen that, beyond any **kink** of doubt, not only beyond reasonable doubt, **but** even beyond **unreasonable** doubt, **so** compelling will be the evidence. It is so simple, Mr. Speaker, **that** I do not even have to seek the assistance of those Members on the other side, who have taken silk, to assist me in the presentation of this evidence.

I did state, Sir, that it was a Cabinet decision which resulted in the acquisition of that land for the purposes of a playing field. That was charged. I wish, Sir, to indicate that on April 24, 1988, under the Heading Acquisition of Land for the new St. Augustine Primary School being constructed under the World Bank, Inter-American Bank, Second Education and Training Project, Note 88366/MP37, and it reads as follows:

"The Cabinet concluded that (a) The area of approximately 2.12 hectares of land which is located to the North and East of the existing playing field of St. Helens, St. George, should be acquired to provide a playing field for the new St. Augustine Primary School and residence of the surrounding districts. The Ministry of Housing and Lands should negotiate with Abavis Limited for the acquisition of the land".

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that there was a Cabinet decision to acquire that land and the land was acquired for the purpose of a playing field for the school and the surrounding residence.

The second point I wish to make, Sir, in order to reinforce, it was said that the land is not an integral part of the playing field. Mr. Speaker, I have before me here a map which clearly shows the land on which those houses will be placed, and I have a list of the names of the people who were promised those house spots. Listen to me carefully. I have a list of the names of the people who were promised those house spots, Mr. Speaker. It shows clearly that in that area when this whole matter was acquired, provision was made for Tennis Court 1, Tennis Court 2, Volleyball Court.

It is true, Sir, that because of lack of resources being made available to the people of St. George that the full area has not been utilised today for sporting purposes. When one looks at the very large population that area can serve, Sir, when one looks at the history and what has happened in that area where St. Augustine playing field was the only playing field for over seventy five years available to those people, where the people of Barbados made mock sport of people playing BCL cricket on that cricket ground. Like when people getting caught in the slips because the ground fell off very sharply behind the wickets, laughing at the people of St. George.

When one bears in mind that the smaller playing field in Belair, just across the road from this one, was actually committed to housing by the last Barbados Labour Party administration, and this is the only break that these people have had for sporting facility in over one hundred years, and that begins to explain why the people are up in arms against it.

Now the Honourable Member for St. George North is to be held fully responsible for this. The Honourable Minister of Housing is ultimately responsible, but the responsibility must rest heavily on the shoulders of the Honourable Member for St. George North. I say this for this reason. He is fully aware of what the people in that area went through in trying to get a playing field for his entire lifetime, his parents lifetime and he would know the kind of problems that the people in that area had.

Mr. Speaker, when I say that the Honourable Member for St. George North bears a heavy responsibility in this matter, I have in my hand here a letter written by someone called Gline A. Clarke. I am not quite sure who Gline A. Clarke is. By someone by the name of Gline A. Clarke, who was begging the residents to meet with him and they would not meet with him.

He claims Sir, that he was trying to get an audience with them and they would not have an audience with him because they told him exactly how they felt about the way he was conducting himself, and what he was doing towards them. In that letter, Sir, he claimed . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: In that letter he claimed he asked the residents . . .

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I expect that you will be operating on a principle that we all operate in, ignorance. What I would suggest to you, I would like to remind you of the Rules imputing any kind of improper conduct to any Member. You did not refer to any Member. I am reminding you of the Rules, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not know who Gline A. Clarke is, Sir. In the context of this House nobody knows anybody else's name, Sir. All Honourable Members... We do not know anybody's name.

All I am saying is this, Sir, that gentleman asked the people to produce evidence of this particular map. The map is here, Sir. The map is showing that, in fact, there was provision for lawn tennis courts.
2.25 p.m.

I go further, Sir. I would say this that in that particular letter I was surprised at some of the remarks being made. I am not going to make it a document of the House. I did not read from it.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I do not have to make anything a document of the House. I did not read from anything.

There are other remarks in that letter which I do not think reflect to the credit of the person writing. What is absolutely **important**, I believe, that it is quite wrong that the thrust, and I believe that all the political parties in this House really feel very strongly that all resources and all facilities must remain available to the young people of Barbados for the development of the youth and that is why I felt so happy and so glad that the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North felt so strongly on this issue that he virtually suggested that when the present Resolution before Parliament is passed, that we should virtually advise Government to make it a condition of the Government signing that lease that the developers provide the playing field as envisaged in the development. I fully concur with the Honourable Member for St. **Philip** North and I congratulate him on the position he has taken on behalf of his people in St. **Philip** North.

It is in that same spirit that I have brought to this Honourable Member what I consider to be a very serious matter affecting the people of St. Helen's and the people of St. George North because, Sir, this has a deep historical background. I would urge the Government to make use of the lands they have acquired at Groves just around the corner for the housing development. I would beg you, in the interest of the survival of the Government itself. I would ask the Cabinet colleagues of the Honourable Minister of Housing to bring some pressure to reverse that decision.

I know, Sir, and I have seen a tractor up there two or three Sunday mornings ago, and I believe they are actually about to begin work and destroy the area once and for all because once part of that playing field is committed to housing, then that is irreversible. It can never be a playing field again. If it is not being used adequately now, use it for planting vegetables, or whatever you want to do in the area so that the land can be easily converted to the use for which it was intended. We have to respect decisions of Cabinet. Every Government has to respect decisions of Cabinet, even decisions of previous Cabinets. Above all, we have to respect the decisions of this Honourable House when it acquires land for a particular purpose. You cannot just go there, take off piece and say this piece is for housing. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, the evidence I have presented to this House is overwhelming. I have supported it by the Cabinet decision. I have supported it by the maps. I have supported it by reference to the contents of a letter signed by a Mr. Gline A. Clarke. I do not know who he is. All the evidence is there, Sir. I believe there is a time when a Government should listen to Members of the Opposition and not just believe that because we speak and because we are critical that what we say has no merit.

Sir, I am going to rest on this point, whilst you all indulge in your political foolishness. I will tell you this. Mark my word. There is nothing that is going to have a more lasting negative effect on the image of the Barbados Labour Party in that area of this country than if this particular outrage is allowed to take place. It is unnecessary. You have just acquired land around the corner and there is no point being stubborn and difficult in the face of logic. I can assure you that I will continue my campaign in that area and let the people know the kind of attitude adopted by the Honourable Minister of Housing in this Honourable House today.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have done my bit, not only for the people of St. George, but also for the young people, for those Members of the Cabinet who are involved in human resources development, for those Members of Cabinet who recognise that things like sports and music and this kind of thing is so critical to the development of young people.

I say this that this proposed action by the Ministry of Housing is a deadly blow to a whole consensus of political philosophies and political policies which this entire Parliament endorses. It must not be allowed. It must be stopped, Mr. Speaker. If the Cabinet of this country, despite the overwhelming evidence presented to it today, does not take note of it and take action, then I can only come to the conclusion that the House is regarded by the Cabinet as being an irrelevant body and that the Cabinet is totally contemptuous of the views of the Opposition, of the views of the people of Barbados and of the feelings of young people when they take a decision which will be directly targeting against young people in the area.

Sir, already those young people, with limited resources, are attracting cricket matches between international bodies. I gather they had a sports team up there either from England or Australia and regularly when these sporting teams come out here they find that **particular** ground quite attractive and they have regular games at that ground. In fact, they are already contributing to the foreign exchange earnings of the country.

Give the young people a chance. Do not go and put houses there and, destroy forevermore the hopes of those young people because when houses are put there, it is not only the area, then there is the competition between the needs of the privacy of the housing, the security of the housing, hard ball cricket being played, you hook a ball for six or something like that and a child is injured. What is the point in doing it? It is a senseless exercise.

Sir, they can go only 100 yards away along the Moonshine Road that leads off from St. Helen's and acquire land for the 14 houses. Why? What kind of madness is this, Mr. Speaker? I sincerely hope that

something is done to remedy this situation and I will rest on that point. I do not wish to dilute the weight of evidence by any further discussion on the matter. I believe the case I have put is cast iron. It cannot be punctured, overwhelming. Mr. Speaker, the verdict can only be "guilty" of all the charges that I have made. I have made the charges and I have provided incontrovertible evidence.

Mr. Speaker, I rest at that point. Thank you.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I rise in this debate to support the lease of land at Fortescue, St. Philip to **Homesite** Barbados Limited. I also want to say that in the near future Government will do the same in other areas where we can open up access to people who have to pass. I know that the Honourable Member who just sat down is aware that in the **Rockley** area there **are** roads that have been blocked by some members. I hope in the very near future that we will be able to bring to Parliament the acquisition of that road whereby allowing poor black people, domestics and maids, to be able to pass through that road.

2.35 p.m.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to ...

