

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, December 2, 1997

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 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.
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.
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)
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

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, November 25, 1997.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minutes of Tuesday, November 25, 1997, have been circulated. I beg to move that, subject to any motions for amendments, they be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 21) Order 1997.
2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 22) Order 1997.
3. Urban Development Commission Order, 1997.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to state that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 50 asked by the Rt. Hon. Member for St. Michael South is ready.

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. 9 - TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE
RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF
SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT
OF A SUM 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.

HEAD 34 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH
AFFAIRS & CULTURE

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter before this Honourable Committee, Sir, is for two different Subprogrammes within the Ministry of Education. One programme is in the Ministry of Culture in respect of three separate matters. The first two, Sir, relate to civil works at our primary and secondary schools. The first programme is under Head 34 - Programme 3 Subprogramme 4 - Primary Education-Domestic Programme where we are asking this Honourable Committee to supplement the provision of \$2 million by a further \$800 000 which will allow us, Sir, to do a number of urgent repairs to our primary school plant particularly in respect of roofs and plumbing - emergencies.

There are a number of primary schools that we would wish to be able to do a number of urgent repairs to in

relation to these various categories and they range from Pine Primary with the electrical problems there to St. Paul's to Boscobelle to Erdiston. We will start some at St. Philip's Primary but we need to continue there and at St. Bartholomew and at a number of other schools.

The nature of this one is such, Sir, that we have some 85 primary school plants in Barbados and while there has been a concerted effort over the last 20 years to replace much of these plants by the construction of new schools, the reality has been that there are still some 50 or so schools that really have never benefitted from major rehabilitation but have only had sums spent on them in times of emergency. Sir, we are asking therefore for this sum to be able to carry us down to the end of the financial year. The reality is that while we may do most of those urgent works for Xmas, we cannot hedge against the fact that toilets may break down, plumbing may break down in January or February and we need to respond urgently. The electrical wiring at some schools may result in an inability to properly power those schools and we need to deal with those when those emergencies arise.

We estimate, Sir, given the expenditure pattern of the last few years and given what information has come into the project unit in the course of the last two months that this sum should be able to carry us down until the end of March.

In respect of the second figure, Sir, the \$4 million in respect of Programme 4 Subprogramme 7, this comes under the Caribbean Secondary Education Project. Indeed, Sir, this is a project with which this Honourable Chamber is familiar because we have debated this in here before and this project is being funded by the Caribbean Development Bank and it provided for the completion of the construction of the St. Thomas Secondary School as well as the rehabilitation of the St. Leonard's School. We had some difficulties earlier, Sir, in this term with the completion in terms of time in both Phase 1 at St. Thomas and at St. Leonard's but in respect of both programmes there is a Phase 2.

At St. Thomas Secondary School we are still completing work on the hall, we are completing work on the main Home Economics Block and we are completing work on the playing fields and the pavilion which are there. I must, however, alert this Honourable Chamber though that we are not in a position to tell you ultimately what will happen at St. Thomas because we have discovered that one of the playing fields has a cave underneath the playing field and the engineers are now engaged in doing designs to be able to reinforce the weakness of the playing field as a result of the discovery of the cave. It is interesting because it would appear as though that cave actually runs in that area because those residents living in Jackson would be familiar with the fact that only some months

ago we had to move a house just there in Jackson below Arsenal Playing Field where the house was actually resting on a cave and it became unsafe for the residents of that district.

The \$4 million, Sir, may not be the final sum that is required in respect of this project but will carry us very close to that amount in terms of our capacity to service the amounts there. Phase 2 of the St. Leonard's Boys School will start and that too has to have the construction of the hall and the rehabilitation of part of the building which are part of the old Boys School and that is not expected to be finished until next year, into the next financial year.

At St. Thomas School, however, while we were targetting a date before the end of this financial year much will depend on the capacity of the engineers to do the designs that are necessary now that we have discovered this cave in the playing field and therefore the full cessation of civil works may well extend beyond this financial year depending on what is relayed to us on receipt of that report.

In respect of St. Thomas School, there are sums owed to the contractors. Members will be aware that there was an accelerated construction programme and that was to enable us, to allow us to use the plant of the school. Most of the children are being accommodated and it is really only the hall and that particular aspect of those specialist rooms that need to be completed but Members of this Chamber should also be aware that this school has a considerable number of specialist rooms which have already been handed over and therefore all is going well in respect of the capacity of the school to execute its existing curricula.

I would want to signal, Sir, also my appreciation and that of this Government to the teachers at both schools who have agreed that they would try to make up the time that was lost at the beginning of the term with the children so that there is no disadvantage in respect of the completion of the curricula or more appropriately the acquisition of the skills which are necessary particularly for those children who are trying to sit exams this year. 11.30a.m.

I would also like to use this opportunity to inform this Honourable Chamber that we are aware that Queen's College in Guyana was burnt down some two weeks ago. I have been in contact with my counterpart in Guyana who has indicated that there may be some difficulties with them in terms of adjusting and given the fact that there are some students who will be sitting external examinations this year we have asked both Chief Education Officers from Barbados and Guyana to liaise. We have consulted with a number of principals of about 5 secondary schools as to the possibility of putting together a proposal that would allow

them to be able to come to Barbados to receive their tuition provided we can also put together the proposal to ask some homes and some parents to take in these children during that period of time so that they would not be at any disadvantage before they sit their exams.

The Chief Education Officer is at present conducting consultations with the principals and indeed, Sir, we would be making a public appeal to parents of children who attend those schools that would be participating if any accommodation arrangements could be made for those children who have been so unfortunate as to have their school burnt at this critical time in the school year. We believe it is only fair, as a fellow Caribbean country, that we can offer whatever assistance we can at this point in time.

The third item for supplementary, Sir, relates to the provision under Youth Affairs, under Special Projects, for a further \$150 540 under structures and \$178 460 under Professional Services.

Sir, next year, 1998 represents the centenary anniversary of the birth of Sir Grantiey Adams whom we all know made a contribution to the growth of modern Barbados. It is the intention of this Government to have erected a statue, a full size statue, of Sir Grantiey Adams, during the course of next year at the site of the Government Headquarters where the bust presently resides and Cabinet has taken a decision, under Rule 137 to enter into a contract with Mr. Karl Broodhagen and his son Mr. Virgil Broodhagen who have agreed to do this statue for us and eventually have it bronzed so that it can be erected at the site at Government Headquarters. For the structure you will see that already in the Estimates we would have placed some \$30 000 at the time as a token amount in the Head under Professional Services and \$100 000 under Structures. At the time when the Estimates were prepared we were not in a position to give the final amount in respect of that. I am therefore asking this Honourable Committee to supplement this sub-program so that we can proceed urgently with the payment of the funds, particularly to the foundry in England that will be required to bronze the statue and to do the enlargement which is going to take some months as was done with the Emancipation Statue, the Bussa Statue, at the Haggatt Hall Roundabout. I therefore, Sir, would ask at this stage that Head 34 do stand part.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, very briefly I should like to associate myself with Government's effort to effect some repairs to the primary schools in Barbados and this is of particular relevance to me having regard to the fact that in the constituency of St. Philip South are two primary schools which, in my view, and in the view of parents in the constituency and the students who

attend those schools, are in a very bad and scandalous state of disrepair.

The St. Martins Four Roads Primary School which I attended and left some time in 1960 has basically had nothing done to it between then and now. About 2 weeks ago the school had to be closed suddenly because the entire plumbing outfit broke down and students had to be sent home with some parents not at home and that kind of thing.

I had some time ago written the Ministry of Education about the state of plumbing at the St. Martins Four Roads primary school but nothing was done about it and you have the very unfortunate situation there where young students, particularly female students, prefer to suffer themselves rather than deign to use the bathroom facilities at the school. That is a fact. I hope that the Minister will direct her gaze towards St. Martins Four Roads Primary School and that the school will be at the receiving end of her generosity, such as she explained it in her speech.

The St. Martins/Mangrove Primary school has had a little done to it but the conditions there are far from ideal as well and if schooling is to continue to attract our students, when they leave the comfort of their homes they should be made to feel that they are going to an environment that does not make them feel like beasts rather than as the children of this nation who are the embodiment of its future.

So I just wanted to make that point about primary schools in St. Philip South but of course I do not want to be parochial in my focus because I am aware that as the Minister has indicated, right across the country primary schools are in need of various degrees of repair.

I believe recently the Carrington's Primary school has been very much in the news in that regard and I hope that the Ministry will proceed apace to correct this situation because there has to be a nexus between the environment in which students at that age receive their education and the quality of their performance. I am very glad that plumbing and toilet and electrical emergencies have attracted the Government's attention so far as these affect primary schools and that effort has my and of course the Opposition's wholehearted support.

So far as the secondary schools are concerned I have on previous occasions in this House drawn attention to the fact that in those schools which we call in Barbados the "newer secondary schools" a state of affairs exists - I do not speak of all because I do not know of all - but there are some of which I know, in which a monstrosity called a floating form continues to exist.

I believe on the last occasion when I checked at the secondary school in St. Philip South I was told that there were about 9 floating forms at that school. I am aware that floating forms exist at other newer secondary schools so called. I do not like the designation, "newer secondary schools" but I use it just for ease of reference. What is tragic about this floating form phenomenon is that the students who are asked to float are the ones who most need assistance with their education. They are the lowest achievers in the school. 11.40 a.m.

They are the ones who need the most assistance and they are the ones who do not have, as I understand it, a permanent base from which to receive their education. So there is a high degree of movement in the school system during the day, in those schools affected by this floating phenomenon and this must affect, at the end of the day, not only the performance of these students but also their self esteem. I was told by a teacher recently, at the secondary school in St. Philip, that some of these students actually express themselves by saying that nobody cares about them. These are the ones who get into trouble in the schools and who are guilty of acts of indiscipline with various degrees of seriousness.

There is one other newer secondary school at which students again, some of the lowest achievers in the school, have no chairs in which to sit and who have to sit at desks hunched over looking uncomfortable as they try to pay attention to their teacher.

This exists in Barbados in 1997. It is not a figment of my imagination. This is not apocryphal. It is a fact and I would ask the Government to take a second to look at what is going on in the so-called newer secondary schools, to do some kind of audit that allows the Government to better grasp what are the needs, physical and otherwise of these schools and try to administer, more humanely to the requirements of the students who receive their education there. It is still a fact in Barbados that those substantial number of parents whose students do not get into the so-called older secondary schools start from a premise that their children have failed, the old thing in Barbados of what happens at age 11 determining how you are perceived for the remainder of your life. An obligation devolves therefore on the Government to ensure that when students go into the so-called newer secondary schools, that that sense of failure is not reinforced. They should be educated in an environment that makes them feel proud of themselves and that makes learning easy. So I just want to alert the Government to the existence of some of these problems.

I know of some of them intimately. I have received complaints from teachers about them. I have received complaints from parents about them and I believe it is

a matter to which the Government should give urgent attention because, if as students they are made to feel that painful sense of alienation, it can confidently be expected that they will nurse aggressive habits and these become the trouble makers with which the society has to deal later on in life.

