

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th December, 1997

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 1997.

PRESENT

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

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, (Deputy Speaker)

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE, K.A., 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)

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition)

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, K.A., 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)

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. D. CARTER/Chairman of Committees)

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.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

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

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. Econ. (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)

Prayers "were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes for Tuesday, December 2, 1997.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, December 2, which minutes have been circulated, be taken as read,

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report that I am in receipt from the Accountant General of the Accounts and Statements for the month of July, 1997.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. Miller: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 12 be read a first time.

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

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

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we last met Your Honour will recall that on the occasion of the last celebration the 31st Anniversary of Independence for Barbados that a new arrangement was put in place in respect of the way in which we celebrate on the day itself and on the 30th November, 1997 at Government House we saw a situation televised and attended by all recipients of National Honours for 1997 in a public ceremony in the presence of the Governor-General and of course, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, friends and relatives, all Members of Parliament including the Opposition led by the Leader of the Opposition.

On that occasion, Sir, for the first time on the day itself, we had the distinct privilege and indeed I would venture to suggest for Members on all Sides of this House, the distinct pleasure of witnessing the elevation to the Knighthood of the Order of St. Andrew of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

My acquaintanceship, my friendship, my working relationship with the Honourable Member for Christ Church, Mr. Speaker, Sir, goes back to my return to this country as a young attorney. I found myself happily, Sir, in what were thought then to be the most distinguished Chambers into which a young attorney could be ushered, the very first Monday morning in 1969 when I was called to the local Bar.

Those Chambers, Sir, were situated on James Street and the head of the Chambers was the late Sir Jack Dear but my Master in Chambers was the Honourable Member for Christ Church South the most senior attorney in those Chambers was the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I would have to say, Sir, that perhaps the larger instruction in my life, what Mr. Lionel Craig likes to refer to as the University of Life, was in those early years in those Chambers at the lunch table of Epworth Chambers, a life experience which I would never forget.

In fact young attorneys, other Members of Parliament, aspiring Members of Parliament, would sometimes come

and sit on the window sill or literally stand around to join in the discussion.

It was unforgettable, that experience and there, young and green, myself and then later on I was joined by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, we found ourselves exposed to the intellect, the cream we thought and I am absolutely sure in my mind now that we were correct in our thinking that we were at the feet of the great thinkers and the great movers and doers. *

These were not people who were just given to lunch table talk, these were people who had tremendous influence. These were people who were what nowadays might be called movers and shakers. These were people who influenced public opinion, in some instances created public opinion and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was tall among this group of men.

Every issue, the Federation, Independence, every sector of the economy of Barbados, sugar, tourism, manufacturing, matters to do with the legal profession, the way in which laws were formed, some of that happened at that lunch table and in those Chambers, in those very, very important years in my life and I found myself yet again, because it had happened earlier in my childhood, living in an environment where I was very sensitive to the fact that history was happening around me.

Needless to say these men helped to shape my own thinking about a number of important issues, a number of important directions, for my own life. They guided a whole process that was occurring in Barbados at that time. They could be brutally frank and sometimes you would seek to make a very timid intervention at that lunch table and hope not to be slapped down but it was the best school in which we could learn and so this first point that I am making, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that I owe a great debt of gratitude to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that I was allowed to be part of that process, to be a student of it and further to grow up in it in the family and the bosom of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, again I am indebted to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. As a young green whipper-snapper, in those early days ...

Aside.

Hon. Miss. B. A. Miller: Oh, yes, one was not afraid of anything or anybody. One is still not afraid of anything or anybody. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was never aware, if it were true, I certainly was never aware that I was discriminated

against on the ground of the fact that I was a woman, on the ground that I was young, or too young. I was allowed to give full rein. I was encouraged. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West may not remember it, but in so many things you went to consult and you were sure that the best advice would come to you. 11.30a.m.

I remember as a young attorney starting off at work wondering about how I would go about looking after my long-term future and I approached the Member for Christ Church West about insurance. As a self-employed person, we had, in those days as indeed now, to look after and buy our own pension arrangements and he gave me excellent advice. It was not just a case of, you need to look at the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society simply because the Honourable Member was associated with it, but I was reminded at the time that this was the first and that it still is the largest, indigenous mutual society in Barbados, so that even that became a lesson hi itself and that is how I was brought up in Epworth Chambers.

Then the Honourable Member moved off and established his own Juris Chambers. I was there at the time of his elevation to the inner bar. I would like to think that I was a witness perhaps to some of the most momentous public vocations in the life of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I have no doubt that many Honourable Members will speak to one aspect or another on it but I want to speak on it in a way that it has influenced my own growth as a person and my own political career. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, now Sir Henry, as he will be known, enjoys a status, I will say not only in Barbadian politics but in the politics of this Region, as an elder statesman. I do not think it is unflattering to say that. It is a status to which some of us may aspire, but we do not always achieve it and it does not necessarily have anything to do with age. It has to do with an attitude, commitment, experience, wisdom and it has to do with a continuing need to serve in this little Barbados which is our society and community.

I have to assume that all of us who enter these quarters including yourself, Mr. Speaker, Sir, come in on that face of a premise that we are here to serve and we may bluster and shout at each other from time to time, but I do not think that anybody is in any doubt that our primary purpose is that we come here as servants of the people.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, Sir, holds a distinction of 27 unbroken years of service to the people and the electorate of Christ Church West. The Honourable Member did not go to Christ Church West as someone of these, as grave-diggers starting at the top or

someone of these who fancy that there is something called a safe constituency would wish to go. In those days you were put in at the end and told to swim and that is the experience of the Honourable Member and that is why he is often in a position to give guidance and advice born on that experience.

No constituency was handed to him on a platter and in fact like so many of us in the St. Michael's constituency and in some of the Christ Church constituencies he has found that over the years the boundaries of the constituencies have changed. He has within his constituency what is said to be the most densely populated urban area in Barbados, the Brittons Hill/Clapham district. Some people think that the Black Rock, Fairfield, Grazettes area is the most densely populated. I used to rejoice in that myth, perhaps because I came from down there and I fancied that I knew it, but the reality is that the Brittons Hill/Clapham/Bonnetts area is the essence of urban Barbados.

The Honourable Member represents a constituency which captures within it an excellent cross section of Barbadian life and experience because it has within it the remnant of what used to be an old conservative community as well. It has at the edge of it an entrepreneurial class growing up so that a broad range of interests is represented by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his capacity as the parliamentary representative for that constituency. I would wish to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in every regard on every front, in every respect the Honourable Member has brought great distinction to the way in which he has, over the 27 years unbroken, represented the interests and the concerns of his constituency. But he, albeit, is wider than Christ Church West. The Honourable Member has a regional reputation which is much lauded both at home and abroad. The Honourable Member, Sir, is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Barbados and some of the exploits of his term as Foreign Minister are now part of the history of this great island and of this ancient and distinguished Parliament. 11.40a.m.

I remember, again as a young Frontbencher at the far end of the Bench the time when in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy important decisions had to be made about what would be the future of the United States Naval Base in Barbados.

I have just come back from Cuba, Sir, from an official visit there. I had the distinct privilege of being summoned by the President of Cuba to the Palace of the Revolution at 7 o'clock last Tuesday evening. He, taller than I remember, frail now, showing his 77 years, brain sharp, kept me for 2 hours. He was loud in praise for Barbados. He remembered graphically his visit at the time of the SIMS Conference and was loud in praise for the quality of our

democracy, our political stability, the way in which, as he put it, we got things done.

One of the points that he found most impressive and he stressed over and over - this was a man now speaking of his life experience - was the way, as he put it, that we in the Caribbean and, in particular, Barbados, could stand up to the United States of America. That is not only to do with Shipridder, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was not only to do with a whole host of other issues some of which we have had to agree to disagree about but, for me, as a young member of the Cabinet as a young member of this distinguished Parliament, it was... I do not think that Honourable Members who were not there at the time can have any idea. I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael West nodding his head. He is part of it. It was momentous in this Parliament when the Honourable Member got up and without fear spoke the Government's policy that the time had come and that it would have to go.

It was not easy to negotiate. Perhaps it was one of those early, courageous and historic defining moments in the administration of the 1976-81 Parliament. There were other such moments, of course. I remember when the Honourable Member for St. George South - I am sorry he is not in his seat now - got up in this Chamber too to announce the return of 14-year olds to the school system. Hushed.

I could go down that road and make many stops but this moment is the moment of the member for Christ Church West and in his political career. Other members will speak of their own experiences but for me that was the highest point. It set the foreign policy of Barbados at that level from which I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has very rarely fallen. That was a tone set by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his own deliberate judgment having persuaded the Cabinet, not that it needed much persuasion, but bringing it here. This was before the days of the call-in programme and our large neighbour to the North wielded perhaps even more influence in this region than perhaps it does today. There were other high moments for the Honourable Member for Christ Church West too.

I remember at the time of the Grenada Revolution, not that it is of any lesser importance than this earlier event but I remember I was away in Paris attending a UNESCO Board Meeting at the time. Before I left the Cabinet the then Prime Minister, Tom Adams, asked for my opinion on a number of things so that when decisions had to be made he would know where I stood on certain issues. I remember in Paris, in that metropolis, we could hear of the advice proffered by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who was not Foreign Minister at that time but who again was able to influence greatly the course of events.

No, I remember incorrectly, Sir. I was in Barbados at the time. It was the time of the massacre at the end that I

was away. At the time when the revolution first occurred, and there was a consensus in the English speaking Caribbean that it was in the interest of the revolutionary force to find a way to legitimise the outcome, I remember the Honourable Member for Christ Church West pleading at length, arguing at length, reasoning at length.

The advice he proffered then, Sir, was not taken and that was another turn in history where the road not less travelled but the road that might have been best travelled was not taken. The rest is history and we lived to be part of the disaster and the tragic end to which it all came.

On all of the large and mighty issues of our time I believe it is fair to say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has had some input, some influence, some advice, not only in his capacity as a parliamentarian but of course in his capacity as a legal luminary and legal advisor of the best kind. I think that it has met in the Honourable Member for Christ Church West the best of these two worlds.

The lawyer/politician is a well known animal from pre-biblical times and it is only natural that those who practise law would aspire from time to time to be those who make the law. These two disciplines are well met in the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and I believe that Parliaments past, this present Parliament and Parliaments to come, have and will be the beneficiaries of that fine grasp, that fine interface between the parliamentarian and the attorney-at-law with a very clear and uncluttered understanding of the function of the law; how we make laws, how laws impact on every sector in our society and in our economy, an understanding of the use of the law, not only as a legislative tool but as a social tool, an economic tool in the very best way and in the very best sense, the most comprehensive understanding of where the law, and when I say the law here I am speaking of the body of the law, stands in our society. 11.50a.m.

Honourable Member for Christ Church West has made no little contribution to that, and I think that it will be a good and a continuing contribution as well.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent civic service, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is one who is no stranger to civic service - just let me say here. It concerns me, Sir, often nowadays how young persons aspiring to enter this Chamber representing one constituency or another, fancy that they can do it, and if I might use a phrase that the late Ernest Mottley used to use, fancy that "they mek themselves" and that they can persuade people

to vote for them so that they could come in here to represent the interest of those people never having offered a day or an hour of civic service.

As a voter you would have to persuade me. What have you done in the community? *Why* should I give you my vote? There are too many young people who think that it is just a matter of the glamour and the glitz. You get up on a platform and you make a lot of speeches. You go and shake some hands and somehow you end up coming up these steps. It does not work like that. In the time when I was aspiring to come up those steps and when the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was aspiring to come up those steps you had to do your civic service.

The service club that was the choice for the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was the Lions, as I recall. People may not remember that, but I do because that was the environment, as I said, in and around Epworth Chambers in which I grew up with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. So he has paid his dues in terms of the civic service that he has done professionally and otherwise.

There are many facets to the contribution to our community that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has made, continues to make and is still making. The most recent in that context is his chairmanship of the Constitution Review Commission. Now, this is no small task which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West agreed to undertake.

We have a written Constitution which is now 31 years old. This is the year of our Lord 1997. We are approaching the end of a century, indeed the end of a millennium. We are fortunate, I like to think that we are privileged to be living at a time when we are in transition from one millennium to another.

This time is fraught with many opportunities for change and we have seen some of that change occurring. A time like this is often associated with a certain sense of urgency, frenetic one might say, indeed, some have said. Many of the big issues which dominated our short lifetimes and which some of us, indeed I can speak for myself, Sir, never thought we would see come to resolution of any kind during this century, in this last decade or so have come to pass.

In the larger world we have seen the South Africans reject apartheid. We have seen right here in our own region Haiti struggling to put in place for the first time a democracy such as we are familiar with. We have seen the Berlin Wall come down, people clawing it down stone by stone. I never thought I would live to see that in this century.

In this little Barbados, I think of that as part of this quickening which is almost synonymous, I think, when you look back through history, when you were on the cusp of a century, and, indeed, a millennium, for Barbados the review of our Constitution and other consequential arrangements is very much in order. It is not a small responsibility. It is a large privilege and an even larger responsibility which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West did not shirk.

There are many great men who from time to time in their lives duck some of the big responsibilities. This cannot be said of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. He has gone about his task, as indeed he goes about all tasks. He often reminds us that going back to his days as a student, and we bear in mind, of course, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West distinguished himself, a distinguished Barbados scholar, reminds us that from his earliest days research was his strong point and from time to time in all the years I have known him he has found it necessary to make this point, particularly to young people. You have to be thorough. You have to have laid your foundation. When you get up to speak you will speak of your own knowledge and of your own authority. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West in my judgment therefore, is not a "where is it?" person. He is very much a "here it is" person.

In the law courts as indeed in this Chamber, particularly when he sat on the front bench, he never moved without a veritable library of resource material. I think he has brought that same traditional diligence that is associated with him and that same capacity for researching every detail and all details to his task as Chairman of the Constitution Review Commission.

I think, and the Commission I am advised is very soon about to report to this nation that Barbadians will again find themselves, as they did on the occasion of an earlier review of our Constitution, indebted to those who undertook the task knowing, as I often say, Sir, it is something that I once read in the Talmud many, many years ago, knowing that in our time we are not expected to complete the task but understanding beyond any peradventure that we are not at liberty to abstain from it. This I believe, Sir, would be yet another occasion that we will find ourselves indebted to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West for a job well done and for a job which will in the end allow us to move forward with renewed confidence in ourselves as a nation especially at a time when it has already divided itself up into some traditional and some untraditional trading and other political arrangements as well. I believe in the early 21st century we are going to see a lot of rapid change which is all part of the movement from one era literally to another and I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is helping Barbados to engineer its movement forward as an independent nation. 12.00 noon.

This is a man, Sir, not only with the national vision, but with a regional vision and all within an international context. In other words what I am describing, Sir, would be a visionary who can see how Barbados could look and must look maybe in the Year 2010, maybe in 2025, maybe even in 2040. To ordinary mortals it is not given, to all of us it is not given to have that kind of vision but the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has it. I do not think that there is anybody in Barbados and many outside of it who would gainsay that. In all, Sir, I would have to say that the elevation to the knighthood of St. Andrew which is the highest honour that this country can bestow upon one of its sons is well deserved and given at a time when we hope that even more will be given - unto them to whom much is given, much is required - I would like to believe, Sir, that there is even more in whatever capacity he finds himself that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would continue to give to this Barbados.

This is a man who has brought only acclaim, who has never in any way done anything to make us as Barbadians feel embarrassed or ashamed, he has brought nothing but honour to this House and to this nation but, of course, it all started in himself and that we as a people would honour him with our highest national honour is worthy of historic record and is worthy of being remarked upon in this venerable House. I believe that other Honourable Members are anxious to make their own contribution to this debate. There are so many other aspects and facets to the life and the work of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West but I cannot expect to address them all.

I have tried, Sir, to share with Honourable Members the way in which the life and work of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has touched my own and influenced my own.

Mr. Speaker, I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Resolution moved by the Honourable Member for the City and I know that I speak for all Members on this Side in congratulating the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the national honour which was bestowed on him.

The Honourable Member is my constituent and therefore in that regard it is a great pleasure to congratulate him from that angle and I am certain that I speak for his neighbours and for his many friends in St. John when I do so and to say that as my constituent, I hope that he will bear that national honour with the accustomed high standard with which people from St. John have previously performed such honour.

I would want also to join with the comments of the Honourable Member for the City. I cannot endorse all of

them because I did not belong to such distinguished company nor do I now and therefore I cannot attest nor deny, confirm nor detract from anything she said. In fact there will be many other members on that side who would be in exactly the same position that I am in but what we can do is attest to those qualities that we have been able to witness as members of this Chamber and despite the tempestuous relationship that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and I have had from time to time no one can doubt that in those subjects in which the quality of the academic that he possesses and his reputation for research that quality presentations have been made.

In this Chamber, his contributions on international affairs, on regional matters, on matters relating to the administration of justice and law making generally and in relation to his portfolio and responsibility for women's affairs, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has made a laudable contribution.

Beyond that, he served both in Government and in Opposition and served his political party at probably the most difficult time in its history as its leader when it had been electorally decimated or devastated, financially devastated and in a sense morally devastated by the results of the 1986 General Elections. No one can doubt he faced other demoralising challenges during the course of his term as Opposition Leader but was able to bear them with great fortitude. I believe it is that which would have propelled the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who was one of his close lieutenants at that time to throw his weight behind the honour which the Honourable Member deserves while he is still in Parliament, that is the point that I want to make.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is also an excellent public speaker who has tried I think on all occasions to point the way forward to young politicians and to call people aside for advice from time to time. 12.10p.m.

Though all his contributions are not flawless we can still see that he carries with him a very rich background, and I do not mean materially, that is in financial terms, even though there are some who would add that, of knowledge of the Barbados Labour Party and the great battles which the Party would have faced since the 1950s and the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s. So that when he speaks to an issue he speaks with great knowledge of the Barbados Labour Party's politics and during his time, even in the 1976 period, he was always looked to by his own party as an alternative leader, which is a great achievement at a time when the Barbados Labour Party was viewed to be at its heyday.

I believe that all in all the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has demonstrated by his commitment

and dedication to his party, by his work in this Assembly, by his outstanding academic and other skills, that he is a worthy Barbadian who joined that select few who have been chosen for the high honour which he has been granted in this year's independence honours. I was very happy to see him kneel before His Excellency the Governor General to receive that honour.

All that is left now, so that I can add my closing remarks, would be for the Honourable Member's formal retirement from this Chamber. I am not pushing him out but based on what has been hinted when he does retire from this Chamber very shortly he would have left behind him an outstanding legacy of political service and a tradition of representation and hard work in the Christ Church West Constituency and in fact almost the leadership of the Christ Church constituencies over the past two decades.

So, Mr. Speaker, I very sincerely congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on the honour which has been bestowed on him and I hope that he is able to carry that honour together with his other achievements to higher levels as he continues to serve Barbados and I rise to second the Resolution. Thank you.

Dr. R C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, it gives me the very greatest pleasure to rise and to associate myself with the Resolution before this Honourable House and to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on the occasion of his receipt of a knighthood. I believe that I am in a very good position to make an assessment of the Honourable Member's contribution to Barbados at several levels and I would like to do this from a slightly different angle and that angle would be the response to the challenges of his time, how he would respond to the challenges of his time because I can speak not only as a colleague at school, as a professional in the sixties, facing the same kinds of challenges and as a Parliamentarian and someone involved in the political process of Barbados over a fairly prolonged period of time.

I think it all goes back to the academic challenges which those of us who happened to be at school in the fifties in Barbados faced. It was a time when to achieve a Barbados Scholarship there was no alternative to achieving and you could only do this by the highest levels of excellence. There were only 5 scholarships at the time and you could not get a scholarship unless you reached scholarship standard anyhow. If you did not reach scholarship standard it was not only a matter of 'A' Levels but also scholarship papers. You had to reach that level in order to get a scholarship or a scholarship just would not be awarded, so that the award of a Barbados Scholarship at that time was really a very significant stamp of academic achievement which was

widely recognised, not only locally but certainly within the British system and within the British universities, almost at the same level or in a sense at a higher level as the Rhodes Scholarship at that particular time.