Loud asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: If he believes that the emigrants **from** Belleville **are** going to defy the covenants and the private properties of individuals in Barbados, you come in here and support **Tibbitts** and the whole lot of them.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order. Honourable Member, proceed please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: This Government supports poor black people and we believe poor black people have a right to pass anywhere they want to. Gone are the days where people blocked paths to prevent black people from passing through. I hope in the near future that this Government can bring the Resolution to this Parliament to acquire that road.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. G. A. **CLARKE**: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in this debate because the constituency which I represent has been under attack by the last Honourable Member. I represent a constituency.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir, I am not attacking any constituency, I have attacked the wicked actions of certain persons being inflicted against the constituency.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, there is a strong demand for housing and therefore it is the duty of the Government to provide housing to satisfy the demand which we now have in this country. Today we find, Mr. Speaker, that a number of people ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Just one minute please. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, you are **interrupting** the House. Honourable Members, please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want to set this framework against the background of the demand for and the supply of land for housing in this country. It is true, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of poor Barbadians out there who are in need of housing. Every day, if there is not a house fire, if there is not a problem relating to persons getting thrown out of their homes, a mother putting out a daughter or a son or other evictions. There is a strong demand and Honourable Members in this Chamber know that from time to time they have approached us at the Ministry of Housing for house spots and housing.

I am saying that I spoke to the Honourable Prime Minister recently and I have told him as Minister responsible that we are now in a housing crisis in this country where the former administration threw out Barbadians from acquiring their own house spots. When the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act was amended in **1990** hundreds of Barbadians lost the right to purchase a lot and were thrown off and that is a problem. Not only this, between **1986** and **1990** when the Honourable Member was Minister of Finance he cut the grant to the National Housing and less houses were built. So that the Member who just sat down has no record in housing at all.

One can say, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member is one of the largest landowners in this country. From records the Honourable Member owns over **183** properties in this country and he is competing against Government.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please. There is a problem with the number. Please, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I just wish to let this Honourable House know that it is incorrect to say that I own **183** properties or anywhere near that figure in Barbados.

Mr. G. A. **CLARKE**: Mr. Speaker, I stick to my facts. I have researched the records over the pre-lunch period and the records show that he owns **183** properties of middle and upper income. He even rents his property to

his party. He is competing against Government. So, no doubt, Mr. Speaker, he is in this frame of mind.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, again. I wish to make it absolutely clear that it is misleading this Honourable House to say that I **own** 183 properties.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, if he is protesting 183, it certainly is certainly above 180 that he owns and the property that he owns and collects rents from, not from the poor black people in the streets who cannot afford **three** or six hundred dollars a week, I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member is from the same community, he was born in **Newbury**, St. George like me, and he still collects money and rent from some people of **Newbury**. He is a landowner. He knows this. He owns the most property in **Newbury** and I am speaking facts, Mr. Speaker, so he is competing against Government and **he** wants Government to abandon their housing policy.

Mr. Speaker, one has to get back to this debate in a serious way because the government policy is clear. We believe that wherever communities exist and we have superfluous lands available that we should provide house spots. We have looked across Barbados in many of the constituencies that we represent to find spots where houses can be erected. The land in question that the Honourable Member has spoken of is a place called St. Helen's, St. George where there is a large complex already with two large playing facilities and hard courts. Sir, there is a big playing area for cricket and football and there are two large hard courts for basketball, netball and volleyball. I am saying to him that within the vicinity of the James Bryan Complex there have always been two playing areas for cricket in St. George. There is the Moonshine playing area and the St. Augustine playing area.

When the Barbados **Labour** Party **acquired Belair** it did not in anyway interfere with the playing area for the people in that area. Mr. Speaker, I have with me the map of the entire area. Mr. Speaker, we have never and will not interfere with the present playing area of the James Bryan complex. Mr. Speaker, if you look at the map there is this 1.2 acres of land which represents superfluous land. For the last 5 or 6 years that spot of land only was used for storing a tractor trailer, for storing garbage and it was indeed a grass piece. It is not good for agriculture and it is only used for storing garbage.

2.45 p.m.

The residents approached me and said that they want to have housing in this area and today the majority of the residents have bought the land. They have not even rented. They came forward and said that they are going to buy the spot and they want to buy it at \$4.20 per square foot.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member who just sat down is the very first Member in the life of the history of Parliament who ever protested of giving people house spots. He is the first Member of Parliament in the history. I **asked the** historian a while ago if he could m a l l anybody ever protesting of giving people house spots. He said never before in the history of Barbados had he heard of an Honourable Member protesting against giving people house spots.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. This House has had numerous debates over the inappropriate use of land for house spots whether it relates to playing fields, whether it relates to Zone 1 land, for example, the debate on the Belle and all of these areas. This House has taken a very strict position on where houses should be sited. No one is complaining about people getting a house spot. But what we are saying that you should not compromise a playing field. That is what we are saying.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I have pointed out that it does not compromise or it does not interfere with the playing field. It is 1.2 acres of land. Honourable Members are free to examine the plan. It has a buffer of **30** feet to **50** feet between the playing field and the first house spot.

Dr. R. C. **HAYNES**: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member must not be allowed to continue to misrepresent what I have said in this House. What I said was related to the future development of that area and he told the residents up there that they do not want any lawn tennis, that road tennis is going up for them. He told them that.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member was not at the meeting at James Bryan Complex **3** weeks ago. I went to the meeting and the **residents** made up of one NDP person, about **4 DLP** supporters and at the end of the meeting I explained to them what Government was intending to do and they supported it. It was at that meeting if the Honourable Member wants to know that the Opposition members and especially the Leader of the Opposition should be very weary of the Member who sits just behind **him**. Because it was at that meeting that we **first** learned about amalgamation of the **NDP** and **DLP** with he as the leader of the combination. That is the very first time we heard about that. That is what happened. So **the** Leader of the Opposition had better watch his back. At that meeting the people in Market Hill **recognized** that there is a need for housing within the Market Hill area and therefore it is Government's intention to provide **the** necessary framework where people can acquire their homes.

We have a duty to help people to acquire something. This Government intends to provide opportunities for persons in Barbados, especially the lower income

earners, to acquire at **least** a **home** and, **therefore**, I do **not** make any apology to the Member who just **sat down**. We have not compromised the situation. We have put in **9 house spots in the area**. This has nothing to do with the land that has been **acquired** last week in this Parliament in Cottage and Groves. Cottage and Groves were acquired last **week in this Parliament** to satisfy the demand of those **persons who live on Zone 1 area**. We have made it quite **clear that there are a** number of people who still live on **Zone 1 in the Golden Ridge, Sweet Bottom, Ashbury area** and the Belle Gully area. So we have to move those people **and it is a fact of life**, Mr. **Speaker**, that the people who live in **Belair** do not necessarily **want to go** to Cottage or Flat Rock. The people want to remain around the school area in **Belair**, around the St. Augustine's Church and so on. We are developing a community in that area. It is not pulling down a community. We have not decided to pull down a community. We have created a community within the area and we have done it in other areas. For example, in the Walkers area where there was existing land next to the St. George **Primary** School, we have just created 8 lots. It is not an isolated case. Wherever land exist and it is not used in agriculture and it is not a Zone 1 area, it should be used for housing to meet the demands that we have. All Honourable Members on this side of Government and on the other side are approaching us asking for houses. Only two weeks ago there were two fires in the Honourable Member's constituency and the first thing that they **want** is housing. What **are** we doing? I think that as Members of Parliament we owe as a duty not to mislead the public. The Member must not mislead or **misguide** the public. The lands are there and they are not intended to be used for hard courts. There was no intention at all.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is accusing me of misleading the public. Would I be misleading the public if I say that you wrote to the people of St. George and told them that they must speak to you before they speak to the Press or anybody else as is contained in this letter? And that it is disrespectful for them to do that?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order, please. Let us proceed, please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, one has to understand that if you represent an area at least the persons who are writing to their representative should at least have the courtesy to talk to him first before they go to the Press. **But** that is not the point. The point is that we have created house spots because of the demand and this policy has been clearly thought out and we have clearly articulated it. I think that the Press and all Honourable Members have a duty to tell members of the public what the policy of Government is. We have to create house spots. We have to create housing. In this Parliament only a couple of months ago one Honourable Member said that we are creating only

200 house spots. In other words, he was **saying that we are** only creating a small **amount**. Now if we try to create more house spots, we get some accusations from the Honourable Member. It amazes me really. But we cannot accept the argument that the Member has put forward. We cannot accept it at all. He is just blowing some of the tunes. He must tell this Parliament if it is the **NDP's** policy not to create housing in this country. What is the policy on housing? We want to hear from you. If you are saying that we must not create housing for the low income masses of this country, say that. Let us hear your policy.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I never said that we should not create low income housing. I did not say that we should not create housing for the poor or whatever he said. What we have said is that we must preserve the integrity of recreational facilities even within housing areas.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, in 1990 in the debate on the amendment to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act he supported that amendment to throw people off the lots. He cannot come now and say he did not support it. Whenever you get up in this House and speak about lands, the Honourable Member. . . .

Certain remarks made by Dr. R. C. HAYNES were ordered by Mr. SPEAKER to be expunged from the record.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, this Government has been in the forefront of providing spots for people and recreation facilities. I believe when the annals of this Parliament are written you will see that the Honourable Minister of Housing has brought more land acquisitions for housing and road improvement than any previous Minister of Housing. That is a fact. Therefore, we cannot be accused of not providing land for the majority of Barbadians, because we have provided a decent sporting complex for the people of Flat Rock, and very soon that complex will be started.