So, I hope that my drawing this to the attention of the Minister will have the effect of sensitising her and of sensitising the Government to the existence of this problem and that urgent measures will be taken to repair it to the extent of repairing it within the financial competence of the Government at this time.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise at this time to speak on this Supplementary. I want to say from the outset, Sir, that I support any measure that is in the interest of the youth of this country and also for the poor people in this country. As you know, Mr. Chairman, it is from the primary school that poor people are able to set a base and from that base, Sir, that they are able to develop. But I want to remind the Minister, Sir, that in the constituency of St. Lucy there are two primary schools that I would expect some of this money to be spent on, Sir. That is Half Moon Fort Primary School and St. Lucy's Primary School. St. Lucy's Primary has been a school that had to give up a lot to the Secondary School. It had to give up actually two blocks, Sir. They had to give up their hall and they also had to give up their extension.

Sir, there is a great demand by people from the constituency of St. Lucy to go to that particular school and we would expect that the infrastructure of that school will be increased to the level that the students feel happy in that particular environment. I was there on Friday and I must admit, Sir, that that school needs a lot to be done to it. I want to say something else also, and that is I am observing a trend and I look forward to the day when it stops.

It appears to me, Sir, that Governments over the years have been more interested in capital expenditure rather than revenue expenditure. That is what it seems to me, that they do not mind borrowing large sums of money to build new schools, but they find it rather difficult to have to spend \$1 million to keep those schools in good repair. I know my Comrades, whenever I talk about revenue expenditure, always look in amazement, but I want to assure them that capital expenditure is that expenditure, Sir, when one commits capital expenditure that is building a new building and revenue expenditure, Sir, is the revenue used to keep that building in good usage.

Every time I use the words revenue expenditure some Members ask what I am talking about. But it is not my problem, Sir, if they do not understand that there is

something called revenue expenditure. What I will do, Sir, I will advise them to check with any accountancy firm and they will see. that there is something called revenue expenditure. It is very much an accounting term, Sir.

So, Mr. Chairman, I will go on and I am saying that I expect that, when we go into the 21st Century, instead of the taxpayers of this country being saddled every year or two in Governments borrowing large sums to build new buildings, I expect them to set aside an amount for revenue expenditure to make sure that the present stock that they have is kept in good repair. Because, it does not make sense, Sir, Governments borrowing large sums to build new schools when they have good buildings and all they need to do is to repair those buildings and sometimes to use some capital expenditure in expanding those buildings.

I look forward to the day, Sir, when the whole concept of Government, just because we need foreign exchange, borrowing large sums and using new buildings as the excuse to prop up their foreign reserves *et cetera*.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It does not make good financial sense, Sir, in the long term, because, at the end of the day, the small man in this country will still have to find money to service those loans. So I expect that when we go into the 21st Century, instead of spending \$45 million to correct a \$1 million problem, that we will spend \$1 million to correct a \$45 million problem. 11.50a.m.

Dealing with the secondary aspect of it, I look forward to the day when St. Lucy Secondary School is moved from the primary stage into the secondary. Those schools have been built for a long time and are in serious need of repair and I expect that money will be allocated either to replace them, seeing that wood was used in their structure, or that they will get a more permanent structure at St. Lucy Secondary School.

I am not asking the Government to go ahead and borrow large sums of money to do it. I am saying that it can be done on a piecemeal system where they can build it block by block and every year a certain amount be allocated. I do not necessarily believe that we should go cap in hand. We are an independent country, 31 years into independence, and I do not believe in this concept that we must be running around and begging to borrow money sometimes to deal with necessary needs but at the same time we have a right to make sure that we look after our necessary needs.

So I say to the Minister I personally do not have a problem with this supplementary but I expect that this money will be spent throughout Barbados and that

the beautiful people of St. Lucy will share in these goodies. It is known that this request will be asking the Minister to go beyond the Judge Gap. I have no fear that she knows the meaning of going beyond the Judge Gap. I expect that this money will not stop at the Judge Gap and that we will get some of the benefits of these funds.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Chairman, this provision for this sum of money is welcome. I cannot criticise this in any way because I do recall that I was one of the persons at the forefront of seeking to get primary schools repaired and anything that is being done to improve the conditions of primary schools I will have to support. I do not know what is the condition of the Ebenezer School right now and I am not proposing to speak for the representative of that area but I do recall that that school was one that had fallen into a great state of deterioration and the advice I have had in recent times is that that school, although attempts have been made to recondition it, still lies in a state of disrepair and there might be need to look at a new school for that area or some other kind of position of that sort because I know there has been a lot of outcry from the people in that area over a long period of time and I myself have been involved in one of those efforts to have something done at the school where external help has been sought because of lack of funds at that time to assist the Ebenezer School.

One of the schools that has been drawn to my attention was the school at Pine Primary which, although there were efforts made to fix it up from time to time, still lies in some state of disrepair and I believe that we need to look at long term attention for that school.

I now turn to schools in my area and I want to speak of them in two contexts. First of all, we have a situation at St. Patricks School where that school also serves as an emergency shelter but my information is that some of the galvanise at the edges has rotted and therefore present a problem if there should be heavy rains. Therefore we need to have that looked at, not only in terms of convenience to the children, but also should some emergency happen in that area and we need to have it used effectively.

The St. Bartholomew School. As you remember, there was an amalgamation of the girls' school and the boys' school a year or two ago and while the conditions may be bearable to some extent they are not totally adequate since there are too many children in one area. I want to make an appeal that the Minister will look at having arrangements made to have at least an extra block placed so that there can be more ease of movement in that school.

There is land just below the hill and I believe that land could be used for that school as well. The parents

have been concerned about that for some time and we need to look at giving them some extra space so that the children can be more comfortable.

The St. Christopher School. As you know there is the construction of the new St. Christopher School which will accommodate both boys and girls and that school seems to be taking a bit long in construction.

I do not know what can be done to expedite it but I am hoping that we can get this school by the September term next year because there is a great demand for schools such as that. First of all, the St. Christopher Girls' School in its present state is not pleasant to look at on the outside, it needs a bit of painting. If the new school is pending I believe we might want to wait. If it is going to take long, there might need to be some effort to have that school painted because of how it looks and also some other repairs.

I believe the answer lies in having the work at that school done more expeditiously. I have never seen a building take so long as this one has. I am not getting into the nitty gritty of what happened but it is taking much too long. Also the St. Christopher Girls' School is also marked as an emergency shelter. It cannot be used in the case of a hurricane but in the event of flooding. It is not in the category for a hurricane shelter but a category just below that. We might need to pay some attention to that or to get behind the contractors so that they can expedite the work at the new St. Christopher Schools.

I want to support this Resolution and I am appealing that attention be given to the matters I have addressed.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long on this matter. I believe that by and large the remaining schools in my constituency have been significantly improved by remedial work which has been going on for some time both before the new Government took office and since then. Though I do have concerns about specific areas of the physical plant and, in particular, the sanitary facilities at all of those schools, and that is a common problem throughout all of the Government owned primary schools, I do not have any major case to make out for major work to be done at any of the primary schools in St. John.

There are basic problems like ventilation at some of the schools. There are other problems during the rainy season but these are things that with a careful and prudent programme of public works, remedial works on primary schools can be dealt with.

What I think was lacking from the Minister's presentation and I hope she will correct it in the reply is that we were told some time ago that the exercise

in improving the physical facilities at primary schools was a project or was being viewed as a project and therefore I think what we need to do is to have the benefit of the elements of that project and what the Government hopes to achieve in Undertaking it. Furthermore, I think that beyond the actual repairs the Ministry of Education needs to do some work on helping people to appreciate the facilities in which they are functioning.

Again, the question of the sanitary facilities at primary schools is something, as I said, that is of major concern to me. A lot of the primary schools are functioning without toilet paper. There are very young children handling the sanitary facilities without toilet seats, without tops. Generally, it is something that worries me. It is not to say that it is something that we cannot find a way of dealing with. I know it is a problem but there must be some way because there are parts of the world where people use sanitary facilities properly where you have attendants or where you may have other programmes in place to assist young children in using the facilities.

There are 3 and 4-year olds now attending primary schools, attending the programmes, so I think that is something that needs attention. I do not think there is anybody who goes into the primary schools and takes a look at those facilities who could be satisfied. It is just that our children are out of our sight for that time and we assume that the right things are happening but we really do not know whether the right things are happening and it is something that needs some attention. 12.00 noon.

I would like therefore for the Minister also to give me the assurance that despite the monumental task which I heard her saying she has undertaken in primary school repairs since becoming Minister, the phasing of these works could be more precise so as not to dislocate the large number of students who were dislocated at the beginning of the school year.

There are some schools that obviously pose greater security risks than others for which there may be works to be undertaken that are unique because of the location of a school, but the point is that the Government should publish its programmes of works, and certainly we in the House should know about it, in relation to primary schools well in advance.

The second point I want to make relates to the schools that have been abandoned as a result of amalgamations or otherwise. Now, in most cases Government will move the abandoned prefab buildings but there are a lot of soft stones in old but durable buildings which once housed schools throughout Barbados. I can speak of Hothersal Primary, Mt. Tabor and Shrewsbury. Fortunately St. Mark's was rescued from decay because it

was made into a community centre, but a lot of those buildings need to be utilised if not they become havens for rats and other vermin and pose public health threats. Of course, because the Ministry of Health is responsible for that they are not going to report the Government but there are many residents who are suffering because of the health threat which is posed by those buildings which then become derelict. Cherry Grove is another one.

In addition to that, some of them revert to the churches and the churches themselves may need assistance in dealing with it whether it is tearing them down, if they are supposed to be torn down, or rehabilitating them if they serve some community purpose, but for that matter some of them may be good for housing. There may be a number of purposes for which they could be used, privately leased day care centres for parents, community centres, youth centres, there are a whole range of activities to which these derelict or non-used buildings could be put before they become derelict.

I would like to hear from the Minister whether an attempt is really being made by the Government to undertake an assessment of these buildings and to make sure that they become useful and not wasted.

On the other elements of the Supplementary we have no quarrel. I believe, certainly, that it is appropriate that honour be given to those persons who have served at the highest level in the development of Barbados and we certainly do not wish to stand in the way of the Barbados Labour Party and the Government in doing honour to those persons that it thinks honour should be appropriately bestowed upon.

I still feel strongly - we have had Resolutions in here before in relation to a number of other Barbadians - Charles Duncan O'Neal. I think the House passed a Resolution that a statue or some other commemorative monument should be put up. Gary Sobers - I still feel very strongly as the work has already been done by Karl Broodhagen just as he had done it with Grantley Adams. The models are fine models for which, if we want to use the services of Karl Broodhagen we have to invest the money now because he is himself ageing and these projects are dear to this heart.

He has invested a lot of time and effort in doing the smaller models of the various Barbadian heroes where he has been commissioned to do the initial work. I believe that funds should be mobilised from Government and wherever possible from community and other organisations to assist in having a series of these statues completed giving special emphasis for those on which Karl Broodhagen has already done some of the work. So we do not stand in the way of the Government with respect to a suitable honour.