That was not an insignificant achievement to become a Barbados Scholar particularly in the area of Modern Studies where there was not the long traditions as in the Classics and Mathematics and other areas in Barbados. So that was certainly a very significant achievement at that time.

Then of course there was the challenge of university, and I need not speak of his academic achievements, but also the challenge of the times facing young Caribbean people as the whole issue of Federation arose whilst we all sojourned in the United Kingdom. I would say that almost all the people that played a critical role in what took place in the United Kingdom in those days returned to their native lands and have made significant contribution to the political development of the various islands of the Caribbean.

Then there was the challenge of the law, and make no mistake about it, the work of people like the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, in the area of law in Barbados and being able to elevate the practice of law to a much higher plane has created in Barbados the opportunities for a large number of black lawyers who today can find themselves functioning in many areas of law which were completely barred to them prior to the breakthrough of the professionals of those days and among the leading lights would be the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and others. There can be no question about that.

I need not speak about his knowledge of the law or his excellence as a lawyer. That speaks for itself, the level of success which he has enjoyed and deservedly so. Let me say this. That success was enjoyed as a consequence of relentless hard work and by being involved in the society at levels which a lot of people today do not understand.

There are many young lawyers, for example, and young professionals who come up and want to live in the same house, they want to drive the same car, they want to have the same income as people who have been practising law for 30 years or practising in the professions for 30 years. They have not got a clue of the kind of sacrifice and the kind of barriers which those people who today enjoy a reasonable level of income, a reasonable level of professional status, what they had to go through in the sixties.

If you were to look at the kind of practice enjoyed by black lawyers in this country prior to the sixties and what

they enjoy today then you would begin to understand that the kind of contribution that the Member for Christ Church West would have made at the professional level in bringing that through. It is not only helping clients, but also helping hundreds of members of the professions to have an easier entry and an easier access to a wider range of legal practice in Barbados, whilst at the same time to my certain knowledge, he has always observed all the courtesies and all of the kinds of professional relationships, which characterise the best in the legal profession over the years. 12.20 p.m.

Simple things. For example, we would never in our time, whether it was the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would never even think of charging a fee to another professional colleague, even across the professions and I gather that this kind of thing is out through the window now. A whole lot of the courtesies have disappeared. It is almost incredible to see how these values have changed over time, so that at the level of contribution to the upliftment of the law both in his private professional practice and as an Attorney General of this country there is no question that he has made a significant and major contribution. At the level of Parliament, and I want to emphasise this, I think that in this society there tends to be a devaluation of the role of Parliament and my personal judgment of the political career of persons very much rests on the contribution that they make to this Parliament. There can be no doubt whatsoever that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has made a major contribution to the parliamentary life of this country. He, and I would know, has always been a formidable debater. I have faced him in the heat of battle on many an occasion and we have fought eye ball to eye ball, toe to toe, but nevertheless, at the end of the day, it has always been at a level of intellectual engagement that brought this Parliament alive and that is what has made the difference.

He has been a first-class debater and I have often indicated to people that when the Honourable Member gets up to speak, listen to him very carefully because he can be very devastating in his debates and one has to be very careful how you intervene in a debate when he is speaking. Very often it is better to remain seated and let him have his way in what he has to say, rather than to get up and interrupt. So there is no question that at the level of Parliament and those of us who have a view of Parliament as being a legislative body, the body from which policy should emanate principally, the body which should really be the governing organ of this country will recognise the importance of the contribution of persons at the level of Parliament. There can be no question that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has been an outstanding Parliamentarian.

I know for a fact that he has given much to charity. He spent a lot of his resources on the political process of this

country. He has, in every regard, made the kind of contribution of which all Barbadians can be proud. Now, that is not to say that all Barbadians will necessarily share his political views, or his political philosophy, but that is not the point. The point is that if one holds a political position, if one holds a set of values and one adheres to them and one seeks to develop those values and one makes one's contribution then, in the midst of things in the political process, you make a significant contribution. I think it is also fair to say that during his tenure as Minister of Foreign Affairs he succeeded in lifting the concept of Foreign Affairs in this country to a much more dynamic level and that his contribution in that area, his contributions before international bodies have been very significant indeed. There is a large body of legislation as Attorney General which he brought down before this House. Some of it, of course, has attracted serious criticism and rightly so. This is what Parliament is about, to criticise constructively what comes before Parliament. But there can be no doubt at the same time that when one looks at, not only the quantity but also the quality of the legislation that came down during that period when he was Attorney General that it was certainly a very significant contribution.

Now he has always claimed that he loves women.

Asides.

Dr. R. C HAYNES: There is nothing wrong with that. That is very laudable too and very appropriate. Certainly his contribution to bringing before the country the plight of women and bringing a legislative framework to help uplift women in this society must stand out as a significant contribution to Barbados as well and to Barbadian women.

So therefore, Sir, when we think of the totality of the contribution, not only at the level of his personal development, his personal professional contribution, his contribution to this Parliament and his contribution to the public affairs of this Country, I think that we can say that he deserves this Honour. And I think it is appropriate that the honour should be conferred whilst he is still in this Honourable House and gives us the opportunity whilst he is still here to be able to share with him what our thoughts are about him.

These opportunities do not come very often but when they come, I think that we should not be sparing in what we have to say on behalf of our colleagues. Many sacrifices have been made by the Honourable Member and I think that the public recognition which is inherent in the honour conferred is a very appropriate one. 12.30 p.m.

I speak also as a constituent of the Honourable Member. I will not say whether I vote for him or not. I

can say that with the exception of St. Michael South Central or probably on a par with St. Michael South Central the amount of work done in the constituency of Christ Church West has been enormous over the years. I go and am used to going walking around Christ Church West for the past 30 years. As you walk around all of a sudden you will see a little piece of road being done. I could never understand how the Honourable Member could get so much work done no matter what Government was in office; but I learnt the trick.

When I discovered the way he operated, I was able in fact to get quite a lot done no matter what government was in office. I think it is important to understand it and I believe that executives in Barbados generally understand the importance of ensuring that Members of Parliament are adequately serviced and if you persevere and if you struggle then you will get things done no matter what government is in office.

When you take the totality, and you look at it objectively there is no question whatsoever that this is an honour well deserved and I can only say that I wish to congratulate him once again and I am sure that he would appreciate the genuineness of my contribution here today because of the ongoing relationship which we have had for many years at a personal, professional and other levels and also the bitterest in-fighting at the political level from time to time.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it gives me great pleasure to join with other members in congratulating my longstanding friend and colleague on a well deserved honour which he recently received. My friendship with the Honourable Member goes back a very long way. Indeed, it started when we were school boys at Harrison College in the Modern Sixth and the Honourable Member came to my home at Enterprise and we used to study together. I believe I owe a lot to the Honourable Member because for the first time in my life he tried to instil in me a little discipline when it came to matters of study. He did it because I observed the meticulous, steady manner in which the Honourable Member studied his books. Hitherto, that was quite foreign to me so that for the period of time when we were together I was able to reach some heights, nothing, of course, as great as the Honourable Member but sufficient heights to enable me to pass examinations which would allow me to go on to university where I did far better than when I was at school, no doubt because of the fact that I was introduced into the mysteries and the discipline which were necessary to study.

The Honourable Member subsequently distinguished himself in the Modern Sixth and became a Barbados Scholar

in Modern Studies as has been said and he went on to Cambridge University where he did equally well but, more importantly, the Honourable Member, when he was at Cambridge, periodically visited London and while he visited London we came into contact again and the Honourable Member invited me on more than one occasion to go to the hallowed heights of Cambridge and there we met a large group of West Indians who were studying there at the time such as the former president of the Caribbean Development Bank, Sir William Demas, the present president and our dear friend who is still alive and with us, Karl Hudson Phillips of Trinidad & Tobago. We became very good friends and that friendship continued. When I left England earlier than the Honourable Member and came back to Barbados I went into the chambers of the late Hon. Sir J. S. B. Dear and when the Honourable Member came back he joined us in chambers and there we worked together for many years.

I think it is true to say that it was in those chambers that we, as lawyers, understood the need to widen our horizons within the Caribbean area. We had a great opportunity, to which both of us are very thankful for the fact that we had an opportunity, to be exposed to the best of the Trinidadian lawyers who dominated the Caribbean Bar at that time, the late Hugh Wooding, Malcolm Butt, Hosein, all of those.

I think in our discussions in chambers that we decided that there was absolutely no reason why when they left the scene the Barbadian lawyers should not seek to compete with the Trinidadian lawyers in the wider Caribbean field. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to sit and plan together. We were lucky in that the late J. S. B. Dear did have some Caribbean wide practice and we were able to be introduced to our colleagues in the other islands. It was from there that the opportunity to participate in the wider practice of the Caribbean came to us.

The Honourable Member, of course, has excelled in the law. His reputation within the Caribbean is well deserved. He has practised from The Bahamas right down to Trinidad and Tobago, and that is quite a feat. His reputation has also gone beyond the Caribbean in this respect and, indeed, within the Commonwealth. Not only in the legal field, but in the political field, the Honourable Member has distinguished himself as a person who has a wide and in-depth knowledge of constitutional law and the administration of justice as evidenced by the fact that he has been chosen on more than one occasion to be responsible for the monitoring of democratic elections in Commonwealth countries.

Honourable Members have spoken of the Honourable Member's political career. It is in this area that I feel that the Honourable Member is indebted to me for while we were practising I always tried to persuade the Honourable Member

that it was necessary for him to take the plunge that was beyond doubt his duty and responsibility.

While the Honourable Member accepted that it was his duty and his responsibility he did not kindly at the beginning take to the fact that he would have to expose himself to the rigours of a political career. I persisted and I am very glad to say that by the time of the constitutional conference in England and even prior to that the Honourable Member had taken so kindly to the political platform that he played an outstanding role in the debate that took place in Barbados at the time of the Under Forties and also at Independence time. 12.40 p.m.

He had been characterised during that campaign as being part of the lard oil lobby, and many other phrases were thrown at him. Present day politicians do have a relatively easy time in this respect. The butt of the sharp tongue and the bitter tongue of the late Honourable Member for St. John, I do not think that anybody has really succeeded in emulating that to the fullest extent. But the Honourable Member having weathered that, decided in his mind that he would participate with us as an adviser at the Constitutional Conference in London. He sat on many important committees when that Conference was taking place.

I think it is true to say that, on reflection, as someone asked me this the other day, how was it that in the Caribbean your countries have been able to maintain the democratic system of Government and follow the Westminster model with some variations, but useful variations, and other parts of the former British colonies, some of them now members of the Commonwealth, some who cannot retain their membership because they have been periodically expelled, and are still in a state of expulsion, and they have not, particularly the countries in Africa, been able to maintain a democratic system. When one reflects on it one has to look at it from the point of view that the people who have been involved in the post independence political process have been people of the calibre who are committed to democracy and who are willing to ensure that the system works. I think that is one of the saving graces, one of the principal reasons why the democratic system has been maintained.

The Honourable Member is one of those who for the last 26 years has submitted himself to the electoral process, and has come out on top. He has been far more fortunate than I have been because I have had occasionally to suffer the pangs of defeat. But the position is, the Honourable Member has been able on each occasion that he has faced the electorate to come out on top.

Now, his meticulous nature and his careful nature has served him in good respect because I know of no

Parliamentary Member who has cultivated his constituency in the manner in which the Honourable Member has cultivated his. I believe that he was the first person who introduced into Barbados the annual practice at this time to have parties for both the old people and for the children. Indeed, he set such a high standard on one occasion that it is alleged that the numbers of children who turned up at the party were nearly 1 000. I would not say what the cost of the party, it was alleged, was but, nevertheless, the point is he has also been very fortunate as he has said. His constituents and the leaders in his constituency have always been able to raise the money. It is a testimony to his character and to his overall method of working that within his constituency he has been able to build up such a highly successful organisation.

He has served in Cabinet with us for a period of five years, between 1976 and 1981, as Honourable Members have said. That was a particularly productive period for legislation in Barbados due to the industry, the application, the dedication and capacity of the Honourable Member to marshal the resources of the Attorney General's Office to the commitment for the need for a reform of major areas of legislation.

I like to remember that period as being an important period in Barbados' history because it was during that time that the Naval Base agreement in St. Lucy was surrendered and the exit of the occupiers of Barbadian soil took place. It took place in an atmosphere of reasoned negotiation principally because of the application and the knowledge of the Honourable Member.

Barbados and the United States of America were able, as equal partners, to negotiate for the departure of the American soldiers from the Naval Base in St. Lucy under terms and conditions that both sides could be justly proud. It is probably because of our success in that area and the fact that we were capable of doing it on that one occasion that on the second occasion when we had to do similar negotiations we were able to distinguish ourselves in a Caribbean context in the agreement that we reached. That is an outstanding achievement and I speak of it because very few of the younger politicians remember that.

It was, of course, the good fortune of the Barbados Labour Party not only that we brought back the Base to Barbados but I hope in the near future we will be able to bring significant additional development. I say additional because the North of Barbados seems to be reaching its height and the development that is taking place there seems to be no end to it because only recently there have been a number of proposals which have been put.

I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Lucy will be glad to hear that a number of proposals have been put

for submission to the Ministry of Finance for the development of the whole of that area including the Naval Base, Harrison's Plantation and that area. Thank God for the rest of us, Sir, there is no more land left after that in the North otherwise they would have to turn their attention to the south or the east. So, Sir, that is also important.

The last point I would like to raise, Sir, is the Honourable Member's commitment from the very beginning to the cause of Caribbean unity, a firm believer of the need for us in the Caribbean to fashion out some form of government that would permit us to do the things we do better together and can only do together and at the same time recognising that there are things because we are islands we would like to do separately because they will be done better if they are done on an individual island basis.

The Honourable Member has been from the very beginning a firm believer in that concept. He played a very leading role in the Heads of Government Conference which took place subsequent to the election of the Labour Party in 1976 among the Caribbean Prime Ministers. People forget that when the Labour Party came into office in 1976 there had not been a Heads of Government Conference for a long period of time.

The Honourable Member and I and others journeyed to Trinidad and Tobago in an attempt to persuade the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago who was at loggerheads with the then Prime Minister of Jamaica that it was necessary for the Heads of Government to meet. It took a long period of persuasion. All of the background work was done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the exploitation of our personal contacts which were built up as students. 12.50p.m.

I am pleased to say that in 1997 we were able to have an agreement with Trinidad & Tobago, a bilateral agreement for closer co-operation which clearly envisaged in the agreement that it could become multilateral and that any country within the Caribbean could accede to the agreement and therefore I think it is true to say that it is the signing of that agreement that broke the ice and later on, very soon after 1979, I do not fully recall the year, a Heads of Government Conference took place and that I believe was a significant contribution to breaking the deadlock which had occurred. Since then, of course, both under the Labour Party Administration and subsequently under the administration of the Democratic Labour Party we have had Heads of Government meetings.

As a matter of fact, we have Heads of Government meetings now not once but at least two or three times a year so one can look at and contrast the situation in 1976 or so when there were no Heads of Government meetings to today when there are frequent Heads of Government meetings and I would

like to put that on record. Now, of course, we have reached the stage where the contribution of the Honourable Member in this respect has only now begun because this is the time when all of the constitutional brains in the Caribbean must be set to work with a view to fashioning a new type of constitutional instrument which will give impetus to the need for unity but at the same time recognise the necessity for the individuality of the islands in certain spheres of operation. It is a new challenge, a brand new challenge and it is a challenge not only for the Caribbean.

The European Economic Community is not a political federation but they have fashioned out an integration movement which has reached the stage in which the distinguishing features between that and a political federation are such that in reality political parties are becoming divided along the traditional lines, those who are pro in the centre and more powers to the centre and those who are ante to the centre and lesser powers to the centre. If we go back and look at the history of the American Civil War and the American Government and its formation in the early stages one will see that that is a process that holds true. We in the Caribbean are now beginning to reach that process so that I hope the Honourable Member will regard that as one of his challenges for the future because the mundane ordinary roads and water and lights - it is only street lights now - the only thing with water that we have is to ensure that we have water in the pipes but everybody has a pipe so that those matters have been conquered.

I notice that the Honourable Member has probably his last remaining small road that is being done. I envy him in this respect. I know his constituency very well. The Honourable Member has been campaigning in the last 26 years to have Evelyn Land done and I noticed that he has been much more fortunate than I have been because I have been trying to get Brewsters Land next door done for relatively the same period or longer but now that the Honourable Member has got his done, I hope that next year Brewsters Land will be done because after all they are contiguous and one could not allow the residents of Brewsters Land to observe that the Honourable Member has been able to get his done and I cannot get mine done.

The Honourable Member's contribution will no doubt in the future be even more challenging. I am not going to speak of his work on the Constitution Review Commission. I think we should await the report before we make any judgement on that but I have had the privilege of going before the Constitution Review Commission making my views known and I can say that we had a very sympathetic and very, very searching questioning both by the Honourable Member and other members of the Commission.

I will conclude by saying that I am privileged to be here today to pay my tribute to the work that the Honourable Member has done for Christ Church, for Barbados, for the Caribbean and for the cause of democracy. I would like to wish him many more years of service to Barbados and the Caribbean.

Thank you.

SUSPENSION

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

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

The question -was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.51p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr.

SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say this is more of a private pleasure than a public duty for me to offer congratulatory remarks to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on the very high honour which he was accorded in the Independence Day Honours, that of being elevated to the status of Knight of the Order of St. Andrew.

I wish to endorse all that has been said by those who have preceded me today, Sir, and to offer my personal congratulations and those of my family to the Honourable Member on the achievement of this honour. It is much deserved. It is probably overdue in coming but happily it has come at a time when he is still alive and able to appreciate the sincerity of all of those who have already congratulated him and the sincerity of all of us who are here today in this Honourable Chamber.

The award, I believe, Sir, is for contribution to law and public service and in both areas of activity and endeavour the Honourable Member has made an outstanding and indeed an indelible contribution to his country. I will deal with those aspects of his life in due course. But perhaps if I return to a brief historical excursion, I believe it was one Saturday morning in this very yard, the yard of Parliament in 1959. I was in the yard with my father and for the first time met the Honourable Member and his wife Pat in the yard. My father introduced me to him and indicated that I was accepted as a student at the London School of Economics and Political Science and I was going to study law. He was most charming as he always is and encouraging

in his remarks. I never saw him again, because I left the following year and went abroad, Sir, until 1966. The Honourable Member of Christ Church South was with him as part of the delegation of the Barbados Labour Party to the Constitutional Conference at Marlborough House in 1966. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South, the late Tom Adams, Mr. Freddie Miller, were the members of that delegation. I think they were in London for at least two* weeks and I was able to see a lot of them then and to talk with them. It was in the summer of 1966 and I was covering the Constitutional Conference for Rediflusion and the *Daily News*, sending back daily reports on the negotiations.

When I returned to Barbados in 1970, Sir, I had the distinct good fortune to join the Chambers of the Honourable Member at Juris Chambers, Lucas Street. He had by that time established his own set of chambers in his own practice and invited me to join him. The Bar in those days was very small. I do not think they were more than about 30 to 40 of us, perhaps 50 in the private profession in 1970.

The Honourable Member immediately took me under his wing as it were and I have said elsewhere on political platforms and last year when he was honoured at the Sherbourne Centre, really all that I have achieved in law and most of what I know about the practice of law I learnt from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I have been very fortunate in my life, Sir, perhaps lucky and during my practice I had the distinct good fortune of practising in association with some of the leading silks in this region. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is one, the Honourable Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago today, Mr. Michael de La Bastide, I practised with and I also practised with Mr. Tajmool Hosein.

In Barbados, Sir, I am not prepared to get involved in the arguments among legal luminaries as to who is the best. Like the argument about the three "Ws" it never comes to an end. Each of them had outstanding qualities and I learnt from all, Sir. 2.20 p.m.