In your constituency, Mr. Speaker, in the Bank Hall area, we have earmarked a portion of land south of the **Howard** Supermarket that is superfluous, that is only growing trees, for housing development. We are making representation to the owners of that land to provide housing for the people in the Bush Hall area. We are doing the same thing in the Black Rock area. We have done the same thing in St. Michael North, as we will wherever available land exists. Mr. Speaker, wherever there are derelict buildings the present Government is trying to acquire the land to provide housing for Barbadians. In the Honourable Member's constituency there are a number of derelict buildings which need to be cleaned up, and we are doing it because the demand is strong. So we have to

set a policy and we must not get with a few people, who have their homes already and a number of lots rented out. They are landlords. They do not care who gets a housing spot. That is the problem we face in this country. There are a number of people who own house spots and **who have** houses rented out who do not care if their neighbour or the man down the street obtains a house. That is what we are faced with in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the policy of Government is clear. We stick by our policy to provide homes for the large masses of Barbadians.

I thank you.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has taken this debate, dealing with Fortescue, to Rockley and St. George. I think that the response of the Honourable Member for St. George North really answers and puts to rest a lot of the points he did raise with respect to the housing development in St. George. That development should be proceeding very soon. Perhaps the grouse of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is related to his own experience when he was not able to convince the residents of St. George to do what the Honourable Member for St. George North has been able to do since 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I will confine my remarks to this Resolution. This is part of Government's policy, as the Honourable Member for St. George North said, in order to ensure that members of the public, residents of areas who have been living on property in excess of a certain period of time, have access to their properties. I would like to say here there are a number of situations in this country – the situation in Rockley has been alluded to – where residents who are better off than the rest of citizens in this country have chosen unilaterally to block certain existing public rights of way simply because they know that the residents in the particular area are powerless and cannot afford the high legal fees that are associated with these types of action. They block these public rights of way and leave these people without any rights.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central should be ashamed to come in here and refer to a letter written by, in his own words, one Gline Clarke, referring to a housing development for the same **poor** people I am **talking** about, when in Rockley New Road the upper middle class residents of that area, led by a Dr. Haynes, have sought to block the poor residents from going to and from their houses.

Mr. Speaker, this debate has ventured far and wide and the Honourable Member has produced certain evidence

with **respect** to his **widening** of this debate to St. George and I will produce evidence to widen it to Rockley.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. I don't care what evidence you provide, the Constitution of this country guarantees every citizen the right to the use of his or **her property**. **One** of the tragedies in this country is that we have developed a mentality where every Tom, Dick and Harry believes that he has the right over people's properties. I defend the right in this House of every holder of every house spot to put a paling around his house spot. **He is** entitled to do that under the laws of Barbados. That **is** his constitutional right and I will not be party **to** any undermining of the constitutional rights of any individual in Barbados in respect of their property holdings. It is **also** an outright lie for anyone. . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I withdraw the word "lie", Sir, it has never been blocked by anybody in the **Rockley** area. There was never any public right of way there.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I never said that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is the Dr. Haynes to whom I am **referring**. I never said that, but if he is guilty that is a matter for him. This Government will not stand idly by and allow rich land owners to block the entrances of poor citizens of this country, people who have been using rights of way for over 40 years. If there is a constitutional right, the constitutional right belongs to the poor person. This is a matter that Government cannot intervene in unless it comes to Parliament with an acquisition.
3.05 p.m.

This is a right between citizens and the most that Government can do is to assist that poor person. As I was saying, if there is a constitutional right which is denied it is the constitutional right which is denied poor persons. I am saying it is happening too often and the landowners in Rockley... I have a letter here, Mr. Speaker, and this will form the subject of a Resolution, if necessary, an acquisition or under the laws of this country a right to a church or a house. There is relevant legislation on the Statute **Book** to fit it and we will seek if it is necessary to assist the poor residents in making sure that **their** case is heard.

I have a letter here. Mr. Speaker, and I have been bombarded since I was in the Ministry. About 20 letters. Golf Club Road. I will read one of these to show you what I am talking about. I am going to make it a document of the House.

"Golf Club Road
Rockley New Road
Christ Church
Barbados
May 7, 1995

G. W. Payne
Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing

Dear Sir,

As Minister responsible for the upkeep of our roads on the island, I wish to draw to your attention the current controversy over a road which runs between the property owned by Dr. R. Haynes and Mr. **Simpson** and situated between Rockley New Road and Golf Club Road in Christ Church.

I have recently moved into Rockley New Road and found residents frustrated over the fact that this road is blocked off and can only be opened by residents like Dr. Haynes whose residence borders the road. The blockage **means** that persons such as maids..." They don't have any usage. They don't want to see those people in there. Those are the type of people that the Honourable Member for St. John is **talking** about when he **talks** about the Barbados Labour Party not being interested in those types of people.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. I wish to make it clear to this Honourable House that that road is not a public road, that that road was **constructed** and paid for by private citizens to their homes, that that road is part and parcel of the conveyances and the ownership of the people who own property on either side of the road and has absolutely nothing to do whatsoever with any public right of way.

What has happened is because a black man, me, lives in that area. There were **several** people walking across about 12 exits from the golf course from that **same** area over the past 20 years. The golf course blocked them off, one by one. Never was a voice heard; but now a black man has gone in there, participated and pulled his pocket, built a home, put a road inside there, you are getting this kind of thing in this Parliament in this country.

Let me tell you this. You can go to court because you are not going to bring any law in here to undermine my constitutional responsibility nor am I going to allow a group of white people who have gone into Rockley, some of them **from** out of the Belleville area who have been persecuting people in that area. It has nothing whatsoever to do with...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It has nothing whatsoever to do with poor people because every night in that area you can hear those people firing bullets in the Rockley area at the same poor people walking along Rockley Road to get home. Every night they are firing shots at them inside there. **These** are the people you come in here pretending that you are defending. You ought to be ashamed.

Mr. Speaker, I was walking across the golf course last **Wednesday** night and I was walking along the same Rockley Road parallel to the golf course, a bullet went off and I could smell gun powder in the air. You **are** defending some of the most reactionary...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please!

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Every single black man who has gone in that.. Let me tell you something Mr. Speaker. I am still on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member... No. Wait. I am in charge here. Order, please! I am allowing you, based on the fact that you have spoken before to clarify a position. It is not a point of order. You are on a point of explanation. Don't make it a speech, though.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: No, Sir. Right now those same residents are ganging up. Ask the Member for Christ Church West. He would know. They are ganging up against another citizen of Barbados who is trying to do a little business on land that he owns in the area. They don't like his minibus business. They called me and asked me to join them. They have petitions. Every year they have a petition against somebody who owns land in the area. That's right. If you go to Rockley Road and you turn to the left a man is starting a little minibus business there and they are up in arms to stop him from carrying on his legitimate business which he has Town Planning permission for, where he has bought the land and owns the land.

If Henry Forde wants to back them, let him do it.

Mr. H. **deB.** FORDE: The Honourable Member is misleading the House in some of the statements that he has made. Mr. Speaker, the first point I make is that it is not true at all that any people who have moved from Belleville into that **area** are protesting...

Aside.

Mr. H. **deB.** FORDE: Sir, the Honourable Member has made his point. I represent the area. Let me tell him the true facts. I have protested against some person who has **moved** into the area now developing land. The fact on this for the benefit of Members of the House is

that there has been a change of use taking place without Town Planning permission in storing buses in an area that has been essentially residential by someone who has recently moved into the area.

Several of the residents of that area, including the Rockley Neighbourhood Watch, have written to the Minister and to me and protested in public against the storing of 15 buses in that area and the persons, who have their own legal advisor and representative, compose both black people and white people in the area, both rich and poor people in that area.

Upper Rockley and this is the second point the Honourable Member is mistaken about is that the people who use the right of way that they say exists between the Simpson Land and the land acquired by other persons who have moved into the area, Dr. Haynes and others, the evidence is that the older residents like the Bostics, the Murrays – I am talking about black people now – the Alleynes have always used that way over 40 years as an entrance into and out. That is the information I have, Sir.

I had written the former Attorney General, Mr. Maurice King, when the matter was raised, and he said that the Attorney General has the right to defend the public right of way and I have done it legitimately in my role as a constituent. I believe I might have even sent a copy of the letter to the resident affected by the position. That is my knowledge of the matter, Sir, and I want to put the House in perspective about this.

It is an area that has old residents whose lands are being acquired by new people moving in, but those older residents are poor black people like Mr. Alleyne, the carpenter, who still works the land opposite Mr. Bostic. The Bostics on the other side, the other gentleman right next to him who carries on a kitchen garden, they all complain very bitterly that the way that they used to use is blocked and if there is a fire...
3.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House for the very simple reason that the Simpson Land is on both sides of the passage. That is the first point.

The second point is that my property is at one end of the road, so it is not me who has to defend anything. I can defend the rights of every single person to their property. I am not affected by it. So it is not me whom you are attacking. I am not affecting anybody because my home is at the end of the road, onto Golf Club road.