I have always felt myself that the bust of Sir Grantley Adams in front of Government headquarters was inappropriate. I think the size of it is not suitable for the location and, therefore, we have no quarrel with the proposal.

I also believe that the Government, though I suppose I would be shouting in the wind on this one should, now that the resources are available, make an effort to ensure that former Prime Minister Barrow is given a similar honour and that attention be paid in a non-partisan way.

Originally when I moved the Resolution for Enrol Barrow Day the idea was that a committee would be set up to devise suitable ways in which these persons should be honoured, so that the Democratic Labour Party does not resist attempts for us to honour national heroes nor do we resist genuine attempts to identify national heroes.

We do not deny Grantley Adams his place and we also believe likewise that Errol Barrow and Charles Duncan O'Neal as well as many others who could be identified by an independent committee should be given suitable honour.

I do not think the naming of roundabouts and roads for some persons is enough and we should not be in a mad rush to undertake an exercise like that. What we need to do is identify the appropriate honour for persons at various levels of contribution to the development of Barbados.

I believe a life size statue of Grantley Adams is an appropriate honour. I also believe that a similar one of Charles Duncan O'Neal and of Errol Barrow is also an appropriate honour. Therefore, we are not going to resist this aspect of the Resolution.

I hope that the matters in relation to the St. Thomas Secondary School are resolved because I understand that there is quite a bit of alarm by the subcontractors, perhaps, even by the contractor. I am not sure about the completion of the project and about the timeliness of the payments to the contractors. This has been a longstanding problem with Governments that even where you put projects on the fast track contractors are not paid fast enough.

It is precisely this kind of activity where cost overruns are involved and where the financing for those cost overruns comes from contractors that Government should make an effort either to compensate them by way of an appropriate rate of interest or alternatively to have the works speeded up.

I hope that now that the property is occupied the facilities which are there are suitable for the work which needs to be undertaken and that the students of the St. Thomas Secondary School will find a haven in that new building from the pressures which the Hon. Member for St.

Philip South has pointed out attend many of the new secondary schools in Barbados.

We have no objection to this provision and I wait to hear the response from the Minister on the points which I have raised.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am not seeking to wind up at this stage, Sir, but a number of issues have been raised in the four speeches by the Opposition and I think I should respond to some of them at this point. There is absolutely no doubt that the programme of rehabilitation of primary schools has to be treated in a more formal way than just simply fixing as needs arise. We have therefore been trying to do that. I have pointed out that when we came into the Ministry we did an audit of all of the primary schools. 12.10 p.m.

As a result of that audit as well as of our knowledge of what was happening in the secondary schools we sought to incorporate that as an integral part of a project for financing because we did not believe that Government could finance what needed to be done out of its current expenditure programme. As a result, part and parcel of the EduTech 2000 Project, in fact one of the largest components of the EduTech 2000, is \$76 million which will be spent on primary schools and I am happy to hear the Honourable Member for St. Lucy already indicating support for the approach that is being used in that project because we are not seeking to go and build new schools to replace a few but in fact we are spending almost \$1 million or more in some instances on over each of 50 primary schools in this country and then lesser sums on those that would already have received major works in the last 20 years.

The sums being spent, Sir, seek to rehabilitate rather than to fix on the basis of crisis management and we sincerely hope that this work will start during the course of the next summer vacation and will continue for every successive year for five years until all of the primary schools and secondary schools in this country are repaired.

In respect, Sir, of plumbing and electrical difficulties, I think that we need to place them in context. The reason for a lot of the difficulties in relation to electrical problems in the schools has to do with a lot of wiring which would have been done years ago and the fact that the load has increased tremendously over the years without there being any attention to the capacity of the school in terms of its wiring to carry that load. One of the things that we are doing also within EduTech 2000 is not only looking at the rewiring which is absolutely essential with the introduction of technology in the school but we are also looking at the question of alternative energy supplies for the school plant across Barbados. I have to announce, Sir, that

Professor Headley who has done distinguished work at the University of the West Indies in this area is in fact preparing a paper for the Ministry of Education so as to see how we can seek to make changes to the usage of alternative energy so as to be able to make our schools more efficient while at the same time not be a drain on simple electricity generated by fuel oil.

In addition, Sir, there is a very real problem with plumbing. The Leader of the Opposition adverted to it in his speech just now and the reality is that with the best intention in the world, the Ministry fixes plumbing in schools and you will hear that in less than six months we are receiving complaints from the same schools in respect of the same facilities and I do not believe that it is purely because of bad workmanship on the part of plumbers across Barbados. I think that the systems which we use in the schools really are not designed for heavy duty use and we cannot expect to have 500 or 1000 children in some schools using the same type of facilities that we use at home; and at home even with heavy usage they cause problems far less in a school plant which has that level of traffic.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has spoken to me in the past and has suggested that we look into the use perhaps of even metal systems and even looking at different designs for the plumbing facilities and I have given her the assurance that in the context of the design and the rehabilitation for primary schools we are going to look into those things. She has even suggested that we put the systems behind the wall because all kinds of things find themselves down in those facilities when the day is over and the maids complain that with the best attention in the world they cannot deal with it. Therefore the kind of regular cleaning that is necessary to boost the maintenance effort becomes a problem and is like Government pouring continuous money into a never ending hole largely because I believe the design of the facility is wrong.

I also believe that what we should try to do is to have the schools split into zones and have access to regular plumbers so that we do not wait until there are major problems but we send in the plumbers as we have been doing for the last year as much as possible and we need to boost that effort and expand it in terms of numbers because it really is a problem. I do not think that there is anybody in this country far less in this Honourable Chamber who would wish to continue to see our children being subjected to conditions that are less than sanitary in these schools and this is a matter I believe that rises above the issue of partisan concerns.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition also raised the issue of publishing a programme of works of primary schools ahead of schedule. I believe that is a worthwhile suggestion and I will undertake to this Chamber that we

will seek to do so before any major programme either at Christmas or in the summer so that the public is aware of what it is that we are undertaking. With the best intention in the world we cannot tell you that construction will finish on a specific date because one of the problems is that because the plant is so old as we discovered at St. Philip's primary school the other day you send somebody to fix a roof and when they take off the roof all the support structures for the roof are rotten and neither the contractor nor the Ministry can continue until it replaces those supporting structures and therefore you run into cost overrun as well as time overrun and you may be running into cost overrun in the context of a vote that is already committed and in the context of a vote that you may not have the funds to be able to do it. If you do, it may mean that, while we would have gone to St. Martins at Four Roads we now have to go to St. Philip and spend the money to buy two by threes to do the supports largely because we cannot leave the roof off, so that what you would have planned therefore to do at St. Martins, Four Roads you now have to delay until the next occasion until funds become available.

That is the kind of major problem that we hope to be able to avert with the putting together of a project that seeks to rehabilitate schools as opposed to simply dealing with urgent problems. Then you have other things. We had the school that suffered, Sir, when you had the high winds and the roof was blown off. Never could we have planned for that but we had therefore to take money immediately and divert it. We wanted to finish Erdiston Annex and unfortunately we had to spend the money there in order to fix that.

The other point in relation to the abandoned school. From April next year, we will be seeking funds in next year's Estimates. We wanted to look at it now but we really could not do the primary school programme and provide for the funds for the secondary schools all at the same time so that from the start of the next financial year there are some 14 schools I believe that have been abandoned as a result of amalgamation over the years and should revert back to the church.

The agreement between the churches - and most of them are Anglican Churches as opposed to the Methodist and Moravian but there are one or two Methodist and Moravian - the agreement is that Government must either give the church the money or alternatively fix the buildings up and hand them back, in a fit state of repair. That agreement was reached at the time of disestablishment. 12.20 p.m.

We believe, Sir, that in order to ensure that these buildings can be made useful to the community that Government should really seek to fix the buildings up and hand them back over repaired so* that the community

can start to use them immediately, because in the past when buildings have been handed over they have not necessarily been brought back into use within a short period of time. As a result, Sir, we believe that the same way use is being made of the community centres for skills training centres or for all sorts of programmes, the community should have right of access to those schools and therefore we will seek to start repairing those schools as soon as the next financial year so that we can hand them back to the church and they can play their role.

St. Thomas primary school, however was an example of a school that does not revert to the church. For those of you who would like to know how we know which schools revert to the church, you look at the legislation and in the Schedule to the legislation for the disestablishment of the church all of the church schools are cited. Once it is not listed there as a church school then it belongs to Government and with the St. Thomas Primary School what we have been able to do is to do the repairs and have it ready now for use as a hostel, for which there is an urgent need as well, for persons who are made homeless by reason of fire or some other catastrophe. It is Government's role, I believe, to ensure that non-governmental organisations be given the opportunity to run these entities rather than seeking to impose another layer of Government.

So we look forward, Sir, to the commencement of this programme from April next year.

I have dealt, Sir, with the question of the project approach to the rehabilitation of schools and the only other point I would like to make is in relation to the statue. The total amount under Youth Affairs and Culture will not change but we are changing the split because there was a mathematical error in computation so that under 623 - Structures, instead of a supplementary of \$150 540 we are asking for a supplementary of \$75 000 there and under professional services instead \$178 460 we are asking for \$254 000 there because some of the expenses are not related to structures per se but relate to travel of the artist to be able to do the checks that have to be done before the enlargement and the bronzing are completed.

I should say also to this Honourable Chamber, Sir, that these recommendations in relation to the recognition of Emancipation Day, the 26th July as a day of national significance, in relation to the contracting of the Broodhagens for a statue in honour of Sir Grantley, mainly came out of a committee which was established in my Ministry earlier this year chaired by Ambassador Nigel Barrow and having a number of other persons on it, indeed persons from across the spectrum. I believe Mr. Bobby Morris from the Barbados Workers Union would also have sat on that committee and Mr. Rickey Parris, Dr. Henry Fraser, Dr. Karl Watson from the University, Ms. Cherise

Harewood from the Press and a number of other persons, Mr. Ian Estwick who was then Chairman of the National Cultural Foundation and there is a view that has come forth that would see this Government seeking to honour all persons in some way or another who have made such large national contributions irrespective of their partisan affiliation at that time or the legacy of their partisan affiliation. In that context, Sir, I look forward to the time in the near future when we will also be seeking to have statues erected not only of Sir Grantley but of Errol Barrow and, of Sir Gary Sobers as was pointed out by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. In fact that miniature is already finished by Mr. Broodhagen.

I believe it is important that youngsters have the opportunity, Sir, to see for themselves those persons who have contributed and it is significant that if you talk to any primary school child nowadays most of them do not know anybody who was a leader of this country other than the Member for St. Michael South and now the Member for St. Peter. They have no recollection of any of the previous leaders of this country far less persons like Charles Duncan O'Neal or Clennel Wickham or other persons who have made significant contributions to this country.

I will come back, Sir, when other issues are raised but I wanted to answer since there were 4 speeches that raised a number of issues.