I thought that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was, however, the most thorough lawyer that I have ever come across. But I think by a short head, Mr. Hosein is even more meticulous and thorough. I did not think it was possible for any lawyer to be as careful and painstaking as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. When we practised together, Sir, he taught me how to take notes and I have never wavered. Every word is written down and in the days before these highlighters became popular, if you were doing a case with the Honourable Member you had to be prepared to carry some of several pens of different colours with which he

travels. Every line was underlined, some in green, red, yellow, all kinds of colours. But that care and meticulousness, Sir, served to ensure the quality of the presentation at the end of the day and I do not think I have heard £ better presenter. Mr. de La Bastide was the most extensive cross-examiner. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is the most decisive person about a case. He would see a point and say that this case has one point and he would murder that point. As for thoroughness, Sir, I said it is a short head between the Honourable Member and Mr. Hosein. But for research, there has been none finer than the Honourable Member.

Association with the Honourable Member in law early on, Sir, also led to our respective entries into politics in 1971 and had an interesting history. There is an island in the Grenadines called Mayreau. It is owned by the Eustace family of St. Vincent. The former Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Errol Barrow, the former Minister of Tourism, Mr. Peter Morgan, and some friends from Antigua called Fuller tried to get this island from the Eustace family. I put it no higher than tried to get this island from the Eustace family for \$120 000. They had several defendants.

I worked with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on behalf of one section of the family. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South represented another section of the family and arrayed against us were Mr. Hosein and Sylvester Q.C. of Kingstown. That case lasted 14 days before Mr. Justice Neville Peterkin and my job as a junior was to be flying to Trinidad and St. Vincent every two or three days to get photocopies of Australia, New Zealand and kinds of cases that were not available in Barbados, bearing in mind that the law faculty had not yet been really established. It has been only going for a few months in 1970 and I used to cany this information and I used to meet at night and go through it, Sir, and go to court the next day. It was during these two weeks, Sir, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, as the then Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, made a plea to the Honourable Member and myself to run in the elections of 1971. It was almost that he commanded us because he said, "You all have to run." The decision for us to run in 1971 was made in the Cobble Stone Inn Hotel in St. Vincent toward the end of 1970 in the middle of the Mayreau case.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: It is true, Sir. All of us love politics that badly. He only took advantage of us then. Now, I am not quite sure that we were ready for it then, Sir. But we, threw in our lot, not that any one of us needed much persuasion in those days, Sir, and ever since then, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and myself, Sir, have been very close in politics and in law.

Sir, I prefer in this speech to look at sides of the Honourable Member that perhaps are not known to the public and highlight those aspects of his career and his character. In 1976 the Honourable Member, I am not sure if he has been given the credit, Sir, but the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto of 1976 was prepared around the dining table of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, in his house at the time in the Pine at the house called "Fan Ling". I would not call the names of all the persons who worked on that Manifesto, Sir, but many of us worked for 2-3 weeks then, getting that Manifesto prepared.

I still think that perhaps that 1976 Manifesto may well be the best Manifesto that this Party has ever produced and if you look at it, it again attests to the thoroughness of the Honourable Member. There was no aspect of the society that was not addressed in that Manifesto and I wish history to record, Sir, the Honourable Member's contribution to the production of that policy document for the 1976 election.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, yes. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is reminding me, all of us were a lot younger, full of enthusiasm, vigour, ideas and as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said, *sotto voce*, Sir, the Manifesto represents almost the culmination of a stream of ideas, or the junction of a stream of ideas from these great sources which were looked at, fetched out, thoroughly considered and then reduced into the policies that made up that document.

The Honourable Member of course, won the seat in 1971 and in 1976, following the General Elections became Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Others have spoken, Sir, of his contribution particularly as Attorney General in that period. I see that recently I think, a Mr. Ralph, a regular correspondent to the newspaper from overseas, said that he was the best Attorney General this country has had, Sir. That is true. When one considers the output from that Ministry of the Attorney General from 1976 to 1981, Sir, it was nothing short of phenomenal. That was the period when perhaps the greatest piece of social legislation was introduced in this Parliament without any constitutional rancour. I refer to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. A piece of legislation which empowered the downtrodden people in this country who had given service to plantation owners over the years and empowers them now, Sir, to themselves become part of the landed class of Barbados. But it was not only that piece of legislation. The Honourable Member's breadth of vision and his resourcefulness enabled him to bring legislation which outlawed the concept of bastardy, legislation which put on a new basis the family law of Barbados, legislation which sought to improve governance by the introduction, for

example, of the Administrative Justice Act to enhance the quality of our public law. On the commercial side, the Companies Act of 1982 is entirely due to the work of the Honourable Member and the Committee which he set up to modernise the company law of Barbados. The Land Law, the Property Act of 1979 and the other consequential legislation, the registration of titles and so on, all that was attributable to the Honourable Member. 2.30p.m.

The Honourable Member and the Government at the time used legislation to underpin social and economic development. This economy had rested for all of the years upon sugar and, by 1979, upon tourism and limited manufacturing but the economy had not been diversified into the area of offshore financial services - I prefer to call them international financial services - until the Honourable Member and the Cabinet of the day... Thankfully, we still have some members of that Cabinet in this House here today to witness this, to hear these tributes and to participate. We did not diversify into international services until a package of legislation was brought to provide the statutory underpinning for the development of the international financial services sector and the contribution of that sector which today is well over US\$100 million in the economy.

I have just skirted some of the substantial areas of legal reform that were piloted by the Honourable Member. The first time that intellectual property legislation was introduced in this House in a package way was when the Honourable Member brought the new copyright legislation and all the other features of legislation that at that time we sought to modernise the intellectual property law in Barbados.

Truly, the Honourable Member's contribution to law, for which he has been suitably honoured, has been outstanding. I suppose he will, however, be most remembered for the development of the women of Barbados. It was the Honourable Member who, as though he were on a crusade, saw to it that the status of women in Barbados was improved beyond all recognition from a status that was little better in the mid-70s than that of human chattels. It was he who set up the Commission to review the Status of Women, and his namesake, Miss Norma Forde, and other members such as Senator Patricia Symmonds produced a report of, I think, some 152 recommendations or thereabouts as a result of which the Honourable Member was able to implement a lot of legislation to ensure the betterment of the women folk of Barbados.

One should not be surprised at the quantity and quality of his output from the chambers when the Honourable Member was Attorney General because I think it is true to

say he can properly be described as a workaholic. I have been to "Fan Ling" on many occasions when he was Attorney General and seen him in bed with the television on, in his pyjamas, and a whole bed of files around him, working on files at home in bed.

It is true, Sir, he pushed his staff very hard, particularly the draftsmen, and he used to work on Saturdays to get out legislation for the people of this country. That is a fact. All of that has contributed to winning for the Honourable Member a regional and international reputation of which Barbados can be proud and of which we can be proud as a country for having produced a person of such quality and eminence.

The Honourable Members who spoke before me have addressed the international bodies of which he is a member and spoken of his statesmanship which has been recognised and I endorse all of that and concur.

As I said, he has been my mentor as a lawyer and I would only hope that some of the present lawyers would emulate the quality that he has brought to bear in his practice. Above all, I think that there can be no gainsaying that the quality that outshines all these is his absolute integrity and independence and sense of fairness and honesty. You will never hear any untoward comments about his integrity and honesty as a lawyer.

I talked about honesty because if he gave you his word that he was going to do something for you he would do it, not that he would do it as expeditiously as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. He would do it but that quality of character must have been honed on the basis of other qualities, some of which include a sound legal knowledge. There is no doubt of the profundity of his knowledge of the law in all fields. That, would have been developed at Cambridge and he worked on it throughout his legal practice.

I know that there are areas of law which he never studied as an undergraduate, areas of law which he practised with great expertise because in his practice he taught himself patent law, trademarks, conveyances, all of that. As I said that attests to his resourcefulness and love of research.

Sir, as a politician, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I think said words to the effect that he was the consummate politician. He is fortunate to have a manner, a personality and a mien that are endearing. Sir Henry Forde makes friends, has never been crude, cannot be accused of being coarse and is certainly not abrasive. On the other hand, his personality is such that even his opponents find it

difficult to be angry with him. That is not to say he was not in here in my experience the butt of some of the most vicious invectives from Members of the Democratic Labour Party. 2.40 p.m.

One episode I remember very well nearly led to fist cuffs between himself and Errol Barrow going down those very steps out there one night. But even in that kind of melee on that occasion, the Honourable Member showed a kind of restraint and self-control of which I do not think any of us would have been capable having regard to the provocation that was offered to him on that night.

I suppose that some of us may have been disappointed that he was not more ambitious. He was never seriously interested in being a Prime Minister of Barbados. It was not due to reticence but I believe it stemmed more from the fact that his own philosophy was to render service to improve the lot of people rather than consider his own personal advancement while rendering that service.

His greatest test was in 1986 after this party was badly defeated. There were just three of us who survived. We survived at a time when the party's finances were devastated also. There was a large overdraft and large election debt that we had to cope with after 1986. It was not an easy experience for the three of us to be arrayed first in the Senate and then in here against 24 others. The Honourable Member took on that challenge in his own quiet, unobtrusive style and ensured that the Barbados Labour Party as a political organisation survived the trauma of 1986 and the years following. If he had not been possessed of that kind of spirit, character and courage it is entirely possible that the Barbados Labour Party as a political organisation would have floundered in very disastrous political waters after 1986.

Those of us who survived and a few others who were constant companions in those very dark days were committed to the survival and resurgence of the Barbados Labour Party. I have no qualms about saying that the fact that we are in Government today also has to do with the fact that we survived during the period 1986 to 1991 because from a team of three in those five years we became ten in 1991 under the leadership of the Honourable Member.

I said it was a time when the finances of the party had been devastated. I think Hansard should record because in 40 years you will get a historian who did not know the Honourable Member who will distort the contribution he made. Let history record from those of us who were present at the time that out of his own pocket on a weekly basis he ensured that the wages of the Barbados Labour Party

employees were paid, that debts were gradually reduced or liquidated. None of us will ever know how much he personally contributed. I wish it to be recorded, however, that it was a substantial amount over that period particularly 1986 to 1991. I am talking about thousands of dollars. Now, that is the spirit, however, of which the Labour Party people are proud.

Sir, I feel great pride today in being able to congratulate the Honourable Member on his knighthood, to be able to chronicle just a smattering of the contribution that he has made to public life and the development of law in Barbados. He was obviously destined for great things. He has had an outstanding career even as early as a school boy.

I did not meet him then but I remember him coming to the Lodge School to debate as a Sixth Former against the Sixth Form of the Lodge School. I was a lot younger than he. I would have been a junior boy at the time, Sir, but there was himself and a fellow called Hopkinson. They came to debate at Lodge School and I think they won the debate, but I remembered him then.

The thing was he had this name that was catchy, and this name that was associated with the great maker of motorcars. As a school boy when you heard Henry Forde you were looking to see who this Henry Forde is because you think he is the big man with the motorcars. I remembered him as early as that, Sir, but as I said, I had never met him not until that morning in 1959 in the yard.

Sir, I have learned also about constituency organisation from the Honourable Member. I have been careful to watch how he has nurtured - indeed, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South I think used the ideal language earlier. He said that he cultivated Christ Church West and I think that is true. I have learnt how to organise a constituency and how to look after a constituency, I believe, from the Honourable Member. A lot of us can emulate his flair for organisation, a flair for organisation, again, that rests upon detail leaving nothing to chance and dealing with every facet of the constituency.

I wish, Sir, to close my applauding the Honourable Member and being thankful that the Lord has spared him to be with us to acknowledge these tributes and to have given us the opportunity to have worked closely with him to the point where we can speak with a great deal of sincerity and conviction about the man we are now proud, not only to call our friend, but in future to refer to as Sir Henry, an accolade richly deserved, Sir.

I am much obliged to Your Honour.
2.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: Mr. Speaker, at the private level I have already offered my very sincere congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on his recent award of the knighthood but I am glad for this opportunity to add a public voice to the well merited tributes already paid to the Honourable Member.

I knew the Honourable Member for Christ Church West long before I met him. In 1952 when I went to Boys' Foundation School he had preceded me there by many years and had left an enduring reputation. He was a hard working, bright student who was determined to go far and who was clearly headed to reach great heights. I believe that that reputation still endures at Foundation. As a matter of public record he left Foundation and went to Harrison College and won a Barbados scholarship and went on to Cambridge and came back to Barbados and entered the legal profession and even though he went on to distinguish himself in the commercial and civil field, it is very interesting that the Barbadian public first became aware of Henry Forde as a lawyer mostly because of an outstanding and well-known criminal case, the case of Carl Yarde and Daphne King. I believe it is reported a case that was ultimately to reach the Privy Council and it came back to be heard again and is reported, I believe, in Volume 2 of the *West Indian Report*. Mr. Forde, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West then worked with the late Mr. Carmichael on behalf of Carl Yarde who was freed by the Federal Court of Appeal.

In law, as was said by the learned Attorney General, he has distinguished himself as a hardworking careful pleader and a student of the law, not only here in Barbados but wherever I go across the Eastern Caribbean he is remembered as a very distinguished advocate indeed and many of his friends ask me as, the first thing, how is the Honourable Member. They enquire of him and they enquire of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I feel that I am walking in a very distinguished tradition when I have to practise in the islands and they ask me of these two very distinguished colleagues of mine.

The Honourable Attorney General rightly emphasised his stellar performance as Attorney General and his outstanding contribution as a law reformer in several areas, commercial law, family law, land law, administrative law and so on. In fact, in those days, Mr. Speaker, I used to complain on the Floor of this House of 'legislative indigestion'. I felt that we were being asked to consume new legislation as a Parliament and to deal with it at a pace which was leading to indigestion, faster than we could really be expected to digest it and that was really meant to be a tribute, it was not meant to be critical, it was meant to be a tribute to the pace and the volume of far-reaching legislative measures which he introduced. In fact, some of the

measures that we are now dealing with in this Parliament were indicated as long ago when the Honourable Member was Attorney General of this country.

Mr. Speaker, in the field of law he has made an outstanding contribution, where he has always conducted himself in an exemplary manner, a point that must be emphasised because we hear so much of the shady lawyer, so much of the lawyer who cannot be trusted. There are isolated cases but great play is made in the Press of them. It must be said that the Honourable Member has always conducted himself with integrity and in that respect he has been a shining example in the profession. I would say, Mr. Speaker that he has emerged as one of the outstanding statesman of the law and in that field alone he would have been deserving of the high honour which is being bestowed on him.

It is not only in the field of law that he has made a large contribution because we know of his contribution in the field of politics. When I first ran in 1971 we were then never too sure looking back whether we were fortunately or unfortunately described as the aces. Great fun was to be made of that description. I think that I was called ace of clubs and that club was used to beat me for many years throughout the campaign, we were called the four aces. It used to be said, Mr. Speaker, that by then 1971 the Honourable Member had distinguished himself in this country as an exciting and outstanding public speaker.

It is not often remembered that he was the outstanding speaker in the 1971/1976 Election. I thought that he was by far the most outstanding speaker. I was not in Barbados for the 1966 Election but I would not be surprised if he would not find a place in the hearts of those who followed up the campaign in 1966 because he was as early as 1964 an outstanding speaker on the platform of the under 40s. That was really his golden period on the public platform and in those days among other things apart from championing the federal cause in 1964 as an under 40, in the 1971/1976 campaigns he was a great champion of women's rights and it is a matter of record that when he got his opportunity as Attorney General as law reformer he was to do much to advance the cause of women and if today he still enjoys the reputation of being the darling of the girls as it were, we all know how well merited that is and the foundation on which the reputation rests.

I want to say, Sir, that as a colleague in politics working with him as a member of the Labour Party team he was always to be helpful, reliable and considerate as a colleague in politics and I respect him for that and I wish to applaud him in that regard.

It has not been his fortune to lead this country as Prime Minister but it must be remembered that only one in

every four leaders on average of a political party win that top prize; not every man that heads the political party will become Prime Minister. I saw some figures recently which suggest only one in four, but there was no question that he was well equipped to do the job if indeed it was to have been his fortune to have won that top prize.

It is not often remember, Mr. Speaker, that he was also a champion of a lot of community causes and that he was very supportive in particular of the Dorcas League for many, many years and that is a thing that is not often remembered as we speak of his many contributions.

I want to say that as a constituency MP he has been most fortunate in the quality of the personnel of his constituency group. But that notwithstanding his own effort, his own attention to detail, his own readiness to respond, his own compassionate disposition has ensured that he has etched out for himself an almost invincible standing and reputation in the constituency of Christ Church West. 3.00p.m.

So that without repeating much of what has been said and which I fully endorse I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has been most exemplary in his many pursuits. In the field of public life and law he has made a large and distinguished contribution and he is very deserving of the highest award which this country can bestow at present on its citizens.

I wish to congratulate him yet again and hope that he will be around for many, many years to enjoy this very richly deserved honour. Thank you.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution. First of all I need to recognise that I speak as a Christ Church person and I am happy to see that one of the good sons of the soil, one born as I understand it in Water Street, educated at the Christ Church Boys School and also at the Foundation School should be bestowed this honour today.

I need to note too, Sir, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West sat at my father's feet and I believe he would want me to also give him his congratulations. I know, Sir, that he grew up in the same village as my mother and if she were alive she would be happy to know that he is receiving this honour today.

Sir, I congratulate him because I think he represents the image of one who has fought to lift himself from a state of poverty on to the highest heights. He is the kind of image that youngsters should want to have where they can see that

even though you are born of humble birth there is an opportunity for you to rise in this community once you put your mind to it, once you dedicate yourself and once you put in a lot of hard work and once you respect yourself.

Sir, as I listened to the tributes being paid to him today I noted a number of key words with which I identify and which to me represent what a lot of us in that parish happen to stand for because each parish, you might recognise, has its own character. The Philippines you would know are very parochial but in Christ Church there is a certain character, a character which says that we are a people who are independent, who believe that we should, through hard work and devotion, rise to higher heights and not just be mendicant.

As you go through those areas you will find that people work very hard whether it be in an humble profession such as fishing or carpentry or vending or whether it be in the more noted professions such as teaching, law, medicine. They always work very hard to excel in whatever they try to do and so today, Sir, Sir Henry stands as a model for that kind of person.

I also note too, Sir, that he was spoken of as having a sense of fairness, a man who championed a cause not one who just hung on to a bandwagon but one who believed that he should be at the forefront of a cause. He championed federalism even when others knew at that time that even though federalism was a good thing the reality was that the independent route as a country was necessary.

He championed the cause of federalism because he believed in it, Sir. He had a belief and he dared to follow that belief. He dared to go on a platform to let others know about that belief.

Sir, he championed the cause of women and that was not unexpected because they tell me that a lot of women found that he was attractive to them. This is what they told me at that time but I know even in more modern times I think it is still true but I know that he spends a lot of his time at home looking after his beautiful wife and his two children.

I heard too, Sir, and I concur that he was interested in service and I noted those words down. He wanted to render service to improve the lots of persons and not to look after his own personal advancement and this is a good quality to admire where people enter public life to give service and not just to get a reward. I think those are the kinds of qualities we admire and we have proven time and time again that the models that we have seen have been those who have worked in that capacity, those who have worked for service.

We are told that he did not want to be Prime Minister and he was not ambitious and this speaks to the fact that even though he had ability he never went out there with the viciousness in order to become the prime leader. And, Sir, that is instructive because I remember a speech in which the Honourable Member spoke something about political cannibalism or something of that sort and I believe, Sir, he was dealing with the reality of politics from his experience and perhaps from the experience of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and perhaps also Christ Church East. He was dealing with the reality that in politics one has to live with that as an experience. It so happens, Sir, that unfortunately some of the greatest sufferers of this kind of political cannibalism seems to have come from this simple and humble part of Barbados which I represent with great gusto.

So it is part of political life, Sir, and I am happy to see that the Honourable Member has been resilient and is therefore rightfully deserving of this honour because of his resilience and this is the point that I am making. 3.10p.m.

I am making the point, Sir, that the Honourable Member has been a great servant of Christ Church and I am happy to see that he is getting this honour. I am speaking from the depths of my heart, despite all of what he has said, not what I have said, I am just quoting what he has said and I am just dealing with reality. I am proud of him because of his resilience, because of the things he has achieved and I make no bones about it and those who are not from Christ Church who would wish to have me shut up, must know that I will speak on behalf of Christ Church whenever I have to do so because this is where I grew up and this is the place I know about.