It is the constitutional rights of every person in this country who gets a conveyance that guarantees him his heirs and successors. The right to land ~~that has to be~~ defended, and that is what is at stake here, and that ~~cannot~~ happen.

I am telling you there was never any right of way in line with where that particular road was put in by private citizens. Never any.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Let me finish reading the letter. I think the gist of this letter would be lost if I read it in parts. I think that it is better for me to read this letter, and I crave your indulgence . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, let us proceed and do not interrupt.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I will crave your indulgence to ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael South not to interrupt me. I did not interrupt him when he read the ~~letter~~ and make certain remarks about the Honourable Member for St. George North, and called his name "one Gline Clarke." You cannot refer to people like that.

This letter addressed to me ~~as~~ the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing. It came from "Golf Course View," Rockley New Road, Christ Church, Barbados.

"As Minister responsible for the upkeep of our roads on the island I wish to draw to your attention the current controversy over a road which runs between the properties owned by Dr. R. Haynes and Mr. Kyffin Simpson and situated between Rockley New Road and Golf Club Road in Christ Church. I have recently moved into Rockley New Road and found residents frustrated over the fact that this road is blocked off and can only be opened by residents like Dr. Haynes whose residence borders the road. The blockage means that persons such as maids who work in the area and who get transport to the South Coast must walk around to the entrance of Rockley New Road which is off Dayrells Road."

My understanding from the residents is that the road was always a public road. "No constitutional rights on behalf of the land owners."

"They say it was either Dr. Haynes or Mr. Simpson who decided to repair the road." Repair, not bought. **Repair** the public road.

"After this was done there was a partial blockage of the road with only pedestrians allowed to pass through." Remember partial blockage.

"This was later changed and only," listen only, "a select few **are** given rights to operate an electric gate can pass through." Only those persons can pass through.

"I am **seeking** your assistance in resolving the matter. Please let me know if your Ministry can help in establishing if **the** road in question is a public road and if the residents have any grounds for taking action.

I attach a copy of a letter I received from my parliamentary representative on the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter."

Mr. Speaker, this is one of about 50 letters that I have received in connection with this particular right of way. This right of way **has** been blocked, according to the neighbours it is a road which they have used for over 40 years. I think that Government has the right to . . .

Asides.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I will be making this a document of the House. Government has the right to investigate this matter. . .

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is making the document, a document of the House. The document makes reference to a letter from the Parliamentary representative, and I think it would be helpful if the letter from the Parliamentary representative, which was attached, would be part of the document. Otherwise the document would not be a complete document, because one wishes . . .

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I cannot make a submission now? One wishes to be aware of the position taken by the Parliamentary representative in this matter.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I will read the letter from the Parliamentary representative which I will make a document of the house.

"Right of Way between properties of Dr. R. Haynes and Mr. K. Simpson."

The letter was sent by the Parliamentary representative for Christ Church West, in response to that letter, or rather it proceeded that letter and it was the **letter** to which the Honourable Member referred.

"**Thank** you for your letter of 3rd April, 1995." The Honourable Member would want me to refer to all the letters.

"As I have previously explained to you, the issue of the public right of way" . . . this is what you call **good** representation.

"was raised by me some year with the then **Attorney General**, The Hon. Mr. Maurice King. I wrote him on the matter on behalf of several of the residents of Rockley New Road." You have to emphasise "several" because the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke about one person, "one Mr. Tibbitts".

"He has never" . . . we did not organise the letter that was read about a Mr. Gline **Clarke**.

"He has never replied or taken any action to defend the public right of way. I have made a search" . . . now this is Mr. Maurice King who never replied nor did anything.

"I have made a search for the correspondence, but have not been able to locate it.

If the residents wish to reopen the matter, I suggest that they collect the necessary evidence of past user and write to the current Attorney General asking him to defend the public's interest. Alternatively, those residents who have used the right of way openly for 40 years can bring a representative action against Dr. Haynes," this action will be filed shortly.

"and Mr. Simpson.

There are some residents in the area who will be able to give the appropriate evidence.

Please let me hear from you further."

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are concerned about the accession.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. I am convinced, beyond a shadow of doubt, that this is nothing but a vendetta against a black man' owning property in that area. Let me tell you why.

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

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It is important. Just let me finish what I **am** saying. I know who are the people who have been behind this for many years. Where that gate is located, the property on both sides of the road is not owned by me.

Asides.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: This is not the point. I support the rights of the four people whose conveyances indicate that they own the land on which the road is placed. That is myself, the persons across from me, Mr. Simpson, who owned one side predominantly, and two other persons, the late Mr. Joey Armstrong and his next door neighbour.

Mr. Joey Armstrong has done extensive legal research. Extensive legal research on this matter. He has lived there for over 40 years too. As a result of the legal research, it is quite clear that the persons on both sides of the road own the land and that it is no public right of way. This has been investigated again and again by various lawyers.

3.25 p.m..

It has been investigated by about two or three law **firms** in Barbados and I respect the views of the late Joey Armstrong. I respect the views of the late Dave Banfield, very well know experts in land and land rights. They have looked at this matter again and again, over a number of years.

One final point, Sir, I wish to make. In any event, the actual position that the road is in is **not** the track that people used from time to time in the past. That **track** was never a road.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have tracks in that area?

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I lived in that area since **1968**. I have walked that area every day since **1968** and I have never ever seen a vehicle passing that area. I will tell you what happened to the area. The area was covered by bush for many years. I will tell you something else too. That was the central area for the distribution of drugs in Barbados under those trees up there.

When I moved up there, I could sit in my living room, or in my son's bedroom and see people exchanging drugs for money right under there. The original objections that we had in point of fact came from two people in Rockley Road who were supplying drugs to the tourists right at that site. The truth will come out some time.

Over and above that, let me tell you something. That was the meeting point between what was happening down

on the coast and certain people **from** up on the hills coming down. That was the point when they could escape the police because what happened is that progressively over the years the golf course closed off their entrances and stopped them from coming across the golf course and they were **all** funnelled into that area which became a drug infested **area**. From the moment that lights were put there, from the moment that road was put down, from the moment that a house was put there, they have been complaining. I know what I **am** talking about. There is a lot more I can say about that area.

I know it well since **1968**. I know **all** the characters well. I know who have been protesting. I know who have been organising meetings. The people who have never yet protested to me were the poor people down at the bottom of the road because they are the people who are harassed. They are harassed by the dogs and the guns of the **same** people who you come in here trying to defend day after day. They live on private property at the end of the public section of Rockley New Road. They live in fear of their lives when they walk home at night. You come in here trying to defend them . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member now, please.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: I can tell you this, if I have to fight you all the way to the Privy Council I will.

Thank you very much.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South **Central** has certain evidence that I believe he should give to the police which has nothing to do with this Resolution, but the evidence we have in the Ministry, and the evidence we will certainly investigate, in keeping with what we have done in Fortescue, is to make sure that people living in an' area have free access to and from their homes.

In consequence of that, Mr. Speaker, and in keeping with the policy of Government, we will very shortly be compiling a list of all these places that have been blocked and the landowners in **Rockley** by one Dr. R. **Haynes**, the chief offender. We as a Government will send a team from the Ministry into this area.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I will give you the assurance, Mr. Speaker, that in keeping with that policy that as early as Monday at 10.00 o'clock, a team, including the Honourable Member for St. **George** North . . .

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: On a point of order, Sir. Let me tell you. Teams from your Ministry have already been in there several times and each time they have concluded that it is a private property.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that has caused so much concern in the area that I think this is a matter the Press should be called in on as well. Monday at 10 o'clock we will go to the area. We will investigate the area. We will do our part from the point of view of the Ministry. We will make certain recommendations if we view it necessary to the Attorney General. The Parliamentary Representative will do his bit where the representative action is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, we are very concerned that persons who happen to have greater means than the poor person in a community should be taking this type of action against those less privileged citizens. If this Dr. R. Haynes is the same person who is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, it shows that members cannot trust the type of representation they get in some areas.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, this will apply not only to Golf Club Road. It will apply to all areas that have been blocked throughout the country.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I will invite the Honourable Member to go down to the bottom of Golf View **Terrace** as well, just across from me, which the Chinese bought from Mr. Bernstein. You will **see** that they have their gate across the property to which they were entitled by conveyance, where people used to walk through before that is blocked off and there have been no problems in this Honourable House. I am willing to fight for what is mine and my rights if I have to go...

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. That is not part of the point of order.

Proceed, please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, finally, I would just like to state that the Resolution before the House just refers to a lease of the road as access to the development in **Fortescue**. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the open space. The agreements and the question of the conveyance and the covenants, these are matters which were determined a long time.

With respect to any Parliamentary Representative or any individual making some input in the development of an open area, this is a normal provision **which** is included in conveyances and it would mean that all the representatives in Parliament would have to check whenever there is a

development to ensure that the provision with respect to open space is carried out. Some of these open spaces are so small that one can hardly put a tennis board in the area.