One final point, Sir, and that relates to floating forms. In respect of floating forms all secondary schools, Sir, have subject rooms and therefore in order to be able to maximise the use of the plant, forms have to be able to move to those because if we were to buy materials to equip each room with the kind of materials needed for Geography, or Art or even Language Arts now for which there is a whole host of materials that are used, it would mean that we would be spending too much money without getting a level of efficiency in terms of use of those materials and as a result you will find more and more an approach that sees children moving to specialist subject rooms which are set up for the particular learning experience in that subject.

This is not a phenomenon that is restricted to newer secondary schools. In fact under EduTech once again it is going to be across all schools but even now it is found in older secondary schools and therefore it is not something which is relegated to persons who are at the bottom end of the ladder in terms of learning. In fact we have tried to remove those inequities in respect of those who need that additional assistance and I would only advert to the experiments which we have done down at St. Mary's primary School and ask you to see the difference in the tenour and the attitude of the children of those schools most of whom come from a very poor background. We have increased the funding, we have increased the opportunities, we have helped them establish

private sector/public sector relations which have seen the growth of the steel band which is less than one year old and is playing all around Barbados.

We have seen the children participating also in the research project on EduTech 2000, children who up until the beginning of October had never, ever been in contact with technology and you should see the difference of they not only having assimilated how to use it but also the position where if you go in there tomorrow and you do not know they will sit down and try to show you how to use it. More importantly than anything else their keenness to learn seems to have improved tremendously. When we have the final result of that research project where we are doing the comparison between there and St. Ambrose school it will be made available to the public for their consumption. So I am willing to discuss more on the floating forms but it really is a phenomenon that is not restricted to newer secondary schools and one in which we believe we can get better returns and allow the children greater exposure to types of materials that they would not otherwise have. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to first of all compliment the Ministry of Education for trying to correct some of the problems that were inherited in the field of education, especially as it refers to primary and secondary education and I want to speak briefly on this head.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that teachers do perform a valuable service to their community. 12.30 p.m.

I believe that teachers are very important to the society because all professionals owe very much to the teaching fraternity. Yet, Mr. Chairman, teachers especially in a primary level still teach under severe and I would think, very poor conditions. I believe that despite a lot of effort which has been made by this Government to upgrade facilities in a primary level, yet the conditions which exist today at a primary level are very poor especially if one looks at ventilation in the school system. The ventilation is poor and one has to ask the question, how is it that we are spending more money in education today, yet the conditions around the schools seem to be very poor. Is it the Ministry? Is it the school system? Is it the management of the schools? Or is it the Parent Teachers¹ Association? I do not know if we can point our finger at anybody, but I believe that we need to put our heads together and come up with answers.

When I was going to school teachers played a vital role in keeping the environment clean. Headteachers made sure that children perform the role that I believe, children should perform. We are not saying that there should be a low level of conditions where children have to sweep and

clean the floors or desks and so on, but these are important traits which would help children to grow and mature. If you look at the school system today, you will see a lot of bush and really poor conditions around the school, not necessarily in the school itself that we need to do something about and I believe that we need to send a signal to the Headteachers who manage the school system and who manage the plant that something needs to be done around the schools.

I am aware that some Parent-Teacher Associations help but I believe that the Ministry cannot do all from the central position. More has to be done by the management of the schools. Programmes must be put in place to improve the conditions around schools. I believe, Sir, that every primary school should be equipped with proper seating facilities. Sometimes I have gone into schools and found that children are still seated two or three to a bench. I think this has to be improved. I think the blackboard facilities have to be improved as well. There are a number of students who complain for problems of vision on the blackboard. I think that we have to improve these conditions for the young people. I am very happy that the Minister has explained and it is very good news in education that over \$76 million from the EduTech was spent in the primary and secondary levels.

I am very glad that she has explained that because I was wondering why is it that you are going to spend money on technology, yet the school system needs to be upgraded. I believe that this is good news for us. We must spend money on upgrading the facilities at the primary level especially if you are going to overhaul the system. You need a new electrical system put in place. Of course, I am one of the believers that the three Rs are important. We need to teach basic education, and it has to be improved and the teachers who are involved in the primary level must feel comfortable. They must feel that they are professional in their own right and therefore I am calling for improved conditions at the primary level.

I believe if this is done, we will see better children coming out of the primary school. I am not saying that they are not good. I know that we have an education system in Barbados which I believe is second to none. But as we go into a new century, I believe that our facilities must be improved. Not necessarily in my constituency but Across Barbados, we need primary level education facilities upgraded. I hope that a comprehensive system is put in place and not a piece meal approach that has been undertaken over the years. I think the Ministry of Education, through the years, not necessarily now and not before, has always used a piece meal approach. We have a flooding system in the schools that dates back to the last century. We have a piece meal electrical system that dates way back in the early part of the century and when you

try to upgrade this system, you find that you are only spending money today but tomorrow you have to spend again.

So there needs to be a comprehensive systematic approach in upgrading the primary facility for both teachers and children. If you go into the primary schools today, you still find that there are four or five classrooms in a hall and they are all packed up together. Children cannot learn properly in that surrounding. I feel that the primary schools must look at the separation of the various classes. You must put up a mobile partition, where children will be separated. You cannot have children in a hall, one class is doing math, another class doing scripture, another class doing geography and you have a mass of confusion. The time has come really that we must put this behind us. They must have improved facilities as we go into the new century. After all, the basic education is important.

I also want to look at security in the primary system. I believe, Mr. Chairman, we have heard the call from many quarters out there in the public of persons that are not wanted in there, going into the schools. Persons that do not go there for education, but go there to create problems. I believe, surely at the St. Judes School, there is a need for security. You cannot have persons going into the school compound. Sometimes headteachers are not aware that they are there and teachers are not aware that they are there. You have all types of persons, not necessarily vandals, not necessary persons going there to look for problems. I have gone to a school in Christ Church, quite recently, I think you were there, Mr. Chairman, and you have vendors selling on the school compound way after the bell has rung. These are bad and unwanted things. I feel that proper security is needed in the schools to protect teachers as well as to protect our children.

I also want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I welcome the opportunity that we are looking at a statue for the late Sir Grantley Adams. I believe that this is indeed good news again. This Party has approached the giving of awards, not necessarily on a partisan manner, but to all those persons who have contributed to society and therefore Heroes Day is important. Any amount of money spent on the statues or the awards for these men and women who have contributed significantly to the history of our Country, those men and women who have made tremendous sacrifice in their time, some of whom have toiled without proper remuneration is welcome, and therefore I welcome the opportunity that we are going to get under this Programme.

Thank you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be too long but earlier the Minister said that there were two options of dealing with the Church. As you are aware, Sir, in October, when we dealt with the Budget, I

called on Government to rectify the problem that the Churches were having. At the time I mentioned two churches in particular where there were a lot of schools that were not sure what they were going to do with them. The Minister said that they have two options:

1. To repair the schools;
2. To give the churches the funds.

12.40 p.m.

The Honourable Member said that her preference would have been to repair the schools and give them back to the churches. Somehow I would advise the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East not to adopt that approach but to go towards the policy of speaking to the churches to make sure that that is what is needed. It is okay for us to say that something might be good for a community centre but the church might have a more pressing need.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. We are not at all telling the church how to use the buildings. All we are saying is that we have a commitment to give them back to them in a habitable state of repairs. That is all we are doing so that, rather than giving them a dilapidated building that they now have to do designs for and fix up, we are just giving them back the buildings in a habitable state of repair and the church is free to use a building however it will.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not opposing what you have said but I am just giving you some advice. You might go and repair that building and at the end it might not suit the church. They might have other plans and it might be better to find out from the churches which buildings they would like repaired or whether they have a policy where you compensate them and allow them to do what they need to do with the buildings.

You might go and spend thousands of dollars repairing the church buildings and at the end of the day they have to turn around and do work on those buildings and there would have been no need to spend the money in the first place. A church might decide that a building might be good for commercial use. A church might decide it might be a good thing to turn it into something that can be used for the community.

We cannot sit here in this Parliament and decide what the church feels is good for it. We must be prepared to sit down with the church and sort out what plan we are going to adopt.

I am glad to see that the Government has decided to act on this matter and I am grateful that after speaking about it in the Budget that they have finally put it in

the spotlight, and I know that the Anglican Church and the other churches will be very grateful to know that the Government has reacted to what I said in the Budget.

Even though I agree with the Honourable Member for St. George North's result, I do not agree with his plan. I do not believe it would make sense to be in Parliament discussing ventilation and at the same time suggesting that you put up partitions in the school structure as it stands right now, because if you put up partitions you will have a situation where you would effect the same ventilation problem that you have been speaking about before.

What the Honourable Member might need to do in the long run is to suggest to the Minister that in the long term planning we might need to redesign some of these schools so that we can get better ventilation and at the same time design them in such a way along the Coleridge and Parry concept where you run the schools from the north to the south and allow the ventilation to flow. In other words, you might get a long school but at the same time each class room is separated and you get the appropriate ventilation. This might mean that Government might have to sell some of its properties in order to construct these new schools but I do not support the view that we should put partitions in schools as they stand today.

Sir, they were not designed for that result and I am saying that the partition aspect is not a good idea because last Friday when I was at St. Lucy Primary I observed that what was going on in the 70s is still going on. You can have Lower VI classrooms with 6 teachers conducting classes at the same time...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ...I agree you were making a good point but at the same time you cannot come and put a suggestion without thinking about it.

I am saying that the schools would have to be redesigned to achieve what the Honourable Member for St. George North is suggesting.

Also, of the myth that if you put up partitions that the students would achieve, I think that what he wanted to say is that they would achieve more, because the students right now are achieving. I would suggest to him that he watch his wording. Even though he might have been batting on a good wicket his concepts are wrong.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to add my support to this Resolution. If I could just say a word about schools, as a former Minister of Education I know the difficulties which face the present Minister of

Education and we are talking around the subject. We do not want to say certain things but let's face it, toilet bowls do not get broken by themselves. You do not find cement blocks in the systems of toilets. They do not walk up there by themselves. Desks do not break up themselves. There is a large measure of vandalism.

The schools are open to the use of the community in the afternoon. My constituency branch as indeed the various constituency branches of most Honourable Members from time to time meet in school buildings, in fact, more often than not meet in school buildings. I am lucky now that I have a fairly spacious constituency office and we can sometimes meet there but I am one who likes to move my meetings around the constituency and more often than not we meet in school buildings.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would venture to suggest that all Honourable Members in this House came up in a different kind of culture where you were made to care for the school which nurtured and taught you. You had to clean the furniture. The most you would do in a hidden part, maybe up under the desk lid or something, when you were very senior and leaving school was to scratch in your initials hoping that somehow you would become immortal in this way but, generally speaking, we were brought up in a culture where you were responsible for your surroundings and it is not only school furniture, it was the entire environment of the school.