People speak of their experiences, their law practices and whom they worked with and all that, so I will speak of my experience and I would connect with the Honourable Member for Christ Church West with the greatest sincerity with which I speak. I would not want to regurgitate what he did as a lawyer and all of that. I am looking at his qualities as a man. I sincerely honour the Honourable Member today because he comes from a great tradition. He has shown the kind of person that we can emulate and I believe he should be a shining light to others in that area.

I wish, Sir, that we could also in future, honour similar sons of the soil of Christ Church. I will be brief on that such as one gentleman who has served forty years building up his church, an indigenous church in Barbados. Any black man who can build an indigenous church from scratch, I believe one has to look at honouring him too and I speak of Archbishop Granville Williams whose church celebrated forty years in October.

Asides.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I am speaking about Christ Church and I am saying that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is in that tradition and I believe in the future, other people will also follow in that tradition and I am also in that context going to be speaking, Sir, not only about that man but only one other person, a lady, and I am sure that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will agree with me that the President of the Barbados Independent Secondary Schools Association, a former President of the Christ Church Community Council and the Chairperson of the Business and Professional Women's Association who has worked in a private school for 50 years, the founder of the Unique High School, whose school is in Dayrell's Road, the area of Christ Church West, who lived in Gall Hill and now resides in Pegwell will also follow that tradition in the future.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please, please.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I am finished with that point. I was just explaining the point to show that...

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Notices went out in the newspaper. The place for these recommendations coming from the Honourable Member would have been to the relevant authority way back earlier in this year, and every single year it is done.

It is invidious that on this occasion the Honourable Member would indulge in this crap and this quite inappropriate behaviour. It is invidious.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for these people to be honoured this year.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please, I am not going to entertain any more of that. Move on.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: I am finished with that point. I have finished making the point, so I am on to another point. I am saying, Sir, that in keeping with this tradition the calm manner of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, with this inclination to revenge, discrimination and viciousness, his search for independence, is characteristic of a search of many in this area and is to be greatly admired. I believe that in an age when some small groups of youths are doing things that we do not like that the personality of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is to be admired. Therefore, I think it is appropriate that for him to be given a Knighthood sends a message to these youngsters that you can be mild mannered and still make it to the greatest heights in this country.

I therefore, Sir, join with all the other Members of this House in congratulating the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on his great achievement and I hope in future, to do the same on behalf of other good sons and daughters of the soil not only of Barbados but of Christ Church.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I count it as a great honour and a privilege to be able to join other Members of this Parliament to salute the honour and dignity which has been conferred on the Member for Christ Church West.

Other Members have already spoken glowingly of his scholarship, his qualities as a Representative, his passion for jurisprudence, his skills as an advocate and his reputation at home and abroad in various aspects of public affairs. But I, Sir, would want to commend him to this House as well as one very fine man and one very fine gentleman who in all of his conduct in public, represented and portrayed only the very best qualities of a gentleman in the finest sense in which that word has to be understood.

Sir, he exemplified excellence and only the very highest quality of integrity in all of his various affairs. If there was one attribute that separates him, Sir, was that quality of a gentleman. When history comes to be written, Mr. Speaker, I rather suspect that he will come mostly to be remembered for what some may even say is his greatest failing. That is, he will come to be remembered for the tremendous role that he played in preserving the Barbadian democracy and the Barbadian political stability in the manner in which he discharged his responsibilities, not as a Prime Minister, but as a Leader of the Opposition. He was called to discharge those responsibilities at a time when the lopsided nature of an electoral result could have in and of itself put a stress on the democratic process and the manner in which he led the Barbados Labour Party then, his aptitude, his commitment to service was responsible for the resurrection of the party's fortunes and with the resurrection of the party's fortunes the preservation of the multiparty democracy as we have come to know it. 3.20p.m.

I would always in my short contribution want to say to Members of this House that the honour and the dignity that have been conferred on the Member for Christ Church West are intended to be conferred on him for his contributions and I do feel that it is also intended to be a recognition of the worth of Members of this Parliament.

This House of Assembly, Sir, contains in my judgment the largest group of Barbadian citizens who have been poorly recognised or not at all recognised for their massive contributions to national life and national development, not

only in relation to politics but in relation to their profession. There are persons in this House who have not received any national honours but who have served with excellence for over 20 years and have while serving the people through this Parliament also shown pre-eminence in their chosen fields. It is a very grave omission that Members of Parliament from time to time feel that their contributions should not be recognised in their own time.

I would want to say, Sir, that I am pleased not only for the Member for Christ Church West but for Parliament, that we can recognise Members of Parliament whose contribution stands out as a shining light.

I want to say that I will not only salute his contribution as Leader of the Opposition because I knew what he did for the Barbados Labour Party and for Barbados, but I am thankful for the contribution that he yet continues to make in his role as Chairman of the National Insurance Board. He is quietly presiding over a comprehensive transformation of that institution to make it for the future a viable force in securing the sustainable livelihood of Barbadians and he is doing it with his quiet dignity but in a firm and innovative way.

I have pressed the Member for Christ Church South into at least 7 important national engagements. The Member for Christ Church West while not being a Member of Cabinet is also being pressed into engagements as is the Member for St. Joseph and the Member for St. George South.

I want to say that there is one large national task that I have asked of the Member for Christ Church West after he has finished the work on the Constitution Review Commission. I am very serious that we must commit ourselves to working towards bringing about a political union in the region but that we should not proceed on it in a haphazard way because it failed before.

We must always remember that the Federation was talked of and planned for in Jamaica in 1947 but it failed in Jamaica in 1959 when the people said no to Federation in a referendum. I feel that if we are to approach it, the people must be involved in it and that all aspects of any political union have to engage the best minds and be comprehensively planned, and I have invited the Member for Christ Church West to head up a small task force which I am putting together that would prepare for the outline or a blueprint for a federal constitution and a federal government that we may be able to put to the people as something that is realistic and that can work.

I am pleased, Sir, that he has agreed to accept this as the one great last challenge that I think will come to cement

his place forever in the future not only of Barbados politics but the future of the Caribbean and I feel that it is a challenge that will inspire him because I have not in my time known of a greater Caribbean person or federalist than the member for Christ Church West.

I am not going to speak at length in this debate, just to say that I am honoured this evening to be part of this occasion when this House salutes one of its best, and the House also, I do feel, can bask in his reflected glory.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that I have been able to get back from where I was to be able to participate in this well deserved tribute which is being paid on this occasion to a member of this Honourable House who has demonstrated by his attitude and capacities that he deserves the high honour that has been bestowed upon him. I have no difficulty whatsoever to join with those who have risen in this House to praise and congratulate the Honourable Member.

Mr.. Speaker, perhaps one of the most thankless jobs which are voluntarily sought after is that of a politician. I have to say probably because I am sure there is somebody who would be able to demonstrate that the only people who really know about that are the politicians themselves, because we are a very strange breed who although we are constantly assailed nonetheless do not wish to be outpointed when it comes to assailing each other.

This occasion is unique only in the sense that it allows us to drop the "weapon of assault" and to speak freely without fear of contradiction about one of our own who has been successful. I share a unique relationship with the Honourable Member. We are the only two persons in this House, who have been punished by the law because we have successfully won time after time; and we share that with a certain amount of glee these days. We now speak about it with a certain dispassion because after so many years and especially - in his case he has a second crop - where the children no longer have to rely upon us to survive, as it were, and we do not spend too much time worrying about these matters.

We share this view from time to time. I think I need to put it on record, now that the Honourable Member can be described as a gallant and honourable knight that I believe he would wish to honour an obligation long outstanding between us. I put it on record because it gives him an opportunity to make a declaration once and for all that I can look forward to his honouring a certain commitment which circumstances do not require me to give details on, unless, of course, the Honourable Member challenges me and feels that I should be more specific in terms of Your Honour.

Many years ago, as we were going from this Chamber to the Upper House - I think it was the first election to this House in 1976 and, indeed, we were grouped together as Your Honour knows that when you are going into the Senate Chamber they group us by seniority and we were grouped together and he dared to make a prediction which I was able to refute and I have been proved correct over the years.

The Honourable Member acknowledges I was correct but he will not seal it as he properly should. Now that he is a knight I hold him before this House to do that which he must do.

Truly, Mr. Speaker, it is a joy to offer congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I have encountered him always as a political foe. I have encountered him as a worthy opponent on the Other Side but I do not think that I could honestly say that I ever encountered him as an enemy.

I know that it is politically correct not to make that statement because we are supposed to be political enemies but, in truth, after we have served in this House for as long as we have served we come to realise that not every foe is an enemy and certainly your political opponents are not necessarily your political enemies. 3.30p.m.

I have had the honour and privilege of fighting the Honourable Member on the Floor of this House. We have had many battles and we have walked away from those battles with political blood. But I wish to say for the record that at the end of each of those battles I have found the Honourable Member to be gracious whether in defeat or in honour of winning.

I have found the Honourable Member to be gracious and I have found that he has always had something which is very important to the fabric of this country if the society is to survive in a simple word, Sir, "courtesy". I have found in Barbados over the years that the one ingredient that has allowed for civilised behaviour is courtesy.

I know there are people who believe that it is old fashioned to be courteous but I also know that it hardly takes any effort to do the right thing. It certainly does not take more effort to do the right thing than to do the wrong thing. Courtesy is something which one learned or at least, used to learn. When one came to this House one understood because the elders who were here taught us that you are to be as brutal, as vicious and as devastating as possible when you are dealing with the opponent's position if that position is in direct contravention of your own position or your party's position. You know that it is your duty, nothing short of duty to annihilate the other side's position.

However, one of the things which one learnt in the early days, certainly when I came here, was that there was an unfailing courtesy between Honourable Members. I have always found the Honourable Member, in all the years that I have been here, even after the bitterest debate, to be unfailingly courteous. I wish to put it on the record and to say on this day from this place that I have appreciated that courtesy and I hope that the Honourable Member has found reciprocity on this side, at least from this Honourable Member.

Mr. Speaker, we have inherited our parliamentary system from the British. It is popular to deride many of the conventions and some of the systems which have come from the British. But in truth, they have had 800 years to examine and practise their craft and it really can do us no harm if we choose at the level of parliamentary democracy to observe them and to borrow from them. We ourselves in this House have carved over our own 350 years conventions and systems which have been and should properly be emulated by other peoples in other places. I recall when we had our 350th anniversary celebration those who came to us were high in praise of how we were able in a relatively short time of Independence to demonstrate that we had learnt the art of Government very well.

Mr. Speaker, when the history of this country is written, perhaps long after all of us have departed these Chambers and even this scene, one of the things that will stand Barbados in great stead is the fact that we have been able, since Independence, in spite of the doubt which many people had whether we could sustain independence, we have been able to have a peaceful change of Government and to have another peaceful change of Government, and hopefully not long from now, even a second peaceful change of Government. But the point is, Sir, our history will show that we were able to make that transition between Government and Opposition with nary a scene of physical discontent. That is as nice a phrase as I can use to demonstrate the absence of violence. And that is a tribute to not only the system that we inherited but the people who have made that system work. I think the Honourable Member can lay claim to being part of the people who have made that system work.

Those of us who have had the opportunity and indeed the privilege of representing people for as long a time as we both have, can lay claim to having participated in making our system work and I think the Honourable Member can feel satisfied that the honour which he has received has come, for whatever reason, especially because he has helped to make the system work. This system is very important, not only to us, but to those who would come.

I would wish to feel, Sir, that 25 years from now, some Honourable Member standing in his place in this said very

Chamber would be able to speak about some other Honourable Member in the terms in which I now speak. I would hope that my colleagues who have come relatively recently, on either side, will be able to stand up and speak with the same ease and comfort, and with the veracity with which I speak about some other colleague who has been as successful as my honourable friend.

I think, Sir, that notwithstanding the relationship in the Parliament, my admiration of the Honourable Member extends to an area of my own life and I think his life which I find absolutely fascinating: the area of the law. There are a number of people who have wondered aloud at my inability to earn large sums of money; there are a number of people who simply do not understand and cannot understand that one can have an affinity with and love for a discipline that potentially is capable of producing great reward but which has an even higher reward. It is difficult to explain it to anyone who does not understand it but there is a higher reward, a psychic reward which cannot be quantified, which one gets from examination of a particular area of life. Thus I find the discipline of law fascinating. I have an affinity with it. I make no bones about that.

The Honourable Member and I as well as the present Attorney General of Barbados, have exchanged views that move beyond the political divide. We have exchanged these views at the level of the law. In that respect I would like to put on record my own appreciation of the times and moments we have spent discussing the finer points, or at least the finer points as perceived by us of the law and its relationship to life in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has not always found favour with me in his own pronouncements from time to time. But he did find such favour in regard to his willingness at the time to bring to Barbados what was then and probably still is the most advanced form of administrative law codified anywhere in the world - that is a point which needs to be re-emphasized and underscored, that the Administrative Justice Act in Barbados is the most advanced of its kind anywhere - that debate when the Bill was introduced is a debate which will go down in the history of this Parliament as probably the best debate we have ever had. It was a debate in which we discussed not only the principles and framework within which that law had been crafted, but the vision which a proper implementation of that law would have for the growth and development of the people of this country. 3.40p.m.

I think that despite and perhaps along with all of the things which would have been said of the Honourable Member today, his willingness and capacity and ability to

bring that law to fruition is one of the highlights of his career that I am sure that he takes pleasure in.

Mr. Speaker, it is good for the Honourable Member to hear some of the good things said about him while he is alive and is able to hear them. He only can determine which of them will be the rhetoric which is expected at this time and which of them will touch him because of the sincerity of the thought if not the elegance of the expression, but for a politician to have functioned and practised long enough to be so regaled and yet to be able to hear what is being said is a tribute that will be higher than anything that can be said from this Floor today.

I did not have the privilege of sharing like his colleagues over there with him in his early days. I have heard of some of his exploits and I believe the bringers of that kind of information so I know that he has had so far a full and complete experience in various fields but he still is able to benefit from advice and those of us who are willing to give advice will suggest to him that he has reached the stage where he should take it easier if he is to fulfil his full potential over the next 25 years. I think that the 'hurly burly' of this political life should already have visited itself upon him and he must not feel any extra or unnecessary obligation to continue taking the night dew, haranguing, abuse and all of those things and no one, certainly not on this side, will have any quarrel if the Honourable Member decides that the time has come for him to take it even easier.

Mr. Speaker, it really is a joy to participate in this debate because the Honourable Member has had an opportunity to function at every level of politics in the society. His performance irrespective of one's political position has stood the test of time and for me, and I declare an interest here, Sir, for me the test of a politician's ability at its highest is the capacity and ability to be re-elected by his or her constituents. A politician who is not elected is just another voice. A politician who is re-elected a second or third time is a person who may have been lucky but when a politician has been re-elected a fourth or a fifth time it seems to suggest that maybe he or she is doing what he or she should be doing.

I think the Honourable Member falls into that category. There are some other Members in here who like the Honourable Member fall into that category and it seems therefore that those who fall into that category can truthfully say that they have served and have been serving their people correctly. In the end, as Your Honour has been discovering, it is how one feels about one's fellow citizens that determines what kind of quality one will bring to representation. I feel very strongly that if you put the individual at the centre of your contemplation and

consideration and if you perceive the individual as the most important entity in the whole business of representation then you cannot, Sir, fail because in the final analysis it is how those whom we ask to allow us to represent them feel about us, how they perceive us and how they relate to us which determine whether they will give us a chance or not.

The Honourable Member for the City made a point earlier. I think she led off this debate and she made a point with which I agree, and you know, Sir, in debate I hardly am able ever to acknowledge that I agree with the Honourable Member but on this day and for this reason I can say that I agree with her that they are some young people who have demonstrated an interest in becoming representatives in Parliament but those people do not seem to understand that it is a question of service. It is not, contrary to popular belief, getting a seat in the House of Assembly. Getting a seat in the House of Assembly is a consequence, it is a consequence, Mr. Speaker, and I have said before on the Floor of this House that many of the people who criticise politicians, envy them because they have been able to achieve something that is very difficult to achieve, getting your peers to accept you as the epitome of their aspirations, getting your peers to agree that they wish you to represent them. That is not an arrogant statement - as someone once said that it was a demonstration of arrogance. It is a truth. It is a verity and in this place we can speak verities at will because that is what this place is about and you cannot get into the House of Assembly and serve as long as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has served if you do not regard people as central to your understanding of public life.

If you believe that people are there for your use, I submit to any young Honourable Member who wants to be in public life, that they are going down the wrong road. They have to perceive people as being important in themselves and they must strive to wish to serve those people. I am glad that such service as has been provided by the Honourable Member has been recognised and recognised in a tangible way, not tangible to the extent that he is going to be a beneficiary of any largesse from the public purse but tangible in the sense that he will be distinguished from the rest.

To be a Knight of St. Andrew is a very important distinction, Mr. Speaker. And to have been chosen as one of the few Knights of St. Andrew is an important distinction which I am sure that the Honourable Member will cherish.

One of the considerations that has come to me is that he is now presiding over a constitutional change which might in fact require him as Chairman to recommend that the Order be reconsidered or even eliminated. I am not suggesting that I have any image that that is what will

happen but the point I am making is that there are some people who will wonder about this sort of thing. I have a very unfortunate history of saying things in this House which when they are reported get misrepresented. Let me make the point that the Queen herself is at the moment in receipt of a report from her household from a committee that has been established for the purpose in which the Queen herself is recommending the abolition of certain of the current honours in the United Kingdom. There has been recommended a set of people's honours which will see one of the orders being eliminated and that has only indicated that even the United Kingdom with their 800 years of history are in fact doing the research and changing as time goes by.

It has been suggested that the death of Lady Diana has changed forever the monarchy. But it is not unlikely that it will make recommendations on this whole question and if it does it would be curious if the Honourable Member had to make a recommendation which would result in his being the last of a dying breed. But given the situation with the Honourable Member for the City, I do not think that that recommendation will come because I have no doubt that the Honourable Member for the City will become eligible for consideration of some honour. 3.50p.m.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am not saying which one, Mr. Speaker. Before I sit down there is one other point I want to make because we do not get to speak on this issue very often.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that there ought to be an order for Prime Ministers. I believe that anyone who serves as Prime Minister of Barbados for a period in excess of, let us say, 3 months, that at the end of the three months - I am not talking about somebody who acts as Prime Minister. I am saying that a person who serves as Prime Minister, at the moment after a certain time becomes a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council and as a result is entitled to a position in the line. Most people in Barbados are unaware that "Right Honourable" is higher than "Knight Bachelor". And it is not automatic. It is membership of the Queen's Privy Council. The point I am making, however, is that in the United Kingdom on a Government's demitting office there is a gift that is given to the Ministers. It is a gift of a position in the Honours List by the Queen on the recommendation of the outgoing Prime Minister. In fact the recent honours in the United Kingdom were John Major's recommendations. The first honours by the present Prime Minister of Britain will come on stream shortly.

Now there is no mystery. There is no hiding back of the arm. People know for example that Elton John is going to be made a Knight. They know that now and it is clear that people who have done a certain kind of service may expect

a certain kind of reward. What I am saying is that in the same way in the United Kingdom such reward goes to all Ministers, that is, all Secretaries of State, I think that in Barbados we should establish a convention by which every Prime Minister who demits office in this country would be entitled to benefit from a specific Order.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Well, if they went out in disgrace they obviously would not be entitled to anything, but disgrace would have to be defined. What constitutes disgrace would be not what you or I say is disgrace. What would constitute disgrace would be if they went out in a particular way. The point I am making is that it ought not to be at the whim and fancy of a particular Prime Minister to make a recommendation about another Prime Minister.

I feel that if you have, by whatever method ...

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: A Prime Minister, when he arrives at the office of Prime Minister, by whatever route, once he serves in that office he or she represents the country and should not leave office thereafter with some doubt as to whether he or she is going to be at the mercies and whims and fancies of outrageous fortune.