I would just like to remind the Honourable Member for St. John when he talked about the authorities have done nothing in the College Savannah area, he certainly as Minister of Community Development and as the Minister of Finance had the opportunity to make some meaningful impact in the area but we would hope we would be able to do what he was unable to do in that particular area.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE OF LAND BETWEEN SPRING GARDEN
HIGHWAY AND BRIGHTON TERRACE,
ST. MICHAEL TO ADJOINING
PROPERTY OWNERS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of the Resolution pertaining to the sale of Government owned land between the Spring Garden Highway and Brighton Terrace to adjoining property owners.
3.35 p.m.

The Cabinet has made a decision that the National conservation Commission should be given **formal** permission to continue to landscape the corner of land it now landscapes along the Spring Garden Highway and that the remainder of the land measuring approximately 60 000 square feet should be subdivided and sold to the owners of the adjoining properties.

In pursuit of this decision the Chief Surveyor indicated that the area of land comprising 3 993.8 square metres should be subdivided **into** 8 lots. The sale of one of these lots to an adjoining owner is not being **pursued** at this time this being the sale to a Mr. Louis **Redman**, Lot **19A** comprising 1 620 square feet of land.

Permission for the subdivision of land into lots was sought and granted by the Chief Town Planner subject to the following conditions:

1. The area should not be used for any erection and should be used for gardening **and/or** landscaping purposes.

not come and walk? You do not walk on any beach. That is what you keep saying. You walk the beach behind your house. That is not **walking**. You have not walked in about 3 years. The Honourable Member for the City needs to get herself on Spring Garden Highway. She has been getting fat and many people who know her have been identifying her as fat and which is causing me some stress. Why do you not leave me alone? You should be **walking** on Spring Garden Highway at **5:30** in the morning. It is the most illuminating and satisfying experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. **Andrew** must put in the record **that** there shall be no building. That is the only reason why I rose. I am grateful to you, Sir.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I just want to make a brief intervention. It is remarkable how much attention some of us pay to the Business of Government when we **are** in Government and it is equally **remarkable** how in the passage of time some early signs of perhaps Alzheimer's. It is very remarkable how when away from the files there is a great degree of ignorance or innocence often permeates a debate. What we **are** doing today in this Resolution is exactly what the Democratic Labour Party in 1990, as a Cabinet of which the Honourable Member for St. **Michael** West was a Member, on the 8th of November, **1990** decided.
3.55 p.m.

On the 8th day of November, 1990 the Cabinet concluded that the NCC should be given **formal** permission to continue to landscape the comdor of land it now landscapes along Spring Garden Highway and that the remainder of the 5944.1 square metres should be subdivided and sold to the owners of the adjoining properties.

That shows how the wheels of Government work with the Democratic Labour Party. A decision was taken in November 1990.

Mr. B. M. TAITT If the Honourable Member will give way. Except for the allusion to Alzheimer's I would not normally re-intervene; but it is precisely because I did not wish my friends to put out money for lands that they could not afford since they will get no benefit from it that I would not have made a public intervention like the one I just made. The Honourable **Member** should not accuse anybody who makes **an** intervention of possible Alzheimer's because he might have made **an** intervention now which the Honourable Member must know from his present position **would** have been untenable, if the Honourable Member who made the intervention was a Member of the Cabinet.

The Honourable Member knows that anybody who purchases the land which was **decided** in that same decision

which the Honourable Member just quoted will get no benefit whatsoever from the purchase except the honour of having contributed to the public treasury.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, as recently as January 6, 1994 it is recorded in this file **that** the Chief Surveyor was requested **to** and **has** prepared a subdivision plan of the lots **to** be sold, a copy of the plan **certified on** May 19, 1993 and having the **area** bordered green is enclosed. The approval of the Chief Town Planner was sought and was granted with the following conditions.

1. The **area** should not be **used** for the **erection** of structures and should be used for gardening or landscaping purposes. No further development of the land should be **carried** out without the prior grant and permission by the Chief Town Planner on an application made in that behalf.

So his Government was actively taking steps to implement the decision of 1990 as recently as 1993.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: In 1993 it **was** dead? We didn't know that. We **knew** that at some time in early 1994 you were running a **minimalist** government.

Sir, when the Honourable Minister introduced this Resolution he pointed out that agreement has been reached with the owners and the conditions and they are happy with it. So who are we to intervene? They **are** happy and if the Honourable Member heard the conditions they are the same as he agreed to in 1990. I repeat them, Sir.

"The area should not be used for the erection of structures and should be used for gardening or landscaping purposes.

Any subdivision would require the permission of the Chief Town Planner and no further development of the land will be carried out without the grant of permission by the Chief Town Planner."

My friend, the Honourable Member, only wanted to be heard today officially in a debate.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member cannot make **the** comment **that** I only wanted to be heard. I think that he should withdraw that remark to say that I only wanted to be heard. I would have spent a lot more time being heard on the matter with a different area. He shouldn't say I only wanted to be heard. Withdraw that!

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: The Honourable Member asked me to withdraw it. I am not inclined to withdraw it unless I am ordered.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is between two Honourable Members.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is the end of my speech, Sir. I have made the intervention. Much obliged, Sir.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this Resolution. I notice that this land will be used for beautification that will be in harmony with the Spring Garden area so that we have a beautiful **area** of the highway. According to the Minister there should be no erections on this land. I think it is quite appropriate that we have this area reserved for beautification.

Sir, on the point of land, I want to look at a proper perspective about the use of land. If you are talking about selling land which should be use primarily for beautification. Sir, any country should have areas that are recreational, which reflect the beauty, which are for sporting facilities and areas for housing. Of course, we have areas also for industrial development.

I need to address the allocation of land. I think earlier 'in the last session I spoke about the allocation of land and the use of land. I think we will have to seriously look at how we allocate land in this country, land that is becoming a scarce resource. Those of us who meet constituents would know that there is great pressure on to have land for housing. A lot of people want land for house spots and they also want to purchase the land or to purchase a house. At the same time, Sir, within many of these communities there is also a quest for land for sporting facilities and both of these are equally relevant.

Sir, those who **are** familiar with England, for example, would know that in every **area** there is a square which is used for recreation. At least it takes away from the boredom of seeing houses and you have a square in each major **area** so that use of land for beautification is quite relevant. I also want to make a plea here that we look closely at allocating land at this stage for sporting areas as well because I notice that in a lot of areas land is being acquired for all **kinds** of purposes and we may run into a situation where we have no land for the youth to play on.

I just want to introduce this at this stage because we **are** critically running out of land and there is a heavy demand on the limited land resources that we have.

At the same time, Sir, we have **large** tracts of land where there is nothing but a lot of wild bush growing on it and these large tracts of land are usually the source of a lot

of fires we have during the dry season. For example, in the Lowlands area there is a large tract of land going east towards **Charnocks** and every year there is sure to be a fire there which causes a lot of discomfort to the people in that area and Members of the House would know specific areas where there are large tracts of waste land which just act as a source of fire during the dry season.

So I believe we are going to have to look now at what we **are** going to do about this matter. Are we going to beautify these areas, put trees on them, have them made into parks? Are we going to sell this land to people who are going to develop them for low income housing, middle income housing, or are we going to have these lands used for commercial purposes? We have to make this decision at this stage because if we don't start to plan the economy has reached a stage where things **are** going to get out of hand and a few years down the road we are going to find that the land we really need is no longer available but has been used in an **area** where it is not critical.

I do support the Resolution, Sir. I **see** the need to have land in areas where we just need beautification, but at the same time we need to look more closely on how we allocate land, how we are going to sell it and those areas where Government will need also to acquire land for purposes of sporting development and housing and recreational development.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the Honourable Member for St. Michael West that the conditions which I read when I introduced this Resolution will be included in the conveyance. I cannot give him any guarantee that the type of houses to which he referred will not be built on the land in the future because this Administration in the past had made certain land policies and they were subsequently changed by that Administration. We would not know whether or not some subsequent Democratic Labour Party **Administration** might not want to change the conditions and allow the persons who are mentioned here to build a two-storey or a three-storey house on the premises.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
RENEWAL OF LEASE OF LAND BY THE
CROWN TO THE BARBADOS
NATIONAL TRUST

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move this Resolution seeking permission to approve the

lease of the Signal Station property known as the Cotton Tower in St. Joseph and Grenade Hall in St. **Andrew** to the Barbados National Trust. Cotton Tower and the Grenade Hall are situated on 425.5 square metres and 1012 square metres of land respectively.

Both properties were leased to the Barbados National Trust under an agreement dated February 15, 1969 for a period of 25 years with effect from January 1, 1969 at a nominal rent of 25 cents per annum. The Barbados National Trust is now seeking to renew the lease for both of the properties for 25 years.

4.08 p.m.

It would be a good experience for Members of Parliament to really visit the Signal Station at Gun Hill and surrounding area. Since I was Minister I visited it for the first time, and I must say that I did not realise that we had such a beautiful area in Barbados.

Also, the work at Tyrol Cot, the residence of the former Premier of Barbados, the first and only Prime Minister of the West **Indies Federation**. I think that it is a place that members, not only on this side but Members on that side, certainly, the Honourable Member for St. John and the Leader of the Opposition should actually arrange a special tour for Members on that side, so that they would be informed of the history. The rich history of Barbados.