We do not see that now. Now the attitude is that it is somebody else's job, somebody else is to clean, somebody else is to weed, somebody else is to look after this and that. It is not peculiar to Barbados. I am not beating up on Barbadian school children. I am saying it is something universal, everywhere in the world. It is true what I said to the Honourable Minister that in other places in the world, schools - and it is a fact that you have to recognise the very heavy traffic in term time - have moved to steel bowls. They have had to hide the cistern so that it would not be accessible. It is amazing what little children will get up to and you cannot supervise them every minute.

Even desks, now many schools have moved to metal desks in an effort to lengthen the life of school furniture so I very much sympathise with the Minister in that regard and I would say that wherever I get the opportunity in my own constituency I always appeal to school children and to PTAs as well to have a care. It is the taxes of the parents themselves who pay for these things anyhow, but to have a care.

I rose, Mr. Chairman, Sir, really to speak to the other matter arising under this Head and that has to do with the larger than life-size statue of Sir Grantley Adams.

Many, many years ago, Sir, in the early 1970s, I was the treasurer of the Grantley Adams Memorial Fund,

and not only the Barbados Labour Party but by public subscription all kinds of Barbadians, poor, not so poor, better off, well off gave, because Grantley Adams had even at that time arrived at a place where he could transcend political partisanship, when you bear in mind that the Democratic Labour Party in the final analysis was a splinter party off the Barbados Labour Party. 12.50 p.m.

There are people who have, in this country, irrespective of their political affiliation an appreciation of the enormous contribution made by the late Sir Grantley Adams. That fund purchased the bust which stands outside Government headquarters on Bay Street.

I can remember. I can see it so clearly now the morning when we did the presentation. That, too, started out as a study from the hand of Mr. Karl Broodhagen. I would like to support the call made by other Honourable Members that we have arrived at a place now in our development, in our history, when we must find a way of honouring these national heroes. As far as I am concerned, Sir Grantley is up there. In a way for me, he is almost first among national heroes. I would like to support that.

As the Honourable Minister has said, the proposal is that the statue which will be erected during the year of the centenary of his birth will be replacing the bust. This is a long proposal and I believe I have spoken to it on the Floor of this House before, that once that happens, and I hope that we all live to see it happen, I have waited a long time for it, that the bust of Sir Grantley Adams would come to the long Senate Gallery here and that it would be joined in due course, and not too long either, by busts of all of the Prime Ministers of Barbados. That is what I would like to see, Sir.

I would like to see one day, Sir, when Bridgetown, Oistins, Speightstown, ...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Not the Judge Gap. We are dealing with towns here, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is dedicated to Judge Gap but we are dealing with towns here, Sir. Even in Holetown which boasts an historic monument I would like to think that we would raise somehow monuments, not that we are going to imbue monuments with any magical quality, but by way of a remembrance and an appreciation of the tremendous contribution which men and women have made to this country.

I am really very pleased, Sir, to be able to support this. I would want to say, Sir, that during my time as a Minister of Education, this matter came up and Mr. Karl Broodhagen was commissioned by the then Government, an

earlier Barbados Labour Party administration, to sculpt in Barbados clay the study...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is how it is done, a study about this size. Then it is taken to the United Kingdom, it is enlarged and the officer has to go there to put finishing touches on the bronze work and so on. But the original study was done. I spent many Saturday mornings at the home of Mr. Broodhagen watching him work with these two eyes. He was an old, old friend of my father.

The money, as far as I recall, and I am open to contradiction on this, passed the Cabinet. I cannot remember if it actually was voted on the Floor of the House.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is confirming what I am saying that part of the money was voted before 1986 for this study to go off to England for the process to start.

I regretted very greatly, Sir, that in the intervening eight years nothing was done to pursue it and the clay study crumbled. I could not believe it.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The study is a statue. You have to work from something. I am trying to speak as plainly as possible. I cannot believe the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is not understanding what a study means in terms of sculpture.

One of the first things after September 1994 - it is that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy does not want to hear the truth, but the truth must be spoken and it must be spoken here. The history books will show that Karl Broodhagen sculptured a study which was allowed to dry and crumble and a subsequent administration now - I went, taking the Honourable Minister by the hand, to Strathclyde to Karl Broodhagen again to ask him, a man now much advanced in years, "please, this is of national importance" because you see, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Broodhagen knew the man Sir Grantley Adams.

I remember when he first sculpted the first study we brought the late Lady Adams to look at it. No person would have known that loving face better than she. I remember her saying to Mr. Broodhagen "the thumb is too far forward." Sir Grantley had a thumb that when he held up his hand it went back like this. That was the natural thing and little touches like that, she was able to confirm.

We are very fortunate, Sir, that Karl Broodhagen is still alive and that he has a son, Virgil, who can be an able assistant to him so that on this occasion the work will not be lost. It will not come to naught as it did on an earlier occasion.

When I hear the Honourable Member for St. John making a call, and I support his call, for similar works in respect of the late Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neal and Mr. Errol Barrow, I wonder what was going on in the heads of anybody. I suspect nobody thought about these things. They were a pack of philistines over there when they were in Government in those eight years. No one thought then to go to Mr. Broodhagen to say, what about Charles Duncan O'Neal. What about Errol Barrow, but it will fall to this side...

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order, Sir. I do not like to interrupt the Honourable Member. I am part of the literati, I am not a philistine. You know that. We are the literati here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point of order.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The point of order, Mr. Chairman, is the Honourable Member is misleading the House unwittingly. The same committee which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East set up comprised some of the people whom we had started work on a national heroes project with.

I have visited Karl Broodhagen many times and seen the studies and went through intimately with him how Grantley Adams upper back was crouched, how he stood. I have looked at it as part of the literati so today the Honourable Member for the City can calm down, if we are in agreement. I assume all of the philistines are gone, okay, and we agree.

The point is that I believe it is a natural progression. The resources are available now. We are dividing up the fruits of those resources that are available and we need to focus it on things like this, and that is our argument. We did not have the resources, to the best of my knowledge, when I left office in 1994.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: That is perfectly true, Mr. Chairman. They did not even have the resources to pay people and took away 8 per cent of people's salaries and so on, but do not let us go down that road now. If they do not want to be called philistines they are other things we can call them like whited sepulchres. The Bible is replete.

Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that it falls, as it so often does to this administration, a Barbados

Labour Party administration, to bring these matters to fruition. I am glad that we can see the beginning of the process in our time. Already we live in a generation, as all Honourable Members must know, where there is a generation behind us who neither knew nor heard of Sir Grantley Adams, nor Errol Barrow. They do not care and they do not want to know. We have to find a way in our educational system, and I am very pleased that the Honourable Minister is pursuing this as well, to let them ...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying that I am misleading the House. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little story, Sir. A number of years ago a gentleman who was dedicated to the game of cricket was visiting in a certain house. There were a number of teenage boys in the house and he said something to them about the Three Ws and they all looked vacant. This man could not understand what was going on so he said again the Three Ws and I said to him, you are wasting your time, they do not know who the Three Ws are. He said, you cannot be right that they are 16 and 17-year old boys who did not know who the Three Ws were. I said alright. I called Trevor and I said, Trevor, who are the Three Ws and he said a group. This is gospel, Mr. Chairman, because it happened in my house. He said it was a singing group and I said no, try again but they did not know who the Three Ws were. 1.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Oh yes, they were all philistines, Barbados is over run by the philistines.

This man was shocked, he just could not believe it but it was true and these are relatively modern heroes in Barbados but we must find a way to teach the history of our country so that there is an appreciation of more than just what is present.

I am not one, Mr. Chairman, for wallowing in the past but we often have to look back in order to go forward. Many of us, I am happy to say, attended the Independence Service last Sunday at the St. Patricks Roman Catholic Cathedral here in the beautiful city of Bridgetown. I saw the Leader of the Opposition there, I did not see any other members of the Opposition but the text that was taken for the sermon was most interesting and it spoke to this point.

"Do not let us get so vain and so proud, it is vanity and vexation".

The grandfather of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East used to say that we think that we

make ourselves. The late Ernest Deighton Mottley used to say that you feel that you make yourself, and that is what the text was saying, that because the work is worthy and the land is beautiful we must not get so presumptuous as to think that we invented it or that we made it and that God is in all of this. That is what the text was saying and I am saying that in respect of our history we must not be so anxious to take for granted what we find when we are born. As they say, the proverbial blood, sweat and tears have been shed so that we could enjoy these freedoms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the greatest possible pleasure in supporting this Resolution and I commend it to Honourable Members.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, just as I conclude, there is one other matter that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition and that related to St. Thomas Secondary School and the payment of contractors and subcontractors. It is only some \$445 000 owing to the contractor on valuation No. 6. There is a valuation that is outstanding that is likely to be in the vicinity of \$1.5 million but there are problems and a number of snags with that valuation and the Quantity Surveyor therefore has not been able to put the valuation in the hand of the Ministry. The amount is not yet certifiable and cannot be paid. I think the real problem there has more to do with the peculiar circumstances of the contractor and his capacity to pay on to the subcontractors rather than any liability from Government at this point in time. Sufficing to say that funds will be in hand now that when that certificate No. 7 becomes available and is certified we can pay to ensure that there are no further difficulties experienced in terms of our part. The \$445 000 would have been outstanding for some 29 days as opposed to having been paid within 14 days as required by the contract and therefore it was not a large sum.

With those few words, Sir, I beg to move that Head 34 stand part as amended.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

On the motion of Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER seconded by Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.15 p.m. this afternoon.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly. 1.09 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it will now revert.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair.

HEAD 35 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT - \$4 036 500

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, this money relates to the purchase of a property in the United Kingdom to serve as the residence for the High Commissioner of Barbados to the United Kingdom.

The present residence, Sir, "Iverta", is a very expansive suburban property on the banks of the river Thames at Kingston. It is in a very desirable location, big lawns going down with weeping willows next to the water and so on. We speak in a time when High Commissioners lived in a certain style.

That property was purchased in October of 1969 for £37 500. It is not in a good state of repair. In the so-called years of recession in this country, Sir, the properties abroad -1 have made this statement time and again but "Iverta" is a perfect example, as was Pelham in the United States - they just were allowed to run right down.

Generally speaking, it is now really quite unsuitable for a High Commissioner of Barbados to the United Kingdom. The increase in traffic over the years, through the 1970s, the 1980s and we are coming toward the end of the 1990s, it is at least an hour and a half on the road one way, so that in the evenings the High Commissioner cannot go home to Kingston-on-Thames to change to come back out to an evening function. He has to stay in town if he has to do things with Barbadians or in his post attend receptions, dinners, whatever.

The cost of upkeep would, in my judgment, see the Government indulge in continuing false economy. It is

a beautiful property but a lot of money needs to be spent on it both on the exterior and in the interior, and on the furnishings as well. We have found what we think is an excellent replacement property, but before I come to that let me say that we have also found a buyer for this property.

The purchase price which has been negotiated is in the sum of BDS. \$3 070 500. You will recall that this was a property that, as I said, was bought in 1969 for £37 500. At that time the pound was a real pound. It was a \$4.80 pound then so you can see, Sir, that there is a massive capital gain here. If the property were in better condition, I think we would have been able to negotiate an even better price for it, much the same problem as with Pelham.