In terms of honouring our people and setting a standard for emulation and to give the young people in the community something to look up to, I think, without prejudice to what happens to Ministers, that all Prime Ministers should be treated in a special way once they have demitted office. That is my view. It has been my view for a very long time. It is not a view that I have been able to put into practice because for obvious reasons I can only have views on these matters, but I think it is something that the present Prime Minister has an opportunity to put in place, not necessarily for himself, a situation where there can be no doubt. Everybody should know then that on becoming Prime Minister that is what is likely to happen. Let me tell you: when a British Minister sacrifices to become a Minister that is only a temporary sacrifice. There is not one of them who leaves office who is not immediately gathered up by the private sector and other various methodologies and given the reward which had been postponed while they functioned as Ministers.

We in the Caribbean and other developing countries say how we are carrying on the English system but the truth is there is not a Minister who has served in the British Government who could be described as penurious whereas we can point with impunity to large numbers of Ministers who have served in Barbados who at the end of their day ended up, in the words of the present Prime Minister "dragging". It is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

There are people who are imported into Barbados - temporary Barbadians, who speak disparagingly about the ministerial system in Barbados; but our record does not show, because the Press in this country does not highlight some of these things. What happens to Ministers in Britain when they go out. One who has got the least attractive offer is getting £125 000 a year. He is a director of one company. He is getting £72 000 a year as Director of another company. In other words it is a natural reward for a person who serves as a Minister in Britain to be asked to serve on a Board of one or other entity in Britain which ensures that he or she is properly taken care of.

Margaret Thatcher is not going to die at any time like Ministers we have known in Barbados or even, let me say, like Harold Wilson. The Honourable Member has helped me out there, lest I give the wrong impression.

A system has been set up to ensure that Dame Margaret Thatcher will get a substantial amount of money per annum. She has a trust arrangement by which when she speaks in the United States she gets as much as \$50 000 per speech. That is not generally known and I do not know why they do not put these things in the information highway. She gets as much as \$50 000 per speech and therefore she is unlikely to ever have a problem of starvation or poverty or any of those things.

All I am saying is, that Prime Ministers of Barbados ought not to be left wondering what is going to happen to them after they have been Prime Ministers. I say it now because I am not addressing the case of an individual. I am saying that this country has a duty to ensure that in the same way we can honour people and speak of them we should put in place a situation that honours the country through the way it treats those who sit in certain offices.

I believe that in spite of the fact that I will attack the present Prime Minister mercilessly on policies which he might implement or not implement, none the less he is the Prime Minister of Barbados and when he leaves office he ought not to be wondering what is likely to happen to him. There should be a clear indication of what is going to happen in terms of how he is regarded. The Honourable Member is reminding me to say something about the Presiding Officer in this House. There was a time in this country and one needs only to look back at the record where you will see that any Speaker who served for two consecutive terms became a Knight. Let the record so show 4.00 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I make no recommendation, Sir. But there is no question. As a matter of fact, Sir, when I first came back to Barbados that was my understanding and I think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would be able to confirm that Speakers in the past who managed to do two consecutive terms were almost automatically Knighted.

Suddenly when we started getting Speakers of a certain hue, this tradition seemed somehow to have disappeared. Mr. Speaker, that is one of the problems we have in this country. We will agree to almost any tradition until we come to applying it across the board fairly and we suddenly realise that it might apply to Dick as well as it applies to Harry. Then we suddenly become very *ad hominem*. We suddenly discover that so and so are not entitled, so and so do not deserve, so and so do not belong and, Mr. Speaker, we go into the recesses of the darkest aspects of our character to ensure that there is a calumny of desecration of the character of that particular individual. Before long they are finding ways and means to ensure that he or she is not properly honoured.

We have two Knights in this House now, Sir. Two Knights in living colour, if you would pardon the expression. I do not think that anyone has ever doubted that they would become Knights, but by their very service in this House of Assembly would have been sufficient. Were they here fifty years ago they would have been Knights long before they became Knights.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at length because this opportunity does not present itself often and therefore, Sir, I do not regret if I have taken time to say what I think on this issue. I am satisfied, Sir, that the Knight of St. Andrew is a proper way to signal approval of a person's contribution and I am satisfied that the Knight of St. Andrew for Christ Church West has properly deserved the Knighthood that has been bestowed upon him. So I can speak with impunity in this House from my position of long experience and offer him congratulations. I say to him, he has signalled that he has to vacate his place temporarily, but I can say to him from this vantage point, we rejoice with you on this occasion.

Thank you very much.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Resolution at hand and to offer congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I first became aware of the potential of the Honourable Member to make an outstanding national contribution when many years ago, when as a small boy I had the privilege to hear him when he and other persons of similar age went around Barbados as part of a group of persons known as the "Under Forties".

He and others in the group addressed a number of important national concerns including such matters as the movement toward federation, the movement toward independence and a range of matters to do with the economy of this country. Even as a small child, I was impressed with the manner in which he delivered what he had to say with his extremely great eloquence and his analytical mind.

In time, Mr. Speaker, I became aware of another feature of his way when, many years ago a man called Mr. Gooding Edghill who had an organisation called the Dorcas League was able to attract the involvement of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West to this group. I remember that at Christmas time, in particular, the Dorcas League would single out those persons in the communities who were disadvantaged and render assistance to them. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West became a patron of this group and showed quite clearly that he had a compassionate attitude to the poor, that he was a man of great humanity and that he would offer himself as a person rendering sacrifice in the interest of those whom he sought to serve.

Mr. Speaker, in the period 1976 to 1981 the Honourable Member of Christ Church West, as you know, held the portfolios of Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the first Minister of Foreign Affairs. He brought a new approach to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and rather than just run the Ministry as a place which coordinated the establishment of relations with foreign countries, and then did a lot of routine matters, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West brought an economic component to foreign relations.

I vividly recall the late Sir James Tudor saying that he was astounded at the quality of leadership that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West offered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in those days where, going beyond the routine matters that Foreign Affairs Ministries would normally pursue, the Honourable Member was able to push Barbados to the point where Barbados could benefit from its position in the international community.

As Attorney General the Honourable Member has been an outstanding reformer. Before 1979, Mr. Speaker the Property Law of Barbados was in a totally unsatisfactory state and many other areas of law cried out for reform. Through the Property Act 1979, the Honourable Member was able not only to modernise and reform the law but was able to play a role enacting modern day Property Law which has become the envy of many parts of the world. A close examination of the Property Act, Mr. Speaker, would reveal that a lot of clear thinking went into the Act and that a number of provisions which were passed in 1979 were

passed with the aim to ensuring that property relations in this country would be presented in a way where persons who own property and who dealt in the disposition of property had better rules than any time before.

Further evidence of the very clear and lucid intellect of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West can be found in the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. Not only did this Act, a revolutionary piece of legislation passed by this Honourable Party of which I am a Member, seek to ensure that persons who slaved on plantations and laboured on plantations for little, get hold of property, but a very interesting provision in the Act, Mr. Speaker, deserves some comment. 4.10p.m.

The Act has a provision where in the case where a landlord refuses to cooperate with the tenants when the tenant was interested in buying the land then the Registrar of the Court could compel a sale to wrench power virtually from the landlord and act in the interest of the tenant. I was impressed with that particular provision because it shows that here we had a forward looking Attorney General, a reformer, who had foresight and this specific provision by which the Registrar can permit tenants to have property even in the absence of cooperation or consent from the landlord is evidence of very far reaching style and very forward looking and clear intellect of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

He also modified important chunks of commercial law as well as family law and he was able to do for a significant number of persons in Barbados what has not been done for them. This significant number of people I have in contemplation, Mr. Speaker, are our females.

For years, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was of the view that our ladies in Barbados did not have equal rights and the same privileges in law as our males and having set up a commission to investigate the plight and condition of women he set out to ensure that where it mattered most our women would be able to advance and would be able to assert themselves more and would not be mere persons out there exploited by a system that gave men greater privileges than the women.

I recall vividly, too, Mr. Speaker, the 1971 general elections, one of the important things about which was that the late member for St. John was at a political peak and in 1971 elections did not see a decimation of the Barbados Labour Party but saw a great defeat for the party in a situation where the Democratic Labour Party won 18 seats and the Barbados Labour Party won 6.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was able, even at the height of the powers of Errol Barrow, to bring in Christ Church West. He won it by less than 300 votes. He won it by 159 votes but since then he has so entrenched himself in Christ Church West that there has been no election since then where the margin of victory that he achieved was ever so close.

Time and time again since 1971 he has been able to win. I remember in 1986 there was a huge swing against our great party where we really lost very badly - he won by in excess of 1000 votes. That is testimony, Mr. Speaker, to the affection with which he is held by his constituents in Christ Church West and it is a reflection of the quality representation that he has been providing to them over time.

Even now, Mr. Speaker, when I pass through there, here are signals that the people there are still reaching out to him and that they do not have within their contemplation to want to retire him. This is obviously, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West just said, some proof that once one becomes established in a constituency for a long period of time that it is the evaluation that constituents have of the quality representation they have been getting.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is a man with wide ranging interests. He has on his own studied enormous amounts of company law, commercial law, banking law, insurance law and, in fact, is one of the most avid readers, not only an avid reader but a very brisk reader as well, who can be seen reading with a highlighter and marking the more salient points of what he is reading.

There are times, I am sure, when he is so much into reading that he only sleeps 3 or 4 hours certain nights working and reading and proving himself extremely resourceful. He is a person, Mr. Speaker, also known for following international issues. He is exceptionally issue competent on a range of matters political, economic and social that not only affect the CARICOM region but the wider world.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I myself was reading about some economic events in Korea and Japan yesterday and I told myself that at the earliest possible opportunity I am going to pass it to him and let him have a look at some predictions about where the world economy could head, based on the decline of Korea and based on some financial chaos in the Japanese capital markets, Japanese banks and Japanese insurance companies. I said to myself that I am going to pass this literature to my good friend, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, to have a look.

He has served this country and this region with distinction. As is well known, he is indeed a legal luminary who has distinguished himself with a type of stamina, that is not easily surpassed. He has been associated with a number of community projects, held in high regard in the schools and in his constituency Christ Church West, and he is a person about whom one can be honest and sincere when one says that he is a perfect gentleman in every respect.

In this realm of politics, Mr. Speaker, people make very interesting assessments of politicians. There is a Caribbean politician about whom people say that you can give him a favourable assessment as a politician but not a favourable assessment as a person; but in the context of this tribute and these congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West so consistent is he that the positive things that can be said of him as a politician can also be said of him as a person.

At the personal level the Honourable Member is humane, caring, a good listener, a person who is always interested in making sure that he can render selfless assistance to people.

In the context, therefore, of what I have had to say I have no hesitation whatever in associating myself with the remarks made by other Honourable Members and to supporting the Resolution which we have before us. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply obliged to you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and I must say from the outset and in the usual way I will be honest and frank about what I have to say. My opinion about this person that we speak of today is quite different from when I first came to this Assembly. I must assure him that what happened in 1977 does not carry a problem between himself and me anymore. It has been spoken and very well highlighted today but I see it from a different point of view.

One of the interesting points about the person we speak of today is that he is quite prepared to tell you, don't care what side of the House you are from, when he thinks you are going wrong and I think it is rather interesting that in politics when people get to a particular age they tend to develop this statesmanlike style. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of them in this Assembly and sometimes I say to my younger comrades like myself that there are certain people that you listen to and you do not attack because sometimes I get the impression that you can listen to them and you can get wisdom and I must admit the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is one of those people that do not suffer from my loose cannons like the Honourable Member for

St. Thomas would speak of and that is a good acknowledgment on his part because I believe he has the interest of young politicians at heart and he is of the age that when he says something to you because of your upbringing you are quite prepared to listen to him. I say to more politicians who were in here longer that that is the style that they should adopt and it should go very far.

I also look forward to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West to take his statesmanship one step further because I have been watching a pattern and you know, Sir, I speak from my heart and nobody stops me from speaking from my heart and I know that he is much obliged to hear this. There are people who have contributed a lot to this country and yet they seem not to be able to achieve that award that if they were of a different profession I sometimes get the impression they would have been handed.

I am only drawing reference to one name, Sir, and that is the name of Oliver Hinds. This is in no way to take away the glory from Sir Henry Forde.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is improper for you all to interrupt me. 4.20 p.m.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I look forward to the Honourable Member in his statesmanlike way, and I know he would, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would do, to make sure that people like them have the glory in this land because it is from examples of those people along with people like the Honourable Member for Christ Church West that the example will be set for the young people.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will agree with me that we have to lay the right foundation to make sure that the young ones that are coming who cannot reach a particular level but who can produce at a particular level can be given that high acclaim.

There was mention by some Honourable Member today that lawyers have the tendency of getting them. It did not come from this Side, Sir, but I do not think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, knowing how he has worked over the years, would necessarily have to be

a lawyer to attain that high award., I am saying to this assembly that the statesmanlike gentleman would do everything in his power to make sure that some day that award goes to some other people who have fought hard for it. We as a country are going far. We are privileged to have two in this Assembly.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will not be crossed and be dragged into any political disorder.

Aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the Honourable Member for the City that when she interrupts me she is interrupting a contribution on behalf of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West so nothing she says affects me because you know my course is straight and I will not be misguided or be misled by anything said coming from that quarter because I speak of no award for that direction. I speak for an award for people who have worked hard in this country, who toiled hard in this country and who deserve the highest honour.

The problem in this country is, Sir, that when you do not call certain names in this country people are offended. I am not here to speak on behalf of everybody. I am in here to speak on the behalf of those people who sent me here to speak on their behalf and who are deserving of my speaking on their behalf so I am not offended when I do not speak on the behalf of certain people that want me to speak on their behalf and they are angry with me.

I say, Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is deserving of the award and I am privileged to say it today. But later on in life I am not sure that I am prepared to say it on behalf of others, but the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is deserving of his, Sir.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and to say that I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who is now known as Sir Henry, will go down in history as one of the finest statesmen of this century. I believe that all of the sentiments that were spoken today I would like to support.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I first met the Honourable Member for Christ Church West around 1971

when listening to a Barbados Labour Party election campaign of that year. I have always found him to be an excellent speaker, one whom you could have learned tremendously from, an Honourable Member who always looked after the interest of the common man.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of Honourable Members have spoken today in terms of honesty and his fair play but I believe that the Honourable Member is indeed a very kind person indeed. I have worked with him during the years 1991-1993 as the Opposition Leader and I have found him to be a person who is easy to get on with, a person who liked the young people, an Honourable Member who liked persons to achieve.

During those years, Mr. Speaker, I have learnt a lot from the Honourable Member. First of all I have learnt that one has to be able to take tremendous notes in terms of writing the facts. I have learnt that from the Honourable Member. I have seen in him a person who is dedicated to any task in which he has put himself to undertake.

I also learnt during those years, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member is indeed a person whom one can emulate in terms of learning from what he has to say. As the representative for Christ Church West, his contribution to Christ Church West and to Barbados in particular is one which we need to look at. I think he has taught many members of this Chamber how a constituency branch can be organised. I have tried in my own way to follow some of his examples although they are very hard to follow.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has been the one person that young politicians can emulate. In his fair play, in the way he speaks, in the way he addresses the Chair I believe that as young members of Parliament we can learn a lot from this Honourable Member.

In 1991 running for the first time for the constituency of St. George North, the Honourable Member said to me then that I had a good chance to win. He said there were certain things that needed to be done. I believe that during those years there were four of us, four members who lost and we lost during those years marginally. I think the four of us lost by less than 1 000 votes and that is what separated the Honourable Member from being the Prime Minister of this country in 1991 and that would have saved the country, I believe, the embarrassment which we went through between the years 1991 and 1994.

I did put most of what he suggested to me in 1991 in the 1994 election and I am here today as testimony to prove

that the Honourable Member was indeed right. I believe that the Honourable Member is not only a hardworking man, a fair man, but he is an honest person, a common person whom the common man can approach. He is very approachable. That is why the common person in Barbados always speaks about the Honourable Member for Christ Church West as the politician or the Member of Parliament that they respect the most. 4.30 p.m.

I believe also, Mr. Speaker that as a lawyer he has contributed tremendously to his profession but I believe it is in representing the people of the constituency of Christ Church West that he stands out the most. History will reflect that this is where his greatest contribution was made. All Barbados should be proud of this gentleman who came from humble beginnings to achieve the knighthood of St. Andrew. The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which he spearheaded in 1980 to my mind was the greatest piece of social legislation to come to this House since the adult suffrage.

The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, Mr. Speaker, gave humble Barbadians the opportunity to purchase their land, land on which they had lived all their lives, at 10 cents a square foot. This he helped to pass through this Chamber and I believe that this will stand out as the piece of legislation that Barbadians will remember him by. I know that Honourable Members have spoken about his commitment to law reform, law and order and the commitment to see justice among women and children and so on. These are important, but the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to my mind is that legislation that stands out above all the others because it helped to enfranchise economically all those Barbadians who now can boast of owning something in this country.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and behalf of the constituency of St. George North to wish the Honourable Member all the best. I am sure that he will go on and on because he is still young at heart and he is still a person whose ability has remained with him. He is a person who you could talk before and as I have said before, he is prepared to guide young parliamentarians and to guide them in the right way. I would like to see that the Honourable Member continues to be in the Honourable Parliament as long as he sees fit.

Thank you.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the opportunity to pay respect to a comrade and a colleague and I think that at the outset I said that today was a very special day for Parliament in the sense that we come to pay respect to one of our own who has been elevated to one of

the highest status positions in our society and I think that his elevation coupled with the elevation of the other Knight of Christ Church South is a good thing for Parliament in the sense that we as parliamentarians have taken a significant beating over the year more so than any other profession that you could conceivably think about in Barbados and it is an honour for this Parliament today to be debating the elevation of Sir Henry.

I have had the good fortune of having been in this Parliament with him on two sessions of this Parliament and there are many experiences that I have had with him that I can bring back and I have many fond memories of his expertise and his talent and encouragement etc. in this Parliament. I have to confess, however, that on many occasions he did ruffle the hair on my head with some of his arguments.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: In a real sense. I have to confess that at sometimes we parted in terms of our views on issues and topics but at the end of the day what came through with him was a person who was fighting for justice and in his own mind what was right. I think that if we can characterise his entire being as a person, Sir Henry as he is now known, stands for what is basically right in the society. He represents what he perceives to be the right side of every issue. I think that is an important aspect of our development because at the end of the day we can take partisan positions on every conceivable issue but it is those persons who behave like statesmen and who rise to be statesmen in this society that sometimes salvage very difficult situations.

I think that this House is fortunate that we have a number of such persons on both sides of the House and one by one they are being recognised and being elevated and I sincerely hope that that is a process that will continue because it is very difficult for persons who are involved in political life and when you reflect and think that persons have been in this Assembly for almost 30 years considering the difficulties that you encounter in politics on a daily basis, you really must salute and congratulate those persons who have been able to withstand all of the difficulties and survive to the extent that they are still around to give of their talents, time and their guidance to this Honourable House.

This is not an occasion that I would want to repeat a lot of what has been said. I think highly of Sir Henry, the Honourable Knight from Christ Church West, he is a person that all of us respect for his talent and for his advice that he has rendered to us from time to time. As the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said, even though he is not on the same side as you from time to time he would come and say that

you have done a good speech or that you should not have gone down that particular road. That is the fatherly type of advice that has been rendered to many Members of Parliament and I certainly am happy to have been a personal friend of his entire family and I certainly would like to wish him and Lady Forde all of the best of health as they venture into their new life and we on this Side certainly will continue to recognise that he is an important aspect of the society and hope that he will continue to give of his talents and service to this country.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I consider it my duty to pay a very brief tribute to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Even though to be quite frank I do not think that I can add much more to the tributes which have already gone before. I want to say, Sir, that this Knighthood of St. Andrew has been fittingly bestowed on Sir Henry Forde, a man who has done a lot for this country. It is a deserving honour that transcends party politics and I will be bold enough to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not think that there will be many people in Barbados who would say that this has not been a fitting and deserving award.

It is no secret and you have heard it already, Mr. Speaker, that Sir Henry has worked with the churches, the schools with the Dorcas League, the Lions Club, youth groups, all of those organisations to deliver social and community services. He is indeed, Mr. Speaker, a true statesman, unassuming and modest. I think those are qualities which everyone will say are characteristic of Sir Henry, a man of tremendous humility. 4.40 p.m.