I passed that area, almost on a daily basis, and quite recently I visited the area and again I was surprised at the beauty of the area and the rich history that was left by the late Sir Grantley **Adams**.

The lease, Mr. Speaker will be for a period of 50 years. With effect from January 1, 1996 with reviews of rent in the tenth and twentieth years, in accordance with rents of this nature. We have moved from twenty-five cents per annum to \$100 per annum. The lessee will be responsible for the payment of all outgoings and taxes, if any.

All buildings on the parcels of land should revert to the Crown for nil consideration at the end or **sooner** determination of the lease Agreement, even though we do not anticipate that the lease will not be renewed.

I **would** just like to state that with Grenade Hall is sometimes referred to as Grenade Hill, and it was shown to be in the parish of St. Peter. However, with the introduction of the Parish Boundaries Act of 1989, and the development of the Boundaries Plan and the Map, Grenade Hall is now shown to be in the parish of St. **Andrew**. Parliamentary approval is hereby sought to lease these said parcels of land.

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

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take the greatest possible pleasure in supporting this Resolution. The National Trust of Barbados is doing excellent work. It has been doing it for several years. It is, perhaps, one of the leading, **and** in the view of some people I know, the leading NGO in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we take for granted what is held in Trust, not only the National Trust of Barbados, but by all of us. What is held in Trust by all of us for the generations, which will come after us. It is our common heritage, and this is a very precious heritage. We have taken it for granted for years, Sir. I am pleased that, in this administration, we will very soon, the Prime Minister has announced already the establishment of a Heritage Foundation, and he is soon going to speak to that and to announce the composition of the Foundation and the way in which it will function. I am **pleased**, certainly, at a time when I have the honour to be the Minister responsible for tourism in Barbados, that Heritage Tourism is going to have very high priority in the National Tourism Policy of Barbados.

The work that the National **Trust** has done to preserve the many of the heritage properties in Barbados, **to** inculcate in Barbadians, and particularly among young Barbadians, school age Barbadians, and also visitors to Barbados, to inculcate in them, and in us all, a finer appreciation of everything that makes this island unique, among the islands of this archipelago known as the Caribbean. That makes Barbados distinctive in its history. We take this little island for granted, Sir. We take this little island **too** much for granted.

In the context of Greece and Rome, Barbados is not an ancient civilisation. It is not **an** ancient island, but certainly in the context of the Americas, of which we are a part in the Western Hemisphere, we enjoy a tradition of some antiquity.

4.15 p.m.

I use every opportunity, not only at home, but abroad as well, and I have travelled the world over the past 30 years. I do not think there is anywhere in the world that I have not been to, and I constantly make the point that I come from a small island, 14 miles by 21 miles, where the institution of Parliament is 357 years **old**. I am saying that in the context of a hemisphere where the United States of America is just over 200 years old, where the Dominion of Canada has now chalked up its 300th Anniversary. We have on the Order Paper of this House a Private Members' Resolution which is speaking to the 300th Anniversary of a **secondary** school in Barbados furthermore the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, this ancient and most venerable Parliament is situated in a capital city, Bridgetown, which must arguably be one of the oldest cities in this hemisphere. The City of Bridgetown is 368 years old. When I go abroad, it does not matter whether I go to the most developed countries or to the most sophisticated capitals of the world. When I go to the most developing countries of the world, the reaction is always the same. Eyes open. People are enthralled at the idea of how historic an island we live in.

Heritage tourism and the whole concept of heritage is something that has gone very high profile in recent **decades**, but for the National Trust of Barbados, much that we prize and treasure **today** would have been lost to us.

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is also to be praised for the fine work it is doing in this regard. But today, the Resolution before us gives the opportunity to speak to the National Trust. I have been a member of it for longer than I *can* remember, and there is an ongoing membership drive.

It is **an** institution, **an** NGO, a non-governmental organisation, pulling itself up constantly by its own boot straps. It is an organisation which I would commend to young people in this country, young people who must have inculcated in them a sense of civic responsibility, who have to learn that they **too** in their turn will have a civic contribution to make and that you cannot expect to get into a place like this, or rise in Barbadian society without giving back to that community in the same way that this community has given to them.

Generations of Barbadians have made, without apology, the most heroic and magnificent contribution to help education and housing, in other words, to the social sectors. We like to boast that our most precious resource is our people. We prize our people even above our physical country that which we hold in trust in our history and that is as it should be because it is our people who must carry the tradition. For too many years the National Trust has **been** forced to do this unaided and unassisted. I am happy that this administration has been able particularly to come to the assistance of the National Trust in respect of leases such as this, and there are other properties.

The Honourable Minister for Housing spoke of Gun Hill. Gun Hill has to be, perhaps, the most spectacular prospect there is to be seen in Barbados. There is wonderful work done there in terms of landscaping and restoration of the Signal Station. It is so beautiful a place that sometimes if there are small receptions that the Government has to host, we go to Gun Hill. There is nothing like it especially in the evening with the lights on. You *can* virtually see the whole of Barbados from Gun Hill. I recommend it highly for a visit.

I would want to encourage the National Trust to recognise that there is revenue generation potential in a place like Gun Hill and they should be prepared to rent it for **all** kinds of occasions and functions. They should not be hesitant to put a much more commodious and nicer restaurant there and, perhaps, a more enterprising gift shop there. The potential is really quite large for that, and not only for Gun Hill. The same would be true of Grenade Hall. The same would be true of the Cotton Tower and so many of the other properties including Tyrol Cot. Mention was made of Tyrol Cot.

Now, I can speak a little bit of Tyrol Cot, **Sir**. I sat for many years on a National Trust Special Committee which raised funds for the restoration of Tyrol Cot and the establishment of a chattel village there. The only other Parliamentarian I know of who was part of that was Senator **Patricia** Symmonds who also sat, and perhaps is still sitting, on that Committee. For many years we worked not knowing how and where the money would come but knowing that this was a work we had to do. Everywhere else that we go in the world you can visit the house where somebody lived, like **George** Washington. You go **to** Jamaica right here in the Caribbean and you go to the house where Bustamante lived and so forth, everywhere in the world.

A few weeks ago I was in Western Samoa and the official residence of **the** Governor of Western Samoa was a house in which Robert Louis Stevenson lived and we were entertained there. It is the intention, and I know this because of my membership of the National Trust, that other houses of other heroes of Barbados as we can raise the funds, will be restored in the way that Tyrol Cot has been restored.

Tyrol Cot has a most interesting history, quite separate and apart from the fact that it has been the home of two Prime Ministers, so to speak of Barbados, although the late Sir Grantley **Adams** was not a Prime Minister. He was a Premier of a Federation of the West **Indies**. We have more **than** one generation in Barbados which is now post-Federation, which has no concept of the Federation and the only place that they will see the Federal Flag, and other artifacts associated with the Federation is in Tyrol Cot.

Tyrol Cot also speaks to a certain urban architecture in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, which needs to be preserved. So much is changing in Barbados. Everywhere in this island we see the traditional chattel house converting to wall and you cannot blame people, especially in a climate like ours for wanting to trade wood for wall, but the chattel, as Professor Henry Fraser likes to put it, is part of the vernacular architecture of Barbados. The vernacular architecture of Barbados which is to be found in stone structures is well illustrated in Tyrol Cot. It is,

I say, urban. Other people might describe it as suburban. I suppose in the **1930s**, 1940s and 1950s when Sir Grantley and Lady **Adams** lived there by that time it would have **been** described as urban.

4.25 p.m.

It does not matter if these things are notional in a place as small as Barbados. But all of those things are now preserved for the edification, for the education of generations that are to come after us and for that we have to thank the National Trust. This is not a National Trust with a lot of airy fairy ideas which would want simply to change everything to hold on to everything for the sake of it. This is a National Trust with a business sense and which has found a way to make a place like Tyrol Cot **begin** to pay for itself because the preservation and the maintenance, the ongoing recurrent maintenance of places like Tyrol Cot will go on long after we are gone and these mechanisms, these strategies for fund raising and for revenue generation have to be put in place from the very beginning.

I wish, Sir, to use this opportunity to congratulate with the largest words of congratulation that I can find to offer my warmest and largest congratulations to the National Trust for what it has been doing over the years and what we hope it will continue to do.

Like **all** organisations, the National Trust has had to depend on a small hard core of **people**, driven from time to time by various Presidents, various Directors, Sir Donald Wiles is one who comes to mind quickly who tramped the length and breadth of this country trying to bring that sense of appreciation in the early days of what the National Trust meant to the heritage of Barbados.

Then you have the Paul Fosters of this world, Professor Henry **Fraser**. I suppose most Barbadians know him because of the video that he has made and these things are going, in the future, to be invaluable. We take that video for granted now because you **can** go somewhere and buy it for a few dollars but 50 years from now it will be better than collectors items.

There is Mrs. **Penelope** Hyman-Roach who is the current Director of the National Trust and Mr. Paul **Altman**. They do Barbados an honour. They do Barbados a very special favour by virtue of the work that they do and I hope that the Heritage Foundation, when it is fully established, will work closely with the Barbados National Trust.