The property which we have found is situated at Roehampton, just outside Richmond Park. It is a new property, from the ground up. I saw it on the last occasion that I was passing through London. It is in a suitable location, not these big rolling lawns but a big enough lawn that one could have a reception. You could invite some Barbadians to a function there. I know that traditionally the University of the West Indies Alumni usually borrowed the Barbados grounds to have their annual summer fund-raising barbeque and Barbados always graciously allowed this. I think they could still even do it at a pinch in this location.

This is a location much closer into town, easier on traffic. You have a younger property, a property better appointed. It has all the usual things. It will come with basic appliances like oven, freezer, fridge, a dishwasher et cetera and most importantly, a basic security system in place. It is fully wired. It has modern gas, central heating, double-glazed windows which would make for saving on heat and electricity especially in the winter which is not true of "Iverta" which is an old house and does not have these added amenities.

Quite unlike the majority of houses in the United Kingdom, this new house has concrete floors on the ground, which is good. It should give us, we hope, many maintenance free years with very limited maintenance costs because it is a new property. There are no hidden defects that we know of because it is a new house from the ground up and, in this case, it is covered for ten years by the National Housing Guarantee of the United Kingdom.

The market price of the property is £1.2 million but our High Commissioner at London has negotiated a price of £1.1 million, which is BDS. \$3 795 000, provided that the exchange of contracts takes place by tomorrow, Wednesday, December 3, 1997 at which time the 10 per cent, the £110 000 deposit, will be payable. That is why it was important that we come to the House today because once this matter passes the House, and I would urge its passage upon Honourable Members, then we can signal

London straightaway and the deposit will be payable which would make for a saving of £110 000 in respect of the purchase price.

The Supplementary also would call for an additional £70 000 to supply plant, equipment and furniture. This would include carpeting, light fittings, washing machine and stuff like that.

It is a well-appointed house. It is not too grand. It is set in a quarter of an acre of land including the house sited on the land and there is a little forecourt where you can park maybe three or four cars. Then there is a lawn behind.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: It is a quarter acre of land. I do not think that is too bad. It is a two-storey house. It has a nice spacious kitchen, well appointed, five bedrooms. It has a living room, dining room, what could be like a family room, a very small room which could be a study, in my judgment. It has good storage. The most important thing is an easier and much shorter run into central London. I think this is a good property and I would urge upon members of Parliament their support for this.

Now, I need to say that the purchasers of the old property at "Iverta"...

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member was asking how much land was "Iverta". I am not sure. 2.25 p.m.

"Iverta" would be more than that. Not twice as much or as much as that, but I think "Iverta" might be 16, 18 thousand square feet. I am guessing, Mr. Chairman, but I would venture to suggest that "Iverta" is, in terms of land space, a little bigger than a quarter of an acre. The new house is in a good location. It is closer to where a lot of Barbadians live, people who settled in London and I recommend it very, highly to Honourable Members.

I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, as usual, whenever a matter like this comes before Parliament, one must ask certain questions. I have no intention of stopping them from signing any agreement and nothing I say can stop them. But, I am a bit worried, Sir, that when we are at a stage where we are worrying so much about the poor people in this country, and where we have just set aside \$10 million for the Poverty Alleviation Fund that we are buying a property which is more than one third the cost of what we have set aside for the Fund to look after thousands of people in this country.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. I do not want the Honourable Member to go down the wrong road. This point has been made several times in here, not a single penny in respect of all the properties in London, the residences and the Chancery, is coming out of the Treasury.

We are simply renewing the properties. We are selling and taking the purchase monies and buying another. There is money, in fact, we may still have money in the bank by way of capital gain at the end of the whole exercise.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, this calls for some accounting knowledge now, Sir, because if you are telling me that you are buying a property for \$3 795 000 and I am not dealing with the furniture, and you are selling \$3 570 500 and you are telling me that you are making a gain, I am saying the opposite, Mr. Chairman. I am saying, Sir, that the Government of Barbados has to look for \$24 500 and on top of that you have to add \$241 500 to that cost also. I want to know why is it that we would also have a bill for furniture. I want to know what we are going to do with the furniture that is in the other property. I have no problem with the carpets because I can appreciate that you would need to renew the carpets, but I would challenge anybody to tell me that the furniture that is in the old property cannot be better furniture than what they want to buy, because, somehow I am under the impression that the old property would have to have in, good Bajan mahogany and we are about to replace it with some...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is only my assumption. I am only asking questions. I am asking because I would hate to believe that we went to England and purchased their furniture and did not take our own. It cannot be a bad purchase anytime any Government can buy a property for £37 000 and today sell it for over \$3 million and I believe if we had used our negotiating skills, we might have come out with a capital gain instead of a capital loss, because that is exactly what we are going to get.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I agree, but when you take the cost of the new property, it is exactly what you are going to hear, you are going to lose money from a cash basis. So I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we are in a situation where that property, because of the location of the land, we should be selling that property for a lot more. I am not buying this excuse that the property was run down because they had three years to correct the problem. Three years of expenditure could have been spent on that property

seeing that it was in a particular location, to make sure that what you are getting today is better than what you are prepared to accept.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You are telling me because the house needed repairs and you all did not repair it? I cannot buy that, Mr. Chairman, because anybody that is prepared to buy an old house for \$3 million tells me that there is something substantially good about that property.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Exactly and that is why we should have spent some money on that property to make sure that it was kept in good condition and maybe today we would have spent \$1 million and end up with a sale of over \$5 million.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, what foolishness am I hearing in this House? That we, the Democratic Labour Party allowed it to run down for eight years and they added three so that is 11 on their part. Eight by us and three by them that is 11 years of running down a property, and then would want to blame us for eight, so what kind of match is that? Mr. Chairman, this property should be looked at and we should have gone on the market and found out the true value. I want to see and I want the Honourable Minister to show me the market values of that property because somehow I believe it has a higher market value than what we are selling it at today. I want the Minister to show me the market value of that property that they are selling and I am even prepared, Mr. Chairman, to question the market value of the present house that we are buying, because I cannot see how any house on 10 000 square feet can cost so much money. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas and my MP have more land and a better house than this in St. Michael and it cannot fetch that value. You know her standards are very high, Sir. We need to know the market value of the property we are purchasing in London and we need to know if that is the true value that we are paying or whether we are paying too much for that property.

I somehow believe that when we are shown the figures, that is going to be exactly what I am saying, we are buying that property in London at too high a price, because no house, unless it has in gold or something, can value...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You cannot compare any house in Sandy Lane with any house that they are

buying. It is substandard to Sandy Lane. I am saying that when you work out a square foot price of that house it is too high and the only body that will probably do it, is the Government of Barbados and we must look after how we are spending the taxpayers money better, the price per square foot. A question I would like to ask and I would like to get an answer, I would like to know what square footage is the property. I am not talking about the land area, now. I am talking about the building, because if we are committed to true assessment and judgment on this property we need to know all of those figures and I can assure you, Sir, it cannot be any more than 3 000 square feet.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am not butting my head, I am making a bet and I am here to be corrected. Even if it is 5 000 and when you divide \$3 million by 5 000 you are still going to get a high price. I can even give, Sir, if it is 5 000 square feet when you divide it and work it out by a price per square foot, it is still too high. So I want to know, Sir, after I get the square footage cost, what is the building cost in London and all those are questions I want answered. 2.35 p.m.

You see, Mr. Chairman, we have to be very careful. It might be that at this point in time we have some money in the Treasury, but we need to know how we are expending this money and we must maximise this money.

Mr. Chairman, I want to tell people that anytime a property belonging to the Government is sold that money belongs to the taxpayers of the country and should go into the Treasury and then back out, even if some other arrangement is worked out. Anything that is sold by the Government of Barbados belongs to the Treasury and I would not accept in here today anybody telling me that it does not belong to the Treasury.

Am I to believe that we are running a slush fund overseas where people can just take up money and spend it as they like? Do not tell me the money does not belong to the Treasury because then we would need to ask other questions.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I cannot believe the Honourable Member, a man of substance and a man of property, could be so ignorant of the way in which legal matters are dealt with. I made it clear before and I make it clear again. The money is paid into the Treasury. To purchase, the money will come out of the Treasury again but I am saying the Treasury will be the beneficiary rather than otherwise .

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You contradict me. You provide the figures, then.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will not sit in this Parliament and allow anybody to tell me that you are getting \$3 million and spending \$3.7 million and you are gaining. Then the figures that are given to me are wrong. This supplementary is wrong. The Honourable Member is spending over \$4 million on this property and getting back only \$3 million and telling me that the Honourable Member is making a cost saving. What type of accounting is this? I want to know if these figures are wrong. You come challenging me on figures and tell me that the taxpayers are saving when the Honourable Member is taking \$1 million more out of the Treasury and telling me about a saving. Am I aware that we are negotiating in a different currency, that what I am seeing here and what we are selling are something quite different? Am I to believe that we are selling it for £3 million and only paying BDS\$3 million? That is the only way I can believe that argument, Sir.

I am saying that when you come in here and tell me we are making a saving you have to provide the facts because I am not going to sit down here and allow the taxpayers' money to be spent like that - and then some big thing about the country will save! Save what? Just because the house is a good house and it has no defects because it is new? What kind of argument is that? You mean we do not know of any known defects; but any property can have defects whether it is old, new or anything. So we will have to wait and see later on what are the problems with this particular property. But as it stands today we do not know.

I cannot accept any assurance from anybody that the house does not have any defects. Time will tell and nobody can give me that assurance, not even an engineer and I am not aware that the Honourable Member for the City has a new skill now and a new profession where the Honourable Member can come in here and tell us that the house has no defects and also that we are buying something for more than what we are getting and that we are making cost savings. What new accounting is this? Fortunately for us that is just the Deputy.

I am saying, Sir, that we need to find out about this furniture because it is very important for us to know what is going to happen with the old furniture. I want to hear how much it will be sold for and I want to know if we have sold the property with the old furniture because then I want a breakdown, how much is for the house and for the furniture. I need to know how much we are going to get on the furniture that has been sold or if we are giving away the furniture we need to know who it is going to. These are questions that must be answered. At the end of the day it is the taxpayers that will have to foot the bill.

A next thing, Sir, I have a problem. I have said this earlier this year. I cannot be happy coming in here nearly every 3 months and Government coming to buy properties with supplementaries. I have said in here before that the Government must have a plan and every year the Government must know whether it is going to replace a property and it must know how much money it is prepared to spend on a property. It is true that you cannot know the exact cent but in everything nobody knows what is the exact amount that is going to be spent so there must be an estimate put in the Estimates. This thing of coming every time with a supplementary to buy properties is a bad example for us.

We must be prepared to do estimates and make sure that those estimates account for everything that we plan to do. For a Parliament like this we cannot in the 21st century go forward with planning like this. We must do better. I said it when we were dealing with property in Canada. I said it when we were dealing with the one in America and now we are back in London. It is a good thing we do not have to discuss these things with our counterparts overseas. I would hate to believe that when we are negotiating we tell people we have to go and provide a supplementary. I hope they are not telling the buyer that they can only buy the property when they go to their Parliament because I am saying it is sloppy planning and we need to do better.