When you speak to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West he listens and I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that I am able to tell when someone is listening to me in a very genuine way or when they are only listening for listening sake. I must say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is one person who always listens to you in a very genuine manner. You cannot ask all of the lawyers who are practising and I am sure they will all say that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is one of the few lawyers who always returns your call. That is one thing I can say.

Lawyers are very, very busy but he always finds time to return your calls. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, he always has time, too for young attorneys and I know that he has been an inspiration to a lot of young lawyers out there and a lot of young politicians. Indeed, I believe he has been an inspiration to a lot of them.

In court, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member does not seek to destroy or hurt you even when he has you

cornered and that is one of the hallmarks too of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Indeed he might even assist you during the same matter that you are doing against him as to how to proceed or what particular point to make because he is one of those people who thinks that law is not a matter of winning or losing, law is a matter of what is just and what is fair and even though it may sound strange to someone not practising that is a hallmark of many lawyers out there, that it is what is fair at the end of the day, not so much who wins or who loses.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the reason that he does something like this is because of his love for people. Twenty-seven years in Parliament is a long time and I believe that to the Honourable Member they have been 27 fairly expensive years. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the monetary reward which he would have received from being a Parliamentarian is really and truly nothing to him as compared with the satisfaction which he would have obtained from serving the people of Christ Church West.

He must be considered to be one of the legal icons of Barbados. He has been very forward thinking, Mr. Speaker, not only in relation to the empowerment of women and to the supporting legislation and quite a few members have touched on this already but the empowerment of the masses as well when it comes, Mr. Speaker, to things like the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act as well as to corporate legislation as well as constitutional reform and constitutional law.

Perhaps without even knowing it Barbados almost daily is using his ideas, his views and his opinions which have been put down for us to refer to from time to time and regardless of what people would say of politicians, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West stands out as striking and fitting testimony to the fact that a politician can be clean, upright, dependable and honest. I join with others who have congratulated him and on behalf of the people of St. Philip North I give him congratulations.

Mr. SPEAKER: My congratulations to the Honourable Member from Christ Church West on behalf of my family, myself and my constituency. I would just like to briefly say that I have known and admired the Honourable Member for many years. I have always found him to be a man of real honesty and integrity who at all times has been very free and willing to give of advice, always striving of course to inspire all of us to greater heights.

I believe I can say that the Honourable Member has been a shining example of what a politician should be like.

His care, dedication and commitment to his constituents, to our people and I would say also to the national cause, are qualities that we should all try to emulate.

As was stated earlier by another Honourable Member, the Honourable Member has been exemplary in all his endeavours. In spite of the successes he has always remained a pleasant, approachable gentleman or should I say genteel man.

I am sure you will all agree with me that he has never lost the common touch, always showing that empathy for the common man. I congratulate the Honourable Member on his award.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Your Honour and other Members have been most generous in the encomiums and the words which you have uttered about the honour which has been conferred on me. I am indeed most grateful to you all. I felt distinctly nervous if I may put it that way on the day on which His Excellency bestowed the honour and I felt deeply conscious of the fact that it placed on me an additional responsibility to live up to the high standards which are demanded of those of us who enter public life.

As I said, it is a great honour. It is one that I did not set out to achieve when I first entered this Parliament some 27 years ago. Indeed the first meeting of Parliament I attended, Mr. Speaker, was on the 14th October, 1971 and as I look back at Hansard I realise that many of those who were in the House of Assembly with me then, many of them have passed to the great beyond. There are some who still remain and in this House with me is one person who entered on the same day as I did this House although not the Parliament, that is the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South and I think it is significant that we share adjoining constituencies.

I recall as well that on that first day, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said, we were coupled together and the Speaker claimed on our behalf, freedom of expression. I was a neophyte, Sir, very green, very enthusiastic. In fact sometimes on reflection a little bit too over enthusiastic and I had a baptism of fire on my very first day in the House. It was an innocuous motion. In fact the Senate had sent down to the House its greetings and salutations and had asked, through the Speaker, that we should engage the Senate in a cricket match at another place and the then Right Honourable Member for St. John, the Prime Minister, moved a Resolution that the House be represented by the Opposition. 4.50 p.m.

The then Right Honourable Member for St. John, the Prime Minister moved the Resolution that the House be

represented by the Opposition and unfortunately, I rose to his aid at that time and I said that he was in a frivolous mood and one ought to take these things more graciously. It was not too long before he replied to me, Sir, he said to me that he was on a point of order and I could not speak without knowing the rules of the House. So, I realised then that I better keep quiet, Sir.

But another point came up and again I rose and he rose on a point of order and I rose objecting, and he then said, Sir, "y^o" cannot get up objecting while I am on a point of order. I will have to teach you the rules as well. The Honourable Member has only recently come in here, much to his own surprise, like Rip Van Winkle, he woke up after a sleep of forty years."

It was indeed a baptism of fire, Sir, and when I caught myself I was able to say to him that I know that throughout my five years in this House, no matter how much it may displease the Honourable Member and indeed he did his best to make sure that I was not in this House, but the people of Christ Church West have seen to it that I am in here as a thorn in his side and, Sir, I was floored.

The Right Honourable Member got up and he said "on a point of elucidation." I did not know what was a point of elucidation then. He said "I wonder what makes the Honourable Member feels so strongly that he will be in here for five years, maybe the Leader of the Opposition, but I do not see him lasting for five months."

Asides.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: That was my introduction to Parliament, Sir. Somehow the words rang in my ears because I realised then, that new Members have to learn the rules of the House. New Members also have to recognise that if we wish to stay in the House, we have to serve our constituents faithfully and new Members have to realise that political battles must not end on a field of personal disagreement and personal animosity at all.

Indeed I have been fortunate, as I said, in the House to have been guided by people on both sides of the House. The Honourable Member, for then I am not sure which constituency he represented at the time, but he is now of St. Michael West, the late Captain George Fergusson, was one of those Members with the Honourable Sir Edwy Talma who guided me. So too did the Honourable Mr. Burton Hinds and the Honourable Mr. Lionel Craig were persons on my side who guided me through those first few days in the House. What I realised is that partisan political barriers did not prevent other Members from giving me, as a young Member, the assistance that was necessary to understand Parliament and its functions.

So, Sir, I have been very fortunate in my parliamentary life in being well advised and assisted from both sides of the House by several persons and I am indeed grateful to them. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South have spoken of the influence which both Members had on my final decision to enter partisan political life in Barbados. I have never regretted that decision, but I have always welcomed their influence and encouragement and their support through the years, as I have welcomed the support of my party colleagues and Members. Some of whom have spoken here, some of whom have phoned me and perhaps in the six elections that I have faced, I can look back and say that I have always had the total support of the party with me and of my party colleagues in helping me to win those elections.

The first was in many respects the hardest. That was a hard fought election. I was lucky to survive and won by 159 votes. But, if I may be of any assistance to aspiring politicians I will say that the day after the election I was out in the field thanking persons and particularly those that I was told had not voted for me. But, I was thanking them for voting and exercising their parliamentary right and hoping that I will meet with their favour. So, I learnt that lesson quite early and I think for subsequent elections, I really found that people would note whether they voted for me or not, what one has achieved in Parliament.

Perhaps the toughest time that I have faced in parliamentary life, Mr. Speaker, Sir, has been the period between 1986 and 1991. It is true that the party was very heavily defeated. We were at our lowest ebb. We were financially crushed. We were crushed numerically in terms of numbers and it was a very difficult period for rebuilding the political party to which I belong. But, once again there was encouragement. There was encouragement from the many foot soldiers who must share this honour. There was encouragement from the country at large across partisan lines and that is one of the remarkable things about political life in Barbados that although people like to win and one party wins the Government and has the power and the authority to govern for the next five years, even within the winning party there are those who also wish to see a strong democracy maintained in our country.

Therefore I found, during the period 1986-1991 that in that very tough period for the Barbados Labour Party there was support within the party and across the party for us. I am indeed grateful to my colleagues, particularly those who were in Parliament and in the Senate and in the House and all those who gave so generously of their time in helping us to get over that tough period and to rebuild and to continue to contribute to a democracy that is founded as ours is on the Westminster style.

It did take, Sir, some toll on my health and therefore at the end of the day I realised that I was becoming a much older man. I am not sure I became a much wiser man, but I certainly became a much older man. One of the hardest things we have to do in politics is to recognise that there are certain times that we have to take decisions about ourselves and where we go in life and that is why I am so pleased to see that there are so many younger people who have come to the fore of leadership. I am sure the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and myself, and I believe some other Honourable Members in this House look back with satisfaction when we recognise that within our respective parties and certainly within my party there are several people with the strength, the ability and the aptitude to take the party and to take the country forward. 5.00 p.m.

I feel that I can say that Barbados will remain an outstanding democracy because we have been able to produce that number of people as I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South says in our country who have the ability to govern Barbados successfully.

Now, Sir, let me say that I agree with all those who feel as I do that persons in active politics and public life should be honoured. I know that this does not always go down well with some members of the public who believe that politicians should make the sacrifice but should never have the glory. I do not share that view. I believe that we in politics make a tremendous sacrifice in service and we do it not for glory but there is no reason why our contribution should not be recognised.

I listened very carefully to those who have spoken on both sides of the House and to some of the comments of other members who were sitting and speaking but I believe we would be on the right track if we looked at a system of honours where people who have given long service and at the end of their days and deserving service, are recognised.

I can think of Honourable Members in this Parliament and I can think of those who have left this Parliament who are highly deserving, as highly deserving as I am and, in some cases, more deserving than I am of this high honour; but the system is such that we have as politicians to convince the public and then convince ourselves that we have to revamp our system in order to give people who are deserving what is their due.

Sir, may I leave one thought with us here? One of my concerns - in fact, I wish to speak of this concern because it is one that bothers me. I do not think that Barbados could have reached the stage that we have reached if we had not evolved a system of political parties and those people who

have had the benefit, particularly the financial and other benefit, and rewards, and who at the same time seek to pull down the politicians and the political parties should reflect that, were it not for the courage and the determination and the sacrifice of the politicians and those of us who come into political life, the standard of living and the reputation and the quality of life of Barbados today would be so much different. That is why I strongly support the view that politicians should be properly paid. The politician has children to maintain. He and she have families to look after. They, also, at the end of the day have to live out their lives after they have reached the end of their working lives and I have seen politicians of both sides of this House most painfully who have had to die in poverty and in penury. It would not be appropriate for me to call names or to say what steps we have had to take to help those persons but I would like to disabuse the minds of some members of the public that those of us in here and those who have gone before have been raiding treasuries, putting money in our pockets, storing up all sorts of wealth and what not, when the truth and the experience I have had over my 27 years is that almost all of the people who have held ministerial office and who have come into this Parliament have really lived modest lives and are people who have not enriched themselves at the expense of the public of Barbados.

So I plead for us while we have to put forward our particular parties' points of view and fight as strongly as we can for the philosophy and the politics and the principles in which we believe that we should also at the same time show the leadership to make the public understand that the standard of democracy, the type of democracy and the quality of democracy which we have depends in a large measure on the type of politicians whom we elect and how we treat them while they are in public life.

I believe that we should find ways of strengthening the political parties. I had a slogan which I still follow which is when you are in Government, prepare for being in Opposition, and when you are in Opposition, prepare for being in Government. It does not do a Government any good to treat an Opposition unkindly. Whether it is in the dispensation of the public monies for constituencies, whether it is the recognition of their value and their worth, that, in my view, does not do a government any good to treat an Opposition badly.

Equally, it is a mistaken view of any Opposition which believes that once they have moved from being the Opposition to Government they will visit on the now Opposition and the former Government what was visited on them. I think that we have to get that out of our political system in our political life. This country is too small. This country is too important for us to trivialise the political process.

Having said that, Sir, I believe that Barbados has a strong democracy. If, in any way, I have managed to contribute to it, I feel doubly grateful to the people of Christ Church West and to the public of Barbados for giving me that opportunity to make some small contribution and perhaps I am even more grateful in a way to my real blood parents and my adopted parents, particularly my adopted mother, for having pointed out to me that service is really the hallmark of the true Christian.

If it is the greatest wisdom that I learnt from her I may put it in the words of T. S. Eliot and the greatest wisdom that we can achieve is the wisdom of humility because humility is endless and at the end of the day, Sir, whatever heights we may reach we still have to realise that we are all just a man or just a woman. We, therefore, have to be grateful to the Great Creator for giving us this opportunity.

I said a lot of things have been said about me, Sir, and I do not think that I deserve them all. I have tried. I have in some instances succeeded. In some instances I have failed. In some instances I have made errors. In some instances I have not listened to the advice that I should have taken. I hope I have not offended but if I have offended I have always tried to be big enough to apologise for that. At the end of the day, all I can say is that I have tried my best and, therefore, as long as I have strength in me, whether I am in active politics or not, I will continue to strive my best for my country.

Let me end on one note, Sir. One of the things that inspired me to come into politics was the integration of the West Indies. I believe that the first time I spoke on a platform it was with a group of young people some of whom are not here with us now. The former Honourable Philip Greaves, the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Erskine Sandiford, Sir Keith Hunte, Mr. Justice of Appeal Williams, Dr. Courtney Blackman and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. All of us spoke not then as politicians but we spoke as young West Indians who believed that the future of the Caribbean islands was in an integrated West Indian setting. The call and the goal of nationhood was for us a very strong call and a strong goal. 5.10p.m.

We were inspired by people who had gone before us, as the greats like Sir Grantley Adams and others have recognised too, Sir, because those were again the days when the Labour Party was at a low ebb. I recall the father of the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown as one of those people still holding on to the concept and dream of a West Indian nation.

As the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has said, he and I certainly believed that if there was one thing we had to fight for in politics was to ensure that the West Indies became integrated. It is a task that we have not achieved. There is still some life left in me, if my blood stream, blood line and the genes are correct, I may well live for some more years. My blood father, if he lives until December 28, this year, will be 101 and if he gets to the year 2000 he would have lived in three centuries.

I do not believe that I will ever live in three centuries, Sir, but I hope that I will live long enough that the dream which my colleagues of those days and particularly the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and I had of a united West Indies capable of standing up to the world and making our voice heard, will become a reality in our lifetime. Therefore, I am very pleased that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has that vision and carries on that vision. It is a great tradition and a great vision, and it is capable of achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by thanking all those who have contributed to making me a better man and a better person and to the achievement of this high honour. I say that it is theirs moreso than mine, my parents, my real parents, my adopted parents, my family, my teachers, my friends, my colleagues, my constituents.

Let me also end with a word on teachers because we sometimes forget the teachers. I talked of those who taught me here when I first came to the House but I could never forget those who taught me when I first went to school. My first teacher was the father of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. Therefore, when I see the Honourable Member for Christ Church East in the House, and I knew that his father taught me, it digs me somewhat, but it makes me recognise that the tradition is there. I am grateful to them too for bringing out whatever was good in me that I have been able to reach this height.

Mr. Speaker, if I have not been as consistent and as tight as I have been in speeches it is because you do not expect this in your lifetime and usually you are not around to hear it when you are gone. The former Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, Sir Frederick Smith, once in this House when he was saying something laudatory about himself, I believe the Speaker, the Honourable Burton Hinds sought to stop him from saying it. He said: "Hey, you do not want me to say something about myself now? You want me to wait until the last post is sounded. I wouldn't be there to hear it." We all found it very amusing, but he was absolutely right.

I have been lucky and fortunate to be around long enough to hear the judgment of my peers and I respect that

judgment. I believe that judgment has been given genuinely and honestly. I believe that when my peers speak in this House on matters and we exchange different points of view although we have differed, as I said, they have always been very courteous with me and very kind. I do not know a person in public life with whom I have had a personal disagreement over politics or anything else.

I wish that today it was possible for me to thank them all but, Sir, I would particularly advise the younger persons to recognise that we have a duty but when we leave the political battles realise that we are individuals and role models and that our political battles must never allow us to get to the stage that we are savaging each other as individuals. That is the last note, Sir, that I appeal to the young politicians. There are very young and, I believe, inspiring young people in this House who are in their 30s, 40s, young in the 50s, I am beyond that, people with great ability.

I think Barbadians could be proud of its politicians on both sides of the House. I believe that if we can continue to attract people of the calibre of those that we have been returning to our Parliaments and particularly to the House of Assembly with their commitment, erudition, dedication, integrity and their honesty that democracy is safe in the hands of our people.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence and that of the House that we would have the item "Papers" recommitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: If such be the will of the House, so be it.

PAPERS

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

1. The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1997.
2. The Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended December 31, 1995.
3. The Annual Report of the National Productivity Board for the year 1995-96.

4. The Guarantees under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A to the following:

- (1) Beacon Reinsurance Incorporated.
- (2) C. T. Insurance Co. Ltd.
- (3) Woodbridge Insurance Incorporated.

I further beg to lay, Sir, the following:-

5. The National Council on Substance Abuse Annual Report 1996.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

1. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency Bill, 1997

I further beg to give notice of the following: -

2. A Resolution to grant the sum of \$355 554 from the Consolidated Fund to supplement the Estimates 1997/98 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1997/98 No. 14. 5.20 p.m

PRIVATE MEMBERS NOTICES

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to appoint a Committee of this House to enquire into the law relating to the ownership of interest and land in Barbados and to make recommendations thereon in the following form:

Be it resolved that this House appoint a Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. Enquire into to existing laws, rules and regulations relating to the ownership of interest in land in Barbados by non-nationals including CARICOM nationals.
2. To enquire into existing laws relating to taxation of land owned by non-nationals.
3. To make such recommendations as the Committee think fit and to the desirability or otherwise of any amendment to the existing law.

FIRST READING OF BELLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency Bill, 1997 be read a first time.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day.

ORDER NO. 6 - THE SECOND READING OF A BILL TO AMEND THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE ACT; CAP. 12

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I am moving the second reading of this Bill and I am grateful to Honourable Members for their co-operation in facilitating the debate on this Bill.

We have tried to set out fairly expansively the purposes of the Bill, first of all to allow deletion from the register of electors the names of persons who have died or who have been absent from the country for more than five years but are not foreign service electors. Secondly to facilitate voting by election officials prior to voting day. Thirdly to increase the amount of expenditure per voter per constituency per candidate and fourthly to extend the meaning of the word companion in the election rules to allow incapacitated voters the freedom to choose a companion to vote for him or her.

Sir, this Bill is the result of proposals made to Government by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. The proposals reflect the unanimous decision of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and certainly the two major political parties are represented on that Commission. The Commission of course is a statutory body, a

constitutional Commission established under Section 41(C) of the constitution and the functions of the Commission include the registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency or any matter that appears to the Commission to be incidental to or consequential upon either shall be subject to the direction or supervision of the Commission.

Sir, what has prompted this Bill is principally the state of the electoral register in Barbados at the 31st January this year, and let me interject that the reason for bringing the Bill at this time and not delaying it until next year is that there is now one register that is published every year by the 31st January. The last register published at the 31st January this year comprised 213 728 voters; 100 928 males and 112 800 females.

An enumeration programme was carried out in July, 1996 and as a result of that enumeration, 32 187 persons could not be found or located and a number of subsequent checks were done by registered officers and indeed circulars were sent out to all 32 187 persons asking them to identify themselves. As a result of the follow up of that exercise, 4 052 persons were found but as at July 31 st this year, there is a number of 28 135 persons who still cannot be found but whose names continue to appear on the register. The Electoral and Boundaries Commission are of the view that after they have been given the power to delete the names of persons who cannot be traced that they should be able to come up with a register that contain 185 000 voters approximately.

It has been represented to the Government that when you look at the existing list it appears that between 800 and 1 100 persons per constituency cannot be located or put it another way that the numbers per constituency are swollen by 800 to 1 100 persons who cannot be accounted for.

The Commission wishes to have this power to delete and there will be some consequences of the deletion in terms of the numbers per constituency. In the third schedule to the Constitution there is a formula for determining the number of persons in each constituency. Using that formula the electorate is to be equal in all constituencies so far as is practicable on condition that the numbers do not exceed 110% or fall below 90% of the total electorate divided by the number of constituencies. 5.30 p.m.