In this connection, Sir, the Prime Minister has announced it and it is soon going to be established. It is something that we take very seriously, the Heritage Foundation. But I would want to say, Sir, that there is other work on going. I think by now the whole of Barbados must know about the Bridgetown Rehabilitation Project. There

is the Speightstown Restoration and Rehabilitation, there is St. Lawrence Gap, but particularly in Bridgetown and Speightstown, Sir, there are many heritage properties and I want to reassure Barbadians because there has **been** a great rush now. I saw a list yesterday of anybody and everybody, the who is who in Barbados, who is anything to do with physical development, who have sought to have the documentation in respect of the Bridgetown Rehabilitation and the Speightstown Rehabilitation Plan. There is a view out there, Sir, that several of those heritage properties which are part of what the Honourable **Member** for St. **George** South liked to *call* the patrimony, part of our common heritage, part of what we hold in trust, there is a feeling out there that somehow people are going to be able to buy and sell it. Not on my watch, Mr. Speaker, Sir, not the heritage properties.

When I speak of heritage property I speak of the old Town Hall. I think I can say with a fair amount of certainty at this point, Sir, that the Chamber of Commerce of Barbados, together with, I think, it is with the Employers Confederation, have put a proposal to me in the Ministry of Tourism that they would like to undertake the restoration of the old Town Hall.

In the Bridgetown Rehabilitation Plan and I will speak far more volubly to this when we debate the Special Development Areas Bill next month. It is proposed **that** we would start this process with the Lower Green of which the Town Hall used to be and will again before the end of this Century be a focal point.

When I speak of heritage properties in Bridgetown and in the environs of Bridgetown I speak of the Old Spirit Bond on the Wharf side which is going to be restored. I speak of the Empire Theatre. I have spoken so often **on** this Floor of this before. One of two theatres, custom designed and built as theatres in the **Caribbean** the **Ward** (???) Theatre in Jamaica **and** the Empire Theatre in Barbados. The National Cultural Foundation is pleased to, undertake responsibility for the restoration of the Empire Theatre as a theatre.

The Old Bridge and Harbour Police Station, **wreaking** with history is part of our heritage. The old Main Guard at the **Garrison** Savannah that people tend not to see because it is on the far western side of the Savannah, a building which is in such a bad condition that it is unsafe for people to be in it and yet everyday droves of tourists stand outside of it and stare.

The Forts of Barbados, we take those for granted. Barbados has a number of very historic forts, not the least of which is St. Ann's. The **Hilton** Hotel is built on the site of the old Charles Fort. The Garrison Savannah, **St. AM's** Garrison as it is properly to be known, was the Garrison for the St. Ann's Fort. Even as we speak, Sir,

in here investigations are being undertaken at the Military Archives in the United Kingdom because we have every reason to believe that there is a very interesting network of tunnels. The St. Ann's Fort used to house a massive garrison and a naval installation in Barbados. I am talking about seventeenth century and eighteenth century, Sir. Only in recent months, as excavations were being done along the street that leads to Grand Barbados and the **Hilton**, just before you come to the Brown Sugar Restaurant, as they were excavating for the laying of the fibre optic cable we discovered tunnels which were bricked, arched and well maintained because they had been hidden from the pollution above and it is clear now that there was a network of tunnels through which military men moved from the St. Ann's Fort right down to the beach at what we call the Pebble now.

It has been suggested that **Gunsite** Hill in **Brittons** Hill is not called **Gunsite** for nothing. We know, particularly in respect of Grenade Hall, mentioned in this Resolution, that in those days in seventeenth and eighteenth century Barbados, before the **days** of telegraph, before the days of radio, a series of signal stations, high points in Barbados were used to semaphore messages **from** one part of the island to another.

4.35 p.m.

Barbados was the **first** landfall out of the Atlantic Ocean and was always under threat from naval embattlement. It is believed that that network of tunnels could go as far as **Gunsite** Road in **Brittons** Hill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it may be hard for you to believe but the sewers of Parish are now another added tourist attraction in that same city. I do not see any good reason why that network of tunnels associated with St. Ann's Fort and the installation there should not be developed to become another attraction. In fact, I have been having talks with the Brigadier trying to put together now a tour which will take in the museum as an option but certainly the fort and the main guard once it is restored.

Harrison's Cave, Sir, is the No. 1 place of interest for both land base and cruise tourists in Barbados. We know that there are other chambers which have yet to be developed but what we **see** at **Harrison's** Cave is only a small **part** of a network of caves. But research is showing us **that** again in that connection there may possibly be tunnels moving right down through Jack In The Box Gully virtually down to Speightstown to connect the town through the Cave. **All** of that has to be developed and explored, because all of that is part of our heritage. All of that is what we hold in **trust** for those who come after us and we have a duty as far as we are able to develop this little Barbados. So that everything which could possibly be an asset to us is allowed to rise to its highest potential and the National Trust is a driving force behind this. The National

Trust, Sir, in my opinion, if it were possible and I hope that it becomes possible in years to come that we do not only give National Honours to individuals but that we would want to be able to show an appreciation to some of the **NGO's** which do sterling work in this country, work that Government either cannot afford or will not afford to do are done by **NGO's**. I would want to certainly recommend that the Barbados National Trust deserves the honour and the praise of all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only mentioned but a few and I would wish to use this occasion, **too**, to appeal to Barbadians to become more aware and conscious of what is their common heritage and to adopt more of an attitude of conservation and preservation of this heritage. Our heritage ranges far and wide and not only in **the** form of buildings is the National Trust interested. They have thrown their interest behind gardens, wooded areas, the only **wetland** area left in Barbados the Graeme Hall Swamp. Just a few weeks ago in the excavations ongoing for the Fort St. Charles marina in the parish of St. Peter I think the most significant archaeological **find**, certainly in my lifetime was unearthed in Barbados. These wonderful clay tops as though they were the tops of clay pots with the bottom of the pot cut off. It has told us immediately that thousands of years before Christ B.C. that there were people on this Barbados who understood about the conservation of water and who knew how to pot. There is a great **deal** more that we need to learn about the pre-history of Barbados. There is a very slender volume on the pre-history of Barbados. People like Dr. **Carl** Watson do invaluable service to Barbados. I only would wish that the historians at the Cave in the Hill would write a little more and talk a little less, because the writing is enduring and the history of Barbados is colorful. It is this Barbados that stood up to Cromwell, it is this Barbados that carved out for itself a very special personality within the British Empire in a colonial **era** and it is this Barbados as an independent Barbados that continues to do that. The National Trust of Barbados plays a very large and vital role in that.

I would wish to encourage the Government to give a lease of not 50 years but 100 years, Sir, because this is ongoing. Mr. Speaker, I would want to see that this administration and successive administrations in Barbados be even more generous to the National Trust than we have been. This administration in its short life so far has been very generous.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: There are a lot of Philistines and infidels in here, Sir, but I hope that everything that I am saying is not falling on deaf ears. No, we have glitterati and glitteroti but there are a lot of Philistines and infidels on that side of the House

too. But, Mr. Speaker, we do not want to **trivialize** or minimize the magnificent contribution that the National Trust is making. As I said, Sir, I really would appeal to more Barbadians to come out and to give in terms of time, in terms of their interest, in terms of money, membership or whatever. Every little bit counts. I would like to believe that in the early 21st century or even before the year **2000** Barbados would become a place where every spot would look like a garden and that we would have done away with all ugliness. The restoration of our common heritage – that means our beaches and this have implications of the work that the Coastal Conservation Unit does. Our gullies – rural Barbados, urban Barbados, all of it I hope will be restored so that when Barbados enters the 21st century all is pristine, a Barbados of which we can be proud but in which every Barbadian understands that he and she has a duty. Everyone of us, as I said, Sir, is holding in trust for those after us. So every person has a duty. Some **will** make larger contributions and some will make smaller contributions, but everyone should be encouraged to make a small contribution and I would be very pleased if somehow funds could be found to help the National Trust in its educational programme because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the work that is done by the National Trust is sometimes undone by people who do not have a care or any appreciation at all of the tremendous effort that has gone into making something that was not nice into something that is admirable.

4.45 p.m.

At Speightstown, Sir, we have the Arlington House. Just two weeks ago I was down there with the Chairman of the Barbados National Bank. The National Bank is planning to relocate in the precincts of Arlington House and in that connection could be instrumental in the restoration of Arlington House. Perhaps Arlington House is the most notable heritage property in Speightstown.

Every constituency that is represented in this Honourable House and every Member who sits in this House is able to point at least to either heritage **property** or heritage area in their constituency. I would urge specially upon Members to pay attention to that area and encourage constituents to regard it as an extra special fund that they have simply because it is where they live or in the district or the environment they live in.

Sir, in the end you cannot separate people and this is perhaps the most important point that I have to make in this regard. You cannot separate people from this kind of development and if people feel that they have no connection to it and that it is really nothing to do **with** them they will not respect it and they will not feel any sense of ownership of it. They won't feel any urgency about its preservation or its maintenance so that all these strategies, education, information, communications must be used so that people understand the linkage between the

community and the heritage. When that happens, Sir, then each of us, almost in the biblical sense, become each others' keeper and the keeper of the national heritage.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and I must say that I was very pleased with the speech given by the Honourable Member for the City and I listened with great interest being one who is interested in the cultural patrimony of Barbados and the heritage of its beautiful people.