Thank you very much.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is amazing how in politics issues are like recurring decimals. I well recall when the Other Side was in power in the late 1960s they were purchasing property in the United States ~ as a matter of fact, it was the house that formerly housed the UN Ambassador - and the addendum on that occasion was equally as deficient as the one on this occasion and it gave rise to precisely the same type of speech that the Honourable Member just made.

At that time, the House had the benefit of the membership of the then Honourable Member for the City who was a mathematics expert in real estate valuation, not only in Barbados, but whose claim to fame was that he had had experience in the United States of America, the late E.D. Mottley, and he regaled the House with a lot of information about value in the United States of America, no doubt forgetting that some of those values were outdated, he having departed from the United States of America for many years.

The truth of the matter is, Sir, that I support the Honourable Member in one respect. When these matters come before the House, the Addendum should be sufficiently ample that Honourable Members can understand the underlying transaction. When I looked at this at the beginning I myself wondered until I asked of my

colleagues what was happening with the other property which this one was replacing. There was nothing in the Addendum to suggest what it was. That is very wrong.

I hope that the debate that has taken place today, at least that aspect of it, would have a chastening effect on all those who are responsible for the production of the Addendum. Honourable Members, in land acquisition matters, in any matters in which there is disposal of Government property, are entitled to have as ample amounts of information as possible.

Now, Sir, this is the house that is replacing "Iverta". I also remember when "Iverta" was purchased by the Democratic Labour Party and at that time this House was told quite clearly that we were very fortunate in being able to get "Iverta" situated on the Thames River at that period of time. The person who owned it was a person who had particular interests in the Caribbean because that person had established a business in Bermuda and was very happy to sell at a lesser price to the Caribbean. 2.45 p.m.

They could have got a greater price but they were quite happy to sell it for a lesser price to the Caribbean. I believe Sir Lionel Luckhoo was then the High Commissioner of Guyana and of Barbados. So it was always recognised that "Iverta" did have some problems. Among the problems with "Iverta" was that it was backed on to the River Thames and it was supposed to be an area* in winter, that was exceptionally damp. It was said that it would require heating costs that would be higher and above normal. But at the same time for the value and its situation it was felt that capital gains would inevitably arise given rising house prices in the United Kingdom. That is what in fact has taken place except that today it is my understanding for some period of time, certainly during the last administration of the Labour Party, some 10 or 12 years ago the question of selling "Iverta" came up like a recurring decimal because successive High Commissioners had pointed out the fact that it really was situated quite a distance from London. As a matter of fact in the purchasing of the new High Commission's Office a separate flat was fitted out because it was felt that sometimes a High Commissioner, who had to attend a London meeting late in the night would not wish to have his chauffeur go up there then to drive back down because of the distance.

Now, I understand also that because of the increase in traffic in London it has ever become more and more difficult to commute between "Iverta" and the office and I have no doubt that if one goes back through the files, under both administrations, because after all since the purchase of that you have had two administrations before this one and you will see that like a recurring decimal the High Commissioners have been talking about the unsuitability of retaining "Iverta" and that is the position.

Now this is a new house, Sir. The Honourable Member raised a valid question. The only thing is that if he were the Honourable Member for the City he would have had that calculation worked out so he would be able to give us precise figures. I myself am interested in knowing the square footage and it is being calculated. But it is a new house situated in a new area. People who know London would know Barking. I know exactly where that is. I believe that is where old Doctor Clarke, an old famous Barbadian lived. In my day as a student it was at the end of the tram line. It is one of those where the underground used to surface at the top. So it is not that far from London because they have trains. It is an area that was developing between there and London. It is a distance but it is accessible by the underground. So that seems to me to be the general situation. Those who know London would know that it is not very far. But, Sir, the question is always a matter of judgement by the particular administration, advised by their High Commissioners and I think it is a good thing that the Government, in some of these countries, acquire property because you are either going to be subjected to fluctuating rents and London is notorious for changes in rent, you are either going to do that or you make the capital investment in the hope that your capital investment would be multiplied at least in accordance with inflation.

I have not got my tables here but if I had access to the tables in the personal injury claims at the back you will see a Table that will tell you exactly the value of a pound in 1937 and what is the price and what is the present day value. Now, I would not be surprised because it seems to me that it would be an interesting exercise because I believe this property is being bought for £1.1 million and the other one was bought for £37 000 so that is about 25 times the amount. So we have been able to trace it through but this is a new area as I understand it. From the brochure that has been circulated it seems to be a modern house and the market value of these houses can be determined and perhaps the Minister would be able to assure us that the market value was the going selling value because it seems to me that it is a new escape of the upper income type which is being sold and that no doubt it has all of the modern conveniences. Therefore the Government is likely to be in a position that its investment will not be lost.

As far as the accounting is concerned the question of acquisition of assets is a matter that has been the subject of many debates in here and as usual with our accounting system my understanding is that from time immemorial the practice in Barbados, because of our particular Financial Administration & Audit Act, is that where you know you are going to acquire an asset in a particular financial year and the value of the asset is not known or the cost is not known the correct thing to do is to put in at least a token vote of \$1 and when the price becomes known you come

by a supplementary resolution. In other words the principle of the acquisition is approved, the specifics are then endorsed by a supplementary resolution and that has been a practice that has been going on here from time immemorial. You put in a token vote of \$1 so that the position is that my understanding of the* calculation is that the house is somewhere in the vicinity of 2 600 square feet. It is all in metres now, that is excluding the land of course, and according to the calculations it is 232.9 square metres. You can work that out by the \$3 million and then you have to add on the land value. All of those things you have to do to work out at least square footage cost. So that is my contribution in this debate.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Chairman, in this matter of the acquisition of property I just want to look at a few issues relating to it. First of all I wondered whether there was an estimate done on the cost of repairing the building on the Thames. Actually when the Honourable Member for the City was speaking and she gave this graphic description of this house on the Thames with weeping willows I felt that this was the ideal location that a High Commissioner would want to live in and would want to have guests at and so forth. I felt that would be the kind of property that one would want to keep as a show piece in view of the graphic description that she had given.

I also wondered, Sir, at the appreciation of this house over time and how it would compare with the new house that is going to be acquired. This new house we are told would be on a smaller piece of land and we have not been told about the architecture or structure in any detail so we do not know exactly how that house would appreciate with time and what status it would have among that kind of external ambassadorial class. 2.55 p.m.

Also, we were not told whether it was the norm, the practice for Ambassadors to move closer to the City than to be away in a more quiet place where they could entertain late in the evening or on bank holidays or whatever.

I know there is concern about the travelling time of one hour and a half but in Barbados I know that people like the Honourable Member for St. Lucy have to travel quite a long time to get to Parliament and the Honourable Member for St. John also has to travel very far. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South leaves St. Philip and stops to talk to all his people in St. Philip and then he bounces into this traffic coming down from Mapp Hill down to Bussa Roundabout and then down to Government Hill and St. Michael's Row. I think it probably takes him an hour to get to town. I myself try to avoid travelling early in the morning at rush hour because it would certainly take me sometimes an hour to get to town and on evenings it would take quite a long time as well. So I am

just wondering whether the norm is for Ambassadors to seek to be closer to town because of the travelling distance. If it is the norm, well then I think we could look at it in terms of saving time but I am very much attracted to the graphic description which the Honourable Member gave to this House 'with weeping willows'. It sounds like what we used to read about in old English and since it is an ambassadorial home, it sounds like the kind of place that people would want to entertain at, not in a house surrounded by other houses. I do not know if it is that but the new house sounds more workable, more of a working environment than an environment to take away people away from the rumble and tumble and the hustle and bustle of the normal work life. We want to get away from that to where you can entertain people.

I know that most of those houses are in the suburbs so that you can get away from all this feeling of the pressure of the City and I am wondering whether we are going in the right direction since this seems to be a drift away from what is the norm for Ambassadors to live just outside of town in a more quiet situation and where people can come and relax and entertain people away for the wars of the dry City. I am just asking a question and I have to be advised accordingly. Those who travel more extensively than I do would be able to advise me appropriately.

I was also wondering about the sale price of the whole house. It is being sold, I understand for over \$3 million and for someone to buy a house for that price means that house has to have something of value. The location is one which I feel that you would want to have when you move away from work and perhaps the apartment which is above the offices seems to be the ideal place if you have a function downtown you can stay there and there is a flexible situation like with most of us when we have a function to go to you take along your blazer and leave it in the office and then we go to the function and go home one time. All of us go through that. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael North keeps his jacket in his office and I can speak authoritatively and say that the Honourable Member for St. George North always has his blazer hung up in his office. The Honourable Member for St. James North also has his blazer there and I am saying that it is convenient to take it along with you when you have an after work function.

The point I am making is that while I do appreciate the inconvenience of having to travel for an hour and a half, there are just certain things that concern me because that description sticks in my memory "the house on the Thames with weeping willows". It sounds like the ideal place for an Ambassador to reside and to treat people there outside of the normal business setting and my impression was that this would be where you would want to carry on business after hours.

I am just a little concerned about that part of it but I am hoping that the new building would be able to withstand the pressures of time and will appreciate as the old one has done and that we will not find that the fashion of moving in that direction changes so fast like one of these fads that we find that we have to revert to the suburbs and we would have said that we have gone full circle again.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would not be long. Of course not having the benefit of the explanation which came later I too would have constructed my presentation based on the Addendum and that Addendum would have led me to certain conclusions which now are not as reasonable as they were when I was making my preparations.

As I understand it, the cost of this house which is 2600 square feet and we are paying about \$1,153.85 per square foot based on the rough calculations which we have done. I myself do not know what is a reasonable figure for a house of that standard or quality but apart from the coldness which is definitely a problem with 'Iverta'¹, I do not know that any other reason would have been advanced in the course of the Minister's presentation which would convinced me that it was worth the effort. I am not going into that part of it, I think it is a judgement call and I believe that with the sale of 'Iverta'¹ much of the tradition associated with that building would have come to an end and I am not one who hankers after that tradition. If the Minister says that she wants a businesslike corps of ambassadors whose dwellings suit that designation then I will go along with it.

I want to talk a bit about the High Commissioner. I am very sorry that I have to do that because I was minding my own business last week when I turned on my radio to hear the High Commissioner from London obviously with nothing else to do, which is a pity for a businesslike Ministry with a High Commissioner who should be doing the kind of work that I think is necessary, extolling the virtues of the fact that he was seated nearer to Her Majesty the Queen at a luncheon held in the Guildhall...

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I heard him myself. I must say that I had just finished eating and I am glad that his food went down better than mine because I did not feel that the High Commissioner's senses could be with him when he participated on that programme to suggest that Barbados should stay as part of the Monarchy simply because he was seated closer to Her Majesty.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I heard him with my own ears. He said that one of the positive things that we

need to reflect on when breaking with the Monarchy because when he compared where he and other Caribbean Ambassadors who were from Republican countries were sitting that he was sitting much closer to the Queen and he called on Father Hatch to reflect and called on people who had been suggesting that we should break with the Monarchy that there were certain privileges associated with being part of that system, which privileges I assumed he had just enjoyed and did not want to part with easily.