Now, if you apply the formula after the proposed deletions of approximately 28 000 this would mean that the average constituency would be about 6 628 so you will get a minimum 5 966 using the formula after deletion and a maximum of 7 290. Fourteen constituencies are presently

within this range, St. Michael South East 5 964, St. Michael North, St. Michael West Central, Christ Church West, Christ Church West Central, Christ Church South, St. George North and South, St. John, St. Joseph, St. James North, St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Lucy. Six constituencies are above 7 290, those are Christ Church East Central, Christ Church East, St. Philip North and South, St. Thomas, St. James South. There are 8 that will be below 5 966, the City, St. Michael South, St. Michael South Central, St. Michael Central, St. Michael North, St. Michael North East, St. Michael North West, St. Michael West.

Now, in order to clean up the Register, purge the Register of these persons who cannot be accounted for, the Bill provides that there will be publication of the names once in the Gazette and twice in the Nation and the Advocate at intervals of 7 days apart. There will be a 4 week period during which anybody with information about a name proposed for deletion will have the opportunity to give that information to the Commission by the date that is specified in the notice.

If there is no representation and there is no attempt to justify why the name should not be deleted then the Commission will proceed to delete the name, That is not the end of it. Having deleted the name the Commission must then publish the list of deletions in the Gazette and again in the newspapers.

I would like to suggest, as the Attorney General, to the Commission although I am not the lawyer for the Commission, but *ex abundanti cautela* that, at the point where a person comes to submit that their name should not be deleted or a name should not be deleted, the Commission will be well advised to treat the matter in a quasi judicial manner. In other words hear the evidence, assess the evidence, do their investigation, hear all sides and make a decision.

It is a serious matter. We do not want any arbitrary deletions because you do not like the dress of somebody coming in or how they behave. Go through it properly and treat it as though it were a little hearing because you are asking people to show cause why the name should not be deleted. Therefore you have to have a form of hearing. I do not say, like you have in a court hearing, but set up a procedure where the representations can be made and the decision concluded after a full consideration of all of the facts. 5.40p.m.

Sir, that takes care of the first main part of the Bill, clause 2 of the Bill. Clause 4 of the Bill is for the next

principal object of the Bill and that is to increase and make realistic the amount of money that a candidate is entitled to spend in an election campaign. We have always related election expenses to an amount expendable in relation to a vote and there was a time when it was .50 cents per voter. Then it went to \$1 per voter, I think sometime in the 1980's, around 1983, I believe. All of us who have been involved in political campaigns know that the figures are, for the most part, unrealistic.

The proposal of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is that the amount to be spent per voter should be changed. They did not make a recommendation as to the quantity. Cabinet, however, has recommended that to be realistic we should say at least \$10 per voter.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Some person's experience, but not this fellow though. Sir, that is the second part of this Bill, clause 4. Clause 5 seeks to deal with a very important matter. The Honourable Member from St. Michael West will appreciate this. Elections are supposed to be secret. The voting or the balloting is supposed to be secret. Nobody should know and indeed nobody knows whom I vote for. I go and mark my thing and put it in the box, all of us, but there is an exception to that principle of secrecy where election officials are concerned, because as presiding officers you can find yourself in a position where you are the Presiding Officer in St. Michael South Central, but you live in St. Philip North. You should really vote in St. Philip North, but you are working on election day in St. Michael South Central. The procedure is that you give a letter saying how you intend to vote. You are not leaving to go from St. Michael South Central where you are in charge, back to St. Philip North. So you give a letter indicating how you are going to vote.

The principle of secrecy is breached to the extent that you have told somebody, albeit another election official how you are voting. The consequence of that is that many election officials have refrained from voting and you cannot blame them. All of us would have every sympathy for them, in fact. But, we all know that some people get home by, the Honourable Prime Minister came from the village, "dead heat" and became the leader. I was a little better in St. Philip North by seven. I think the Honourable Member for St. Joseph in 1976 got home by eleven or thirteen.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sometimes some of these election votes might make the difference and every vote does count.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: We want to get rid of this situation where the election official writes to the Presiding Officer at the polling station where he is registered as a voter indicating his intention to vote. That should take care of clause 5, Sir.

I will turn to the very last rule about voting by companion, Sir. Under Rules 30 and 31 of the Rules for Conduct for House of Assembly Elections which are contained in the second schedule to the Representation of the People Act, the Presiding Officer or a companion, I will give you all a true, true story about this when I am finished. Let me just give you the law first. A blind or incapacitated voter or a voter who is unable to read can have a companion or the Presiding Officer vote for that voter, but the rules define companions at the level of family, very narrowly, Sir, we think. At least the Commission thinks and we agree, because these are recommendations from the Committee.

The companion is said to be a person qualified to vote in election, for example, father, mother, sister, brother, husband, wife, son or daughter of the incapacitated voter and at least twenty-one years old. Now, we have reduced the age of majority to 18 and it is felt, Sir, that this definition is too restricted and the voter should have the freedom of choice to determine who should be a companion to vote for the voter. A lot of people are never happy with presiding officers voting for the voter and people may have greater confidence in approach when they may or may not have a family. For example, you can see an old person, who wants to vote and is incapacitated but does not have any near relative who fits in the existing definition or that they trust. But may have somebody who is not family and in whom they have utmost confidence and there really is no good reason why that person should not vote as the proxy of the incapacitated voter. We have amended the rules, Sir, appearing in the second schedule, the final clause to the Bill to take account of that situation.

I said I was going to give you a story. In the last election in St. Thomas there was an incapacitated voter who had a member of the family accompany him to the polling station. Going down in the car he was told "you are to vote for David Anthony Cathcart Simmons." He asked how many people were running. He was told two. Simmons and Pilgrim. When they got into the polling station he was presented to the Presiding Officer and said "I want so and so with me." The Presiding Officer said "you cannot have so and so with you, I will vote for you, who do you wish to vote for?". 5.50p.m.

He said, "How many people they have running?"

The companion said, "David Anthony Cathcart Simmons Joe Who."

He said, "Who?"

"David Anthony Cathcart Simmons, Joe Who."

He said, "I never heard of these two people."

He said, "David Anthony Cathcart Simmons - Joe Who. You hear them? Who are you voting for?"

He said, "Any two will do."

Sir, the Bill is a simple piece of legislation and as I said it received the unanimous support of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. I commend it to the House. As I said, there is due urgency to pass it before the end of the year so that the lists for January 31st can be published clean of the rest of the names which have served to distort the accuracy of the lists.

I wish to wind up by saying that twice in here, in 1991 and in 1994, after the elections, certainly I remember in an Estimates Debate I made the point that I have never accepted that there has been a low turn out of the electorate in Barbados. Certainly, since I have been involved in politics since 1976.

I think that it is our experience collectively that by 2 o'clock all who are going to vote have voted. The vast majority have voted and it is only then that you will get people who are coming back from work but when you have done your ground work by 2 o'clock it is all over.

Unfortunately, we have had to see the official report of the Supervisor of Elections recording figures of 60% and 58% when we know from our own experience that virtually every possible vote that we could get out on both sides has been got out. I am sure that when we clean the list for the next election you will see a completely different thing. There is voter apathy. Nobody says that there is not, but there is not voter apathy of the magnitude that the present list has distorted by these names that have been on it for years and which we have been unable to remove because the law has never been amended as we are now proposing. That distortion I think will go and we should see a truer and fairer reflection of the turnout at the appropriate time.

With those words, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would wish to speak to this. The City of Bridgetown is a constituency that in my entire experience of it - and I am the veteran of some 5 election campaigns

bearing in mind that I came in on a bye-election in 1976 and had 3 months after that to fight for my seat again in a general election - the City has never had the same list in any election campaign. It is a constituency of transients.

I have seen in my time in the City when I first came to the City of Bridgetown, Bay Street, River Road were still reasonably residential. They have all gone commercial today. A number of people from the OECS countries tend to come when they first settle in Barbados in the city. They prosper and they tend then to move into more suburban surroundings. I have perhaps the greatest number of East Indians in Barbados living in the City of Bridgetown and there is a fair turnover in that community as well so that I am really very welcoming of this and I wish to compliment the Electoral and Boundaries Commission on the work that it has done in this connection.

As the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has made the point for years the register of electorate in Barbados has been grossly distorted. When we can be told as a result of the last enumeration exercise that in every constituency somewhere in the region of 800 names cannot be found, do not know where they are to be located, which means that you cannot find them in another constituency, it rings very true in the City of Bridgetown.

For years, for instance, Sir, the register in the City will show you more people living in Mason Hall Street than Mason Hall Street can hold if it were twice as long as it is. Even that street is slowly going commercial. It is a travesty that we have had to live with as...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No. These are the names that Carmichael put on from way back in 1976.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as those who run for office we have to live with this and it is not a good thing because it not only distorts the register of electors in Barbados it distorts the election statistics which flow therefrom because it will give a false impression that you have, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has said, a low vote but, in truth and in fact, you are dealing with a large number of non-existent voters in your figures and so I very much welcome it.

I particularly welcome as well, Sir, the proposal that the one dollar should be increased to \$10. This has to do with the election expenses and the way in which they are computed. In all my 21 years in here it was a dollar per head. Most constituencies in Barbados we try to arrive at an

analysis somewhere between 7-8 000. Some are way over. Some are a little under. We have to note that what this has done over the years is to make liars and hypocrites of us all. We are expected to make a return. We are all culpable in this. We are expected to make a return based on expenses of \$1 per head. Mr Speaker, even in the days when you had to pay for your own election circulars, you had to pay to have it printed, you had to pay for the envelope and you had to pay for the stamp. Even in those days it was ludicrous. Nowadays, of course, we have free franking through the Post Office and all parties, to my knowledge, have gone to bulk purchasing of the circulars, bulk printing and that sort of thing in an effort to cut costs but even so, Mr. Speaker, \$1 per head will make a liar of all of us and I defy anybody to show me otherwise. 6.00 p.m.

Ten dollars clearly is a maximum. Nobody is saying you have to spend \$10 a head but it is a maximum which is more realistic and which will allow us to be more honest in our election return. Now, an election return, Mr. Speaker, is a very serious document. People have been disqualified from coming in here because they have failed to put in their election return in good time or in good order so it is not something which is observed in the breach. This is a very real thing. I have seen it happened in this House and I hope not to see it happen again.

I think we have to modernise and tighten our entire election procedure, and bear in mind we have new technologies coming on stream as well but, at least, we have a start in that we have tried to make the election expenses more realistic. Election expenses, Mr. Speaker, let me use the opportunity, go further than the \$1 per head. We have become sophisticated enough in Barbados that there are certain party expenses that we allow and some of those party expenses go to party political broadcasts. Mr. Speaker, we have rules and regulations which govern party political broadcasts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is December 16 in the year of Our Lord, 1997. The election is due in Barbados constitutionally in September of 1999 and we know that we have a possibility of a 90-day extension which would take it down to the first week in December 1999. I found it really quite shocking that over the past several days I am seeing party political broadcasts on the CBC television. The Regulations that we have in our legislation governing this whole question of party political advertising and broadcasts during the time of an election campaign is one thing, but it opens to argument the whole question of costs attaching to advertising and promotion in a partisan political way outside of an election campaign.

I remember the late Tom Adams used to argue this in extenso - you would recall that - as to whether things like, say, calendars handed out at Christmas and so on, whether that should not accrue to election expenses.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, No. It did not apply exclusively to the period once the writ had been issued.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned. In all countries now where there is a democracy, rules like our own rules are laid down. In fact, only last week I watched the three major parties in Jamaica on the television in a programme where the three were putting the case for their respective parties. In the United States and in the United Kingdom there are regulations governing this whole question because it is very easy for someone to buy time and you can buy time almost continuously in or out of a designated campaign period.

I hope that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission is considering all of these things. We do not wish in Barbados, as indeed they do not wish in the United Kingdom or the United States or anywhere elsewhere - where a similar democracy is practised to have a situation where the more money you have the more broadcast time you can buy.

In politics, I believe, as in life, there is no such thing as a level playing field, and I am not arguing for that but I am saying that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Barbados, particularly in the light of recent performance, and recent party political broadcasts - do not let us be in any doubt as this is a small community in which we live and everybody knows who everybody is - needs to have regulations governing this whole question of partisan political advertisement and promotion.

We see in the United States of America where it has come to a position where you have to be at least a millionaire, sometimes even a multi millionaire in order to run for the Presidency, even for the Governorship of some States. Even in State local elections that is the case.

We have seen in recent times the Vice President of the United States of America being brought to book by the Press in particular and other media as well in respect of election spending and election expenses. The media is very powerful in that country. It brought down Nixon. Do not let us forget. It was not what the planners did at Watergate that

brought down Nixon only. It was what the media did that brought down Nixon. This happened in our time. This is not anything going back to the history in the last century. This has happened in our time.

I am genuinely and deeply concerned, Sir, that the electoral process in Barbados must not be corrupted to the point where if you are able to have at your disposal hundreds and thousands of dollars so that over a five-year period continuously, or periodically or however in and out of the period of the writ being issued, that party political broadcasts, party political promotion...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Do not say you cannot blame anybody for that. We pride ourselves that we live in a democracy where anybody should be able to put themselves forward as an independent or as a member of an established political party. It is a serious matter. We have struggled to bring some measure of regulation to it in this country. In other countries there are very stringent regulations governing particularly the use of the media and more particularly the use of the television arm of the media.

Now, I have been hearing comments in Barbados. As I say, we live in a small homogeneous community, Mr. Speaker. I have been hearing comments in Barbados and I have been reading in the Press as well. I get the impression that there is some measure of discomfort with what people are seeing on the television on a nightly basis. This is coming at prime time so we know that there is a significant cost attached to it. All kinds of opinions have been offered. I have even heard opinions about the looks but those things do not bother me, I do not see those things but I have heard it suggested that there is an element of exploitation of young people in this. What we see on the television are well clothed, well dressed, people of a certain class in Barbados holding themselves out as the ideal family at a time, Xmas time, when less well endowed, less well dressed, less well fed people have not the comfort of family, first middle or last. People may snigger, Mr. Speaker, but we have to be careful that this kind of self-aggrandisement, this kind of grandstanding does not promote divisiveness in our community at a time when we least need it. 6.10p.m.

I remember seeing some years ago, Sir, a series of advertisements in the United States of America of a similar kind. They were not promoting family values, they were promoting something else but the backlash was very negative from that because what you are doing is giving an impression that that ideal family looks a certain way and behaves a certain way. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that I may be understating the case when I say that there is a concern out there in the public domain of this country particular in this season of goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must not reflect in this kind of way on family values. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is squawking over there in his seat and behaving as though it was something new and just discovered but it is as old as mankind. Barbadians are very clear on their sense of family, they are no different from people any where else in the world but we have certain traditions which belong to our sense of family in this country so people are amazed now that a new image, the new age family that we are being introduced to in Barbados now comes under the umbrella of political partisanship. Do not let us be in any doubt about it.

All that I am hoping, Sir, because it is clear to me that what I am seeing on CBC Television is breach of the licence, that is clear to me and a whole host of other people as well but I am hoping that my words are not falling on deaf ears. It is perhaps not a bad thing if it is going to happen that it is happening at this time so that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will have time to assess this form of party political broadcast and will look to see ways in which it can enhance the present regulations governing party political broadcasts and particularly those on radio and TV.

I think that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission should be looking at best practices here in this region and outside of this region. Do not let us trifle with something which is very important in Barbados particularly at this time. We enjoy a fine reputation, Sir, for political stability, for free and fair elections and for the practice of human rights. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West spoke of it earlier today. We enjoy a certain place in the Human Development Index of the UNDP. These things do not come overnight, Mr. Speaker, Sir but it is possible to compromise them and put them in jeopardy overnight. These things are difficult and long to put in place but very easy to destroy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Minister will convey to the Chair and members of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, a disquiet and a concern about the whole question of not only this question of the dollar but the whole gamut of issues which belong under the heading of election expenses.

I would not hope to see in my time that only people with a certain depth of pocket and a certain size of bank account could go to the electorate. Do not let us fool ourselves about the power of technology and it is becoming more powerful and invasive. It is alright for people to be snug and to talk about what may affect them or what may not affect them but we have a responsibility to the future, it is not only for today, and I hope that what I am seeing here by way of amendment is only the beginning of a series of amendments or perhaps an entire review of this whole question of representation of the people and particularly the

electoral process which is an essential component of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said I welcome these changes and look forward to more modernising of the process and anything to strengthen the electoral process. Anything which would strengthen political stability and the parliamentary democracy that we have will get my support. But when I see these straws blowing in the wind and contemplate the potential to divide and the potential to disqualify that process I feel constrained to speak out and so on this occasion, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have spoken. I thank you, Sir. 6.20 p.m.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I believe that members on this Side, other than some concerns that may be raised later, have no major difficulties with the proposals contained in this amendment to the Representation of the People Act. From as far back as December last year we pointed out our concerns about the fact that 35 000 electors on the list could not be found and of course the Government pooh poohed those concerns and acted as if that was a ludicrous stance for us to take but we felt then and we feel now that the list needs to be accurate.

It needs to be cleaned up and if these amendments will assist in truly identifying the number of persons entitled to vote in Barbados and those who are alive, those who have been in Barbados resident for the qualifying period, those who are not in prison or otherwise disqualified, then this is a useful amendment. I am glad that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission saw the wisdom of the Democratic Labour Party position and did not dismiss lightly, as others did, the suggestion that you cannot be talking about free and fair elections in Barbados where you have a list as substantially impure as the list which we had going into the St. Michael North West by-election, going into the last election and previous elections. We welcome this particular amendment because we think that it will achieve its goal.

Honourable Members on that Side have to remember though that Parliament already had a Joint Select Committee in relation to matters like this. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas was on it.

We made amendments to the legislation, the constitution, governing the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and those were sensible amendments. It is not the Election and Boundaries Commission that makes any regulations in Barbados nor do they make laws. Therefore anybody who seems to suggest that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission can dictate to this Parliament what position it adopts in relation to laws or regulations is talking nonsense.

This Parliament has the right to determine how elections are conducted, the kind of legislation that is in place and this Parliament at the end of the day will determine whether this legislation is appropriate or not. We may act on the advice of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission or we may go beyond that advice. I am not waiting for any gratuitous advice from the Honourable Member for the City because months ago the Democratic Labour Party put suggestions on the table to the Government in relation to -

- (a) the financing of political parties;
- (b) the question of financing election advertising, and
- (c) a matter which was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central the question of the publication of opinion polls in the midst of an election.

But we were asked to defer those issues. You see when the shoe starts to burn you, you want to start talking but when we tried to talk about them you asked us to defer them so that you could forge ahead gallantly and put in place arrangements that you wanted to push at that time. Now the shoe is burning you. I do not know what is causing it, there must be some reason why the Honourable Member is upset.

I watch television every night. I have not seen any political broadcast on television. This is not an election period and the Electoral and Boundaries Commission has no power in Barbados to govern advertising or television period outside of an election time. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, two Caribbean legal luminaries so described today and I agree, would tell the Honourable Member for the City who may not fall into that category, that there are decisions in the Caribbean, one in Belize, one in Trinidad, one recently in Antigua, one in The Bahamas which govern the question of the right of access of opposition parliamentarians and others.

There was a case in Barbados with the group "Madd" in which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was their attorney where they sought publication on the broadcast of some material which they were paying for. So the Honourable Member, if she wishes to go and suggest to this House that it goes against the grain of Barbados, as an enlightened democracy, that it goes against the grain and the decisions throughout the Commonwealth in the Commonwealth Caribbean of the right of people to have their views heard and broadcast, then she is entitled to do that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we want to have a debate at some point about family values I welcome it. I have never

moralised on such issues. I do not require the Honourable Member for the City to accept my perspectives and I have never sought to accept hers, God forbid, Mr. Speaker, Sir. So the Honourable Member for the City will not moralise to me either.

I admire and I want to shower praise on my parliamentary representative, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North who had the courage recently to point out that there were a number of men in Barbados who were showing greater concern about the importance of the family. In a very good address and I did say so to him at that Seminar on domestic violence recently, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North had the courage to point out that those efforts, limited though they may be, should be praised and I commend you for that because I felt you were sincere and honest in your judgement.