Sir, I support the efforts of the Barbados National Trust but since the Member for the City **so** eloquently and so thoroughly dealt with the issue relating to the Barbados National Trust I would not want to duplicate her efforts but I would want **to** confine my remarks to the recognition and preservation of the cultural patrimony of Barbados through networks at the community level.

Sir, I believe that we need to have groups at the community level who would assist us in **preserving** the cultural heritage of Barbados. As the Member for the City spoke I had recollections of a plan I had **to** put in place and may be **putting** in place which will recognise the beauty of my constituency and the beautiful people of the constituency.

It is a concept which I feel could be replicated throughout the other constituencies in Barbados. To be specific, to the east of Barbados we have had a number of sugar **estates** and a number of factories and these have fallen into disrepair, disuse and in some cases misuse. I believe at the community level there should be efforts put in place **to** preserve the history of the sugar industry in Barbados.

Take for example, the mill houses. I feel that there should be some efforts made to ensure that those mill houses are not used in any other way **so** that the image will not be removed.

4.50 p.m.

I notice that some people have been trying to do certain constructions around them and in future years you may not recognise them to be mill houses. I believe that efforts should be made to preserve the mill houses in Barbados. I am making a specific **plea** for the Christ Church area, areas in St. **Philip**, where there have been a lot of plantation houses and sugar mills in those areas. I can think of the area Lowlands, Callenders, Gibbons, **Four** Square, Searles. All those are areas where we have mill houses.

Sir, we also have the traditional chattel house. I believe **that** for those people who do not want

to get modern wall structures efforts should be made to preserve some of the chattel houses as monuments for future Barbados. Everything should be done. In each constituency there should be few of these chattel houses that should be preserved. I believe that this could be done through community efforts. So just as the National Trust is making a national effort at the preservation of our cultural patrimony, I am making a plea that at the local level similar groups be formed so that a number of these relics could be preserved for posterity.

In this regard, Sir, I believe that the Community Development Officers who serve in these areas and the Youth Commissioners, along with other people in the area can help in the development of these groups. Many times we have these officers who just seem not to know what to do. Since the preservation of our relics are so important, I believe that these particular people can be utilised along with people in the community to **see** that these are preserved. I do not think that it would take much if the people in the community come out and they can do some cleaning up here and there. Places which **are** preserved, little **parks** can also be preserved by the people in the community. We do not expect the National Trust to look into every area. We do not expect that Government, as a nebulous entity, can do it. It therefore has to come as a thrust from the community upwards.

What has to happen, Sir, is that the national agencies such as the Barbados Tourism Authority will also have to be involved where they can then get the tourists to pass through these areas to **see** what beauty there is in Barbados.

Sir, anyone who is familiar with England would know that the English cherish their history very dearly. I do not expect that we would be so paranoid about our history as the English are to the extent that wherever you go they talk about the history of this building, the history of this street, the history of this sign post. I do not think that we want to go that far. I believe that we should still have a sense of history and we should put systems and structures in place, so that we can preserve our history for posterity.

You should be able to look back through a community and be able to say a hundred years down the road, "at this point in time so and so happened, and this was the kind of houses you had, this was the kind of industry that dominated this particular area." There should be signs of that. With things being so unstructured, I believe that we run the risk that a hundred years down the road we would have no sense of history, especially at the community level.

So I want to appeal to my colleagues to see what efforts they can put to ensure that at the community level there are systems and structures put in place to maintain the history of Barbados.

Particularly, Sir, I want to address the fishing industry in the area of Silver Sands, Oistins and so forth. I notice that this is a topic dear to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I will not be speaking of the Fish Fry Bay in Oistins, since this also bring in the Honourable Member for St. **James** North, the Minister of Agriculture. I am not dealing with that.

I am **talking** about this, Sir, because I went to an exhibition put on by the St. Christopher Boys' School. This was to deal with a fishing project. These students, all under eleven, were able to reproduce the history of the fishing industry in Christ Church where they showed the old fishing area there in Silver Sands. They reproduced Oistins as it was before the new complex was built, they reproduced the tracts where people went through, they reproduced the old boats, nets, all of these things were reproduced, and I felt that exhibition needed to be held at some spot where it could be preserved so that tourists could see the history of Barbados in the fishing area, which is a key industry in Barbados.

I was trying to find somewhere suitable to place this exhibition instead of the school, but I could not find a suitable place. Perhaps, it would have to be placed in the Silver **Sands** Resort Hotel.

On this point, Sir, I **am** also saying that there need to be areas allocated for these exhibitions to be put on display. So we need to address it, even if it is a small place where we can have an exhibition. You should not have to go to a museum. A tourist should be able to drive through Barbados and see at certain spots areas where the history of the particular area is reflected.

I am therefore saying, please Sir, that we are giving a renewal of the lease of the property of Grenade Hall, St. **Andrew** and **Buckden**, St. Joseph to the Barbados National Trust, but I **am** saying, Sir, that I believe that this action needs to be duplicated throughout Barbados where we might need to have leases given to community groups so that the cultural patrimony of the specific area can be maintained, and also be a showcase for tourists who come to Barbados. Not only for tourists, but it can be preserved in such a way that our children and our children's children can understand what Barbados is and what Barbados was.

Thank you very much.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House adjourn to Tuesday, July 23, 1996 at 11 o'clock in the morning. I would like to say just a few words on the Adjournment, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of very important matters on the Order Paper, and there is even more important Legislation that the Government will be bringing down to the House. Next Tuesday, I would propose that we would debate the Financial Institutions Bill, which was laid today, so that Honourable Members can prepare themselves for that debate.

There is also before us the Shipping Corporations Bill, which is quite substantial. The Honourable Minister responsible for International Transport tells me that he hopes that we should be ready to debate this maybe on July 30, if not a little later. There is still a great deal of matters that he wants to close in that connection.

Also, on the Order Paper, Sir, is a Resolution congratulating the Government on the Creation of the Charter and the Establishment of the Facilitation Unit for Returning Nationals known as "FURN". "FURN", Mr. Speaker, Sir, has been well received, both at home and abroad, by all sides of the House. There is not an Honourable Member in here who does not have in his or her constituency returning nationals whose interests have to be looked after.

It is the wish of the Government, and I will, of course, write you, Mr. Speaker, formally to this effect, that this debate should be televised. The Leader of the Opposition and I have spoken in this regard, and we have also spoken with you earlier today. The cameras are not now in this Chamber. We are hoping that by the first week of August that they will be.

It has come to our attention, Sir, that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is going to be telecasting coverage of all the Olympics starting on Friday. That will preempt any Parliamentary televised broadcast. So that after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, we have come to an agreement that immediately after Crop Over when a number of potential returning and some returning nationals will be in Barbados, might then be the best time to debate the Resolution on the Facilitation Unit.

So, not on the Tuesday, I would not be so presumptuous, but on Friday the 9th, the Friday after Crop Over we would propose, Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your

permission, to have a televised debate on the Facilitation Unit for Returning Nationals.

Also on the Order Paper is another piece of very, very important legislation, the second reading of the Special Development Areas Bill. This is a critical piece of legislation, a number of persons and organisations in Barbados are waiting anxiously for the passage of this legislation so that they can begin to put in place several projects to do with the rehabilitation of Bridgetown, Speightstown, St. Lawrence, Graeme Hall Swamp, Scotland District and other Special Development Areas which the Minister of Finance will be called upon to declare Special Development Areas.

If we look at the Schedule to that, we will see that there are only a limited number of Special Development Areas. Immediately upon the passage of this, certainly I can say for instance, Sir, that Baxters Road, the Minister will be called upon, by me, to declare Baxters Road a Special Development Area and all of the process that attends that will be put entrain, but it cannot be done until this legislation is passed.

There are other areas beside the historic area, the heritage area. For instance the Montifiore Fountain cannot be declared a Special Development Area until that legislation is passed.

That is a debate that the Opposition has already written and indicated that it would wish to have televised, and it is a debate that the Government also wishes to have televised. What we would expect then is that in the following week, on the following Tuesday which would be August 13, that we would wish to proceed with this debate. 5.05 p.m.

The House has worked hard and long. This Parliament is becoming busier and busier every week, every month. The staff has been very hard pressed. In fact, as Your Honour knows, we have had to look for temporary support in that connection. I am very much disposed that we should have – and we are approaching mid-term. Do not let us underestimate how hard we all work on all sides. I am disposed, Sir, that the House would rise for at least a summer recess break of two months. We do not do much at Christmas. We hardly do anything at Easter. We have been working more often two days a week sometimes, and one day a week. So that is the sort of immediate future agenda we have. It is not carved in stone but it is just to give Honourable Members some indication of what pieces of legislation they might prepare themselves for and which debates they may want to participate in.

Therefore, Sir, I beg to move that we adjourn now to Tuesday coming, July 23, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, July 23, 1996 at 11:00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.08 p.m.

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