Now the Honourable Member for the City is obviously upset that it is not her that is on television every night with her international voice speaking from the U.N. or Cuba ...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: .. or Sherbourne Centre with her half cut glasses and a flower in her pocket, poised and elegantly delivering a speech. That upsets her because I am not in competition with the Honourable Member either on my values or in relation to the issue of politics.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is entitled to bring a broadcast from a political meeting of the Barbados Labour Party outside of news time, a 15-minute broadcast and it was not paid for a meeting in St. Michael East. That was carried. Nobody objected because we are not getting into that.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. Last Saturday night I watched 15 minutes of news dedicated to the Democratic Labour Party. They did not pay for that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. That is no point of order.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The point is, it was newsworthy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has not asked for any special dispensation. The Democratic Labour Party has not purchased any advertisements. If you wish to find out the source of that, that is your affair. When you had the Jamboree last year down on the pasture in Brandons I never asked where you got the \$200 000 from to pay Krosfyah, to pay for the stage and those things. We did

not ask. The big Jambo'ree where the young man got killed regrettably. We did not ask where the money came from. The Democratic Labour Party has not launched any campaign at this stage which requires any financing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us get back to the point. We called for laws in relation to the financing of political parties. When the Barbados Labour Party, including the Honourable Member for the City, is ready to discuss that issue in an environment conducive to that discussion we would discuss it. We have called for an amendment to the law such that political parties in Barbados would not have to pay for advertisements, the limited number of advertisements which must be carried at election time. The only way we can start to deal with the problems of financing political parties is if we reduce the demands. I watched that debate between the three political leaders in Jamaica the other night and one of the points that Prime Minister Patterson made is a point I have heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central make. It is a point that we have made, it is that the media in this country sits back and folds its arms and rakes in hundreds of thousands of dollars every election time. All of us pay out hundreds of thousands to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). 6.30 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am saying quite the contrary. I am saying that that demand to raise finance to fund those political advertisements could be removed if we come up with a formula where the state will finance a limited number of advertisements for all political contenders in an election. We wanted to discuss that, but we asked to discuss it and the Honourable Member for the City herself asked to put that on the back burner for now and we did so.

We are ready to put it on the front burner and if this debate provides the opportunity, let us set up a joint committee of Parliament, of the Senate and the House and sit down and start to hammer out some of these issues now. I want the Honourable Members to understand that while we are talking, by the time Direct TV and Multi Choice is finished with Barbados, nobody is going to be watching CBC anyway. So if we want to restore some balance and keep a captive audience, we are also going to have to consider that. Let us not fool ourselves. Other countries like Trinidad...

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Maybe the news, you are right about that. But when you look at other territories in

the Caribbean, people do not even know. I was in St. Lucia the other day and I met St. Lucians who did not even know that there was St. Lucian news, because there is so much offered to read.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for the City wanted that post, could not get it. She goes up to Miami to find out where people shop.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I do not travel at that level. I say your values and mine are obviously different. But you said you do not care about such things like those. Those things do not bother you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want a serious debate on these issues. The speech by the Honourable Member for the City only serves to highlight precisely some of the concerns even though the Honourable Member may be misguided which we want to bring to the table. We feel strongly too and I want the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, the Attorney General, to be aware of this that I still feel strongly that the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the act undertaken by the Commission and its Officers should not benefit from an ouster clause. I believe that we need to revisit that issue because the Boundaries Commission is now assuming responsibility for a much wider...

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. If the Honourable Member is referring to the ouster clause in the Constitution. Surely, we cannot think of the Constitution and take out the ouster clause. When we are dealing with the revision of the Constitution, we can have the opportunity then to deal with it. You do not want me to bring an amending Bill just to delete that now. We will clean it up in the constitution review.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Okay. I am only stating the principle. You have heard me on this already, so you know that if you are going to extend the ambience of the authority of the Boundaries Commission beyond simple registration and the mechanisms for elections, then in my view, you are going to have to remove that protection which the Boundaries Commission now enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another point that needs to be made relates to the role of the Boundaries Commission. We have representatives on the Boundaries Commission and we

accept their advice. We have the fullest confidence in the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and will be guided where we believe that the advice that it is giving to this Parliament is prudent advice. It is why we can accept, by and large, the recommendations of the Boundaries Commission and can support this legislation which is being brought to Parliament today except, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I want to make one point. The same argument which the Honourable Member for the City adduces in relation to the funds available to the political parties for other purposes, is going to be relevant in relation to the \$10 limit which now applies per elective candidate.

Candidates are restricted by law to spend \$1 per elector and the Government has agreed and is bringing a Bill to Parliament to increase it to \$10 per elector. So for example, in St. John I can now spend with impunity and within the law, up to \$70 000. It is not money that I have easily at my disposal to spend in my constituency. The Honourable Member for the City is used to spending that kind of money in the City.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. No. Other people spend that money in the City. I would not talk about the people that I have seen from this Honourable House on the street corner in Nelson Street handing out \$100 bills in 1976.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now you have another element where the Government is grumbling about the amount of money spent at elections, grumbling about who has the most money has the greatest advantage and yet it moves the limit from \$1 to \$10 per elector. So I get the impression that the Honourable Member for the City has not read the Bill, is not interested in anything in the Bill or anything to do with the electoral matters, that her task today, Sir, is to discuss with us what the quality of public broadcasting in Barbados has risen to, in the last month. That is What the Honourable Member for the City is interested in, in this particular debate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on that score, I only hope that the Honourable Member for the City will listen and observe a little bit more and that perhaps her perspectives will change slightly and that she can make a much fuller and direct contribution to the development of communities and the development of families in Barbados which I am certain she will agree, is very, very important.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that this debate is taking place this evening for a variety of reasons. First of all for many a year I have been moaning and groaning about a list in Barbados and not only as that

list produced distortions as to the levels of a turnout, but I suspect that it has provided a lot of distortions in relation to the numbers of people in each constituency and distortions in relation to previous changes in boundaries and all that kind of thing. I have never been able to get anything substantially done about it over the years.

Now, what is clear to me, Sir, is that whereas this Bill represents an attempt to deal with the problem, let me tell you what you are going to find. You are going to find that a whole lot of people who should be legitimately on the register will be removed as well as those who should not have been on the register or whatever. That is the first thing that is going to happen because the best kept secret in relation to elections in Barbados was that the last enumeration was a complete and total waste of time and money. You will never ever be able to get a proper enumeration in Barbados unless you appoint scrutineers and, secondly, unless you stop rewarding enumerators by the number of names that they carry into an electoral office. 6.40 p.m.

If you were to go for example to the Belleville area and look at the list as it is at present and look at the people living in Belleville you would not believe that anybody did any kind of enumeration in that area and all these people have been paid to put the same names back on the list. Absolutely scandalous. That is the kind of thinking that we have to deal with and we have to deal with very defensively.

I think the opportunity arises now if we are going to be serious, when this is done, it should be followed by another enumeration with scrutineers. That is my own feeling and that it should be done now.

I happen to know that the members of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission consider the last enumeration to have been a complete waste of time, a complete so-called "balls up" if that is a parliamentary term. That is what happened on the last occasion in Barbados.

I think that what is necessary when this comes into place is to make sure that we have another enumeration with scrutineers and we need to amend the law or whatever is required to provide for the scrutineers if we want to get a decent list. There is no point taking somebody from St. Lucy and asking them to do an enumeration somewhere in St. Philip when they do not know anybody in St. Philip, they do not know the background of the people, they do not know who they are and anybody can tell them anything and they just put their names back on the list. It does not make any sense doing that. The enumerators must come from

the polling district which is being enumerated. That is fundamental to ever achieving a clean list in Barbados. That is the point I want to make.

The second point, I am appalled for example at what passes for electioneering in the United States. I am concerned that this is being transmitted now almost like a virus all around the world and I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is going to undermine ultimately the democratic process in Barbados and, particularly, in these small communities, that is why I have called and have long suggested that there should be regulations relating to the publication of polls in Barbados during an election period and secondly, that we should stop all these cock-eyed polls that can appear in the press. Anybody can do a poll, pay some money, get it published in the press, and say that that is a poll in Barbados.

Those polls have to be seriously regulated. In many European countries, for example, in France, there is a limitation. You cannot publish a poll after 7 or 10 days before an election because you cannot influence opinion by bogus polls and so on. This is something that needs to be dealt with now. I also firmly believe that we need to put in the law a ceiling on the amount of money that political parties can spend in advertising in all forms of media. What is better with begging for contributions from here and there and all you are begging for is money to come in to run elections, the money comes in, in one hand and you pay it to the Nation and the Advocate, VOB, CBC the next day, and probably 95% of all the contributions you get for the elections go towards the media and the people who support the media in various forms? I think it is absolute madness and we cannot afford this kind of thing in a small society like this.

I would put a cap saying that you cannot spend more than \$50 000 on newspapers, \$50 000 on radio, \$50 000 on television and that is the end of it. This is my own feeling that that should be regulated and it should be done now.

Also, Sir, there seem to be differences in interpretations of the law as to whether political advertising is possible under the law outside an election period. I know that the electronic media tends to interpret that differently from the newspapers. For example, you can put an ad promoting an idea in the Advocate or in the Nation, if you send the same ad to VOB they will tell you that you can put in the name and the place of a public meeting but you cannot put in the topics. That is how they interpret the law. I am not over concerned about political advertising outside an election period. What I am more concerned about is that it should be regulated and the opportunity should be given to all political parties where they should not have to pay for it.

In other words, if you are involved in politics, fundamental to the political process is the promotion of

ideas. You can only promote ideas either by mouth or by symbols or through whatever media is available to you. A political party should not be limited to the promotion of those ideas only after a nomination day. Any political party should be able to promote its ideas throughout the course of any year, election or no election, but I believe that the way this should be done is to allocate 5 minutes a week or 3 minutes to the political parties on television or whatever. If that is done, I believe that that would go a long way - fortunately we still have a state owned television station - if we all stick to the rules and a limited amount of time is allocated to political broadcasts on a regular basis.

Secondly, I believe that there should be a system worked out where, for example, when a Minister or the Prime Minister or somebody makes a statement that there should be an opportunity for a limited response. I am not saying that you should have equal time in a situation like that because a Minister may speak for 20 minutes and there is nothing worth replying to for more than one minute. What I am saying is that it should be automatic that you have an opportunity for a quick and immediate response to statements coming out from any political party and that all parties should have the right to respond in those situations.

I think it is part of the education of people, it is part of the promotion of a political party and part of the promotion of political ideas and there should be no barrier put in place in relation to the promotion of political ideas. At the same time, no one should have an advantage because of money in relation to the promotion of those ideas and that is why it should be regulated and the facilities should be made available to all political parties.

What I am saying, Sir, these are important things that go beyond the immediate because if we allow the present drift to continue you can guarantee that the same kind of influences which now affect American elections adversely are going to be the influences that are going to dominate here.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I rise to advise the Honourable Member by reading into the record a part of the licence provisions of CBC, for example, which they break every day. When I think about that I cannot say here what I would like to do with CBC.

"It shall be the duty of the licensee [meaning CBC] in relation to all news broadcasts made by:

- (a) to regard the fundamental purpose of such broadcasts as being to afford to the public an opportunity of knowing what is happening and of understanding the meaning of what is

happening so as to form their own conclusions upon matters of public interest; and

(b) to ensure as far as may be practicable

(i) that news broadcasts are presented with fairness and accuracy; and

(ii) that news is not selected with a view to furthering or prejudicing the viewpoint of any party on any matter of public controversy and is not covered by the opinions of the licensee of any employee..."

And so on. You can omit that.

"...but is not selected with a view to furthering or prejudicing the viewpoint of any party on any matter or public controversy."

6.50 p.m.

I will have a chance to reply, Sir.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: It seems to me that CBC has the authority to put in place the very kinds of systems that I am talking about in order to make sure. Let us put it this way, Sir. I do not, for example, believe that if a member of the Barbados Labour Party criticises either of the Opposition parties that that should not be carried on CBC. Let me get this straight. But a spokesman for the person should be around in order to respond to balance because, after all, once...

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to deal with matters at a principled level. We have it in our authority to really get to the bottom of these things so if CBC is behaving in that way then we need to put the structures in place to make sure that beyond a shadow of a doubt it is done in a proper way.

There is no point going on year after year complaining about what CBC does or what CBC does not do. We have the authority. Government owns CBC. As I heard the law read out by the Attorney General a little while ago, there is nothing in that law that prevents CBC from putting in place the kind of system that I am recommending.

Furthermore, I believe that the proper spirit of interpretation of that law makes it mandatory for this kind of system to be put in place because I think it would be ridiculous to say that CBC cannot carry speeches by one political party critical of another political party because it

does not make any sense. It reduces politics to nothing so therefore I think the only way to deal with it is to make sure that there is an adequate response in all these situations.

Aside.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: You have to also bear in mind that the Government of the day - let us be clear about this - that holds responsibility for public expenditure may have a priority for more time on TV in dealing with particular issues but there should be an opportunity for an immediate response to these issues. I think it can work.

I believe that if as a Parliament we sit down and look to see what are the needs of the political process and transmit that information to the various organs out there, I think we can go a long way in achieving the kind of balance that needs to be achieved.

Above all, let it be clear, because I object very much to the idea that you cannot get a political view across in any media between elections, I do not think it is right because what it says really is that you should not have an opinion, you should not have any opportunity to get an opinion across.

If the interpretation of the law as enunciated by VOB is ever applied to the newspapers and to CBC then the result would be that between elections there would be no opportunity for anybody to say anything political in Barbados. Now, that would be completely crazy and the only means of communication would be from the public platform or by word of mouth if that interpretation of the law was put into effect.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a great opportunity for us now if we are serious not only about correcting the list but also about dealing with the many problems which have surfaced over the years. I think this is the time when we have a Constitution Review Commission in place to look at these matters in some depth. I do not think there is anybody more competent to do this than the Members of Parliament.

One of the problems you have is this, that people who have arrived here by a particular process find it very, very difficult to change that process. But they need to have a wider and a deeper vision of why we are here and a deeper vision of the future, a more enlightened vision of the democratic processes down the road. Once you do that and you recognise that things are wrong, then you are under obligation, in my view, to set about to deal with it in a decisive way.

Now, Sir, I am sure that there is not a single member in this Honourable House who disagrees in any fundamental way with anything that I have said or any of the observations that I have made. The question is, are we going to do anything about it? That is the big question.

We know something must be done about the publication of polls. We know that something must be done about wasteful expenditure. In a small society like this money spent on newspapers - these guys just sit back and wait for the windfall every five years and they make enough money in an election year. Look at their balance sheets and see the kind of money they make in an election year and then the parties are struggling thereafter to pay off the debt.

I believe we have to deal with this particular matter. We are a small society. We have small constituencies and we can do without that kind of advertisement, without that kind of expenditure because we can reach our people at the constituency level by other means that do not involve that kind of expenditure.

Now, Sir, I am going to be interested to see if there is any member of this House who disagrees with anything that I have said. The challenge to all Honourable Members in this matter is whether or not they are prepared to do something about it or whether just talk about it. I am willing to participate in any process which is necessary to deal with these fundamental matters because I know that down the road, unless this matter is dealt with now you are going to find that the composition of this House of Assembly is going to be changed so fundamentally that only people with money and access to money will be able to come in and sit in this Chamber.

That is the situation in the United States today. There is no United States citizen that can dream of running for any office anywhere in the United States unless he is a millionaire or if he can raise U.S. \$30 to \$40 million even for a Governorship or a Mayorship and this kind of thing. It is a complete farce as far as democracy is concerned and we do not want this to come to Barbados. We have an opportunity to deal with it now to make sure that we have a better and a distinct culture from what is beginning to surround and overwhelm us.

Look at the whole question of Presidential debates. When you look at Presidential debates now no one is looking at substance. You are looking at how people are dressed. You are looking at their format. You are looking at the way they smile and this kind of thing. Gone is the issue of substance and so on. Do we want this kind of thing as part of our political process in Barbados?

Mr. Speaker, I say that we do not want that to be part of our political process. I think we have the opportunity now to deal with it and if we do not deal with it then there is only one direction it is going to go because there is no way that you can resist that political cultural penetration under the present legislation, unless positive legislation is put on the statute book to put a barrier to that penetration.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 7.45 this evening.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 7.45 p.m. -was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 7.00 p.m.

RESUMPTION Mr. SPEAKER:

This Sitting is now resumed.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 -were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. G. W. PAYNE, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1997.

ORDER NO. 7 - TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE
RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE
OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE
GRANTS OF MONEY FOR THE
SERVICE OF BARBADOS

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 117 402
FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND TO SUPPLE-
MENT THE ESTIMATES 1997/98 AS SET OUT IN
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 13

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

The question -was put and resolved in the affirmative mthout division.

A RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF
\$355 554 00 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED
FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE
ESTIMATE 1997 AS SET OUT
IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES NO. 14

HEAD 15 - CABINET OFFICE

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative mthout division.

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR - \$7 200 00

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 4 - THE FIRST STREET
ABANDONMENT BILL, 1997

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of the First Street Abandonment Act, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill would provide for the abandonment of the rights of way and other rights of the public affecting First Street, a public road at Holetown in the parish of St. James, and for the dedication of an alternative road for public use. This Bill has become necessary due to certain works which have been done by the owners of Palm Beach Hotel.

It is a matter which was being dealt with previous to the change of Government in September 1994. On the 28th December, 1993, the hotel had been given permission to abandon the said road and also for the construction of a new road in the area. The Ministry of Public Works together with the Chief Town Planner are satisfied that the works have been completed in accordance with the permission given.

The reason why we have taken this long to bring this Bill before Parliament is due to the fact that at first it was thought that we could come under Section 11 of the Highways Act. Under Section 11 of the Highways Act where the Minister is of the opinion that in the public's interest the rights of the public in respect of any highway should be abandoned or a highway or any portion thereof should be used for a purpose other than for which it is being used, he should publish a notice in the Official Gazette to that effect. A Cabinet decision to this effect has been made and there has been subsequent discussion with the Attorney's General Chambers and the Legal Department of the Ministry of Housing and it was felt that out of an abundance of caution the procedure being adopted at this stage by the Abandonment Bill would be the best way to proceed.

As I had indicated, this is a matter that was approved prior to our coming into office and Mr. Speaker I now beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 8.00 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. G. W. PAYNE, seconded by the Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. W. PAYNE, seconded by the Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. G. W. PAYNE, seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the First Street Abandonment Act, 1997.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned to 20th January, 1998 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

Speaking on the adjournment, Sir, I would wish to take this opportunity, and I believe I speak for all Sides in this Honourable Chamber, to say first of all to you, Sir, every good wish for the season.

Let the record show that I have apologised to you privately, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a slip of the tongue earlier tonight. I wish you every good wish for this Christmas Season, to you and your family and as we would traditionally say in Barbados, all the best for the New Year, 1998.

I would like to extend to all Members, seasons greetings as well and to the Clerks-at-the-Table, to the Marshal and those who look after our welfare here, to the reporters and other staff, certainly to those who cater to us in the dining room, I want to extend every good wish for a blessed and enjoyable and sober and reflective Christmas so that we come back refreshed in the New Year to continue our work of service.

Thank you; Sir.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking on the motion for the adjournment I want to join with the Honourable Leader of the House in extending seasons greetings to you and to all Members of the Chamber, to the staff, the Clerks-at-the-Table and to all those who assisted us during the course of this year in carrying out our tasks. I wish you all a very pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

For the benefit of the Honourable Member for the City I want to remind her that the holidays are not about the dreams we promise but the promises we keep.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on the adjournment I would like to associate myself with the wishes extended to you and all the officers of Parliament for a measured and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And for those whose happiness is accentuated by the sharp debate that emanates from the Minority Opposition I wish to give you the fullest assurance and fair warning that my contribution to your happiness in the New Year will be very significant.

Mr. SPEAKER: On behalf of the officers of Parliament and of course the staff of Parliament I would like to convey to all Honourable Members the best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER, adjourned the House accordingly. 8.10p.m.

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