When asked, however, and this is the point I want to make to the Minister because this goes to the performance of function, when asked about issues relating to trade the High Commissioner was not able to say anything about the very important and significant matters which are presently on the agenda both arising out of the meeting with the ACP countries, arising out of the work of the West India Committee and arising out of a whole set of other developments. 3.05 p.m.

He said he had been so busy travelling all over the world that he has not had time to deal with those issues. So I suggest to the Minister that the...

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: They all love it. Do not fool yourself. He was not alone in that. The present High Commissioner loves it more than he did. I suggest that serious attention be paid to the edict which the Minister has sent out and which she spoke about in here that the role of High Commissioner is not a fanciful one to do only with changing the colour of the foyer from grey to pink and putting up paintings and holding domino sessions at the end of the month. There are very serious issues which affect the future of the Caribbean which also require very close collaboration between those persons who are functioning in London.

London is still, in my view, certainly for countries like ours, the major focal point of financial relations and therefore I believe there is a lot more that needs to be done and more focus needs to be attuned or made on that aspect of the work. And this talk about country team approach, what is necessary, as I say, true you must have socialising and so on but I wanted to hear from the High Commissioner about what, for example, had happened arising out of the meetings in Edinburgh, arising out of the meetings in Southern Africa and arising out of the discussions with the West India Committee, those are issues; not to call down here and waste taxpayers money to tell us that he was sitting closer to the Queen than other High Commissioners. That is trivia and that can be dealt with in the weekly publication of the High Commission. Serious business needs to be done and if we are investing on improving the quality of the High Commission though,

I would add that the study, small as it is, I hope would be used to improve the knowledge the High Commissioner has of these issues and attention needs to be paid to that.

I also want to go on to say that I am alarmed now at the other extreme that in other major capitals of the world Barbadian associations are being very badly treated by diplomatic officials from Barbados, I mean those functioning out of those stations. The Consulate General in New York is in a battle with the Council of Barbadian Organisations, they had old hell this weekend over two functions which were organised, one which you could see was clearly what I would call a put up job where the list of civil servants was put at the back of the programme to pretend that they formed a charity organisation to compete with the work which Barbadians living in those capitals are doing. That is not necessary. The work of the diplomatic staff wherever possible should be to assist and to facilitate the organisations of Barbadians and it is high time that those diplomatic officials spend more time working on the serious issues and seeking to facilitate the work of organisations which already exist and which are doing a very good job and which do not meddle by and large in partisan politics and do not meddle in our local politics. When I say local I mean the politics of Barbados, the nation from which they come. As I say, the work of the diplomatic staff overseas should be to assist. I am always distressed because I do not think there has ever been any attempt from Barbados to meddle in that work and therefore I think that people who are functioning on our behalf in those capitals should be more facilitative and less antagonistic in seeking to impose their will on those Barbadian organisations.

I regret in this particular forum to mention this but I saw Mr. Oliver Jackman spoke about the person who was obviously an imposter for the High Commissioner in London but I thought I would put it on the record because as a Barbadian I was not proud. If that was a discussion taking place here in Barbados that is one thing but when a High Commissioner calls from London to Barbados I make the assumption that what he is calling about is something serious and worthy of discussion, not who sits closest to the Queen at a banquet and how proud somebody is because they were closer to the Queen than Dominica, Trinidad & Tobago or other republics. That is not a serious approach to representation and to me, as I say, it was inappropriate and there may be other occasions when that inappropriateness exhibited itself but this was one occasion when it was unnecessary. The Queen was celebrating her 50th Wedding Anniversary and the representative of Barbados was entitled to attend but where he sat in relation to other Caribbean territories was unnecessary.

The final point that I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that this purchase in Roehampton has also to be analysed against a background of all of the other properties

which have been purchased and I hope that at some appropriate time the Minister will come to the House and tell us what the state of play is as a whole, what has been sold, what has been acquired, what are the locations and whether they are meeting the objectives of the change. We are not opposing change for the sake of change. If we think that it is financially prudent, if it will assist the work of the diplomatic staff, if in terms of priorities for Barbados one can accommodate expenditure of that type then we will give our support to it.

Apart from the concerns which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has raised and those are very valid concerns, the concerns which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South raised in this particular debate I think that the responses from the Minister should be able to alleviate any of those concerns but a word to the wise in relation to the hard work that needs to be done in London instead of the preoccupation with what I would call diplomatic trivia is something that would be appropriate, in my view, at this point in time.

Thank you.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Just two minutes, Sir, before the Minister winds up.

I wish to make a few points on this. In the first place all High Commissioners over the years have criticised "Iverta" because of its great distance from central London. It is a burden on the High Commissioner. If they are dedicated they stay until 6 and 7 in the evenings. If they are not so dedicated they try and leave by 2.00 o'clock and go from London back to "Iverta". I am not calling any names, Sir. One of the problems is...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They would know whom I mean. They would know who the staff at the High Commission call "Flash". They would know who locked up the safe and never unlocked it for a year so that correspondence that should have been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which should have gone in 1993 arrived in January 1995. 3.15 p.m.

All those kinds of things, but we are not getting into that.

One of the great burdens is when a High Commissioner has to attend a function in Central London and it finishes at half past ten or eleven o'clock, then to drive that distance out to Hampstead and you get home very near twelve o'clock. But the High Commissioner's chauffeur then has to put up the car and drive back that distance to his home in Harlesden or whatever or White City and has to come back down the next morning to pick

up the High Commissioner at 8.30 a.m. or 9.00 a.m. to get him into town. It is a great strain particularly on the staff and it is unfair to the driving staff.

It is true that "Iverta" is located in a nice area, right there by the Thames, but it is an old house. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said it is cold, but it is so bad, Sir, I do not complain about myself. In June this year, I passed through London going to New York and went upstairs and the carpet was over a loose board underneath and I fell from the top of the stairs to the bottom on my back and never complained about it. Few people know.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That place threw me down. The Government, I understand has got a reasonable deal where they are going to sell "Iverta" and move closer to London near the East Putney, area in a new house. The difference between the selling price and the purchase price may be \$700 000. The Leader of the Opposition was on to a very important point, but when you look at the total package of properties that are going to be sold in London or have to be sold, you are not losing anything, you are going to gain because the High Commission itself is to be sold, if they can find somewhere to move to. I think they have an offer of \$3.6 million for the Chancery, but they are being back raised in respect to the property they were to purchase in Clarebourne Street.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They were trying to get a property near Trafalgar Square, but somebody back raised them so they do not have anywhere to go now. There is a hotel group that is after them for the property at Great Russell Street because there is the St. Giles Hotel on the other side of the road. So that I think at the end of the day the Government will come out having made its capital gain on the sale of all its properties. I have to look at them in a package.

Regarding the High Commissioner, I was called Sunday before last by a Senator who said that they read the article by Oliver Jackman and were disgusted by it because it was a thorough distortion of what transpired on Father Hatch's programme. I asked for the information. I do not hear the call-in programmes. It was being reported to me. When a check was made, I understand that the High Commissioner called to say that an outstanding Barbadian from Passage Road, Mr. Trevor Hall, who is a consultant now to the Home Office, perhaps the most senior and eminent Bajan in the public service in England was honoured, an honoured guest at a function that the Queen had. There is nothing wrong with that. Trevor Hall from Passage Road has reached these heights and we should be proud. I am told that Reverend Hatch asked the

question, if the High Commissioner was there and who was there and he said who was there and it transpired that he pointed out, not gloatingly, that only those countries in the Commonwealth which still recognise the Queen as Head were invited, to which Hatch said that there is some advantage for remaining in the Commonwealth or having the Queen as Head.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The High Commissioner never said that only those which were part of the Monarchy were invited, he said only those which retained the Monarchy sat close to the Queen. He also said that those which were Republics like Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana that their High Commissioners sat further away and therefore he saw great advantages to remaining attached to the Monarchy because of the access which one has to Her Majesty.

I heard this and I think Father Hatch found a question to ask but I do not know if that was the question that he will ask.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I cannot go into it any more because I did not hear and I was only speaking on instructions. The Leader of the Opposition said he heard. Sir, I think it is also, however, unfair to limit the work of the High Commission in London only to social events and the embracing of Barbadians in England and looking after their welfare. There is no problem with that I do not think there is any criticism with that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to inform you that you have six minutes to wind up.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Okay. I just want to make the point, Sir, I do not believe that anybody has yet given the High Commission the praise that is due to the High Commission for staging Expo '97 at the Royal Garden Hotel this year. You were there, Sir. The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development has spoken about it. I believe a film was done by CBC.

Now, that is the work of the High Commissioner in terms of trade. Nobody has thought that since this High Commissioner has been there that Banks beer is selling in London.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am only dealing with the facts. There is an unlimited market that has been opened in London for Barbadian pepper sauce. We cannot supply it and that is a product that the High Commissioner in London has worked on and done up to the last three years. I can speak of that and I can speak of flying fish. They cannot get enough, Sir, but they have got flying fish in Tesco Supermarkets in London. Banks beer is now called Bajan beer and is being sold in Tesco Supermarkets in

London and that has also been the work of the High Commissioner.

3.25 p.m.

I have to let the Honourable Minister wind up her Head but I was trying to make those points to get a balance about the work of the High Commission.

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Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, to try to respond to concerns raised by Honourable Members. First, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke about furniture. The furniture at Iverta is in bad condition. I know that of my own knowledge. I visited and I looked at it myself. There is a dearth of it. There is a lack of it. Dining chairs that do not match. It is really in a very bad condition.

I believe that only a small quantity of it would be salvageable and what we might do is to use some of that in other residences of foreign service officers all of whom are in need of furniture. We go for the basics and then over time you can improve. This is always the problem when you let the properties run down. In the end it is more costly to retrieve them.

I am quite satisfied that this property, Roehampton, will have excellent resale value. In answer to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I repeat that we have been offered just over BDS\$3 million for the property at Iverta but in respect of the property at Roehampton that we want to buy, I can say to the House that it was built by Barclay Homes, is marketed by Hampton which is a prestigious real estate agent. I passed around the brochure on both sides of the House.

The market price, as I said before, is £1.2 million but our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom has negotiated a price of £1.1 million which is roughly BDSS\$ 795 000 provided that the exchange of contracts takes place by tomorrow, Wednesday, December 3rd, at which time the 10% or £110 000, roughly BDS\$379 500, will be payable.

I believe, Sir, that for us to have spent in excess of V₄ of a million dollars to upgrade this property would have been a case of throwing good money behind bad. When we came to Government in 1994 we took our time, we looked at the properties, we had proper valuers look at them. The decision was made then to sell it. There were many calls for money. We were in a bad situation and I am going to make this point over and over again on the Floor of this House. In the dark days of so-called recession, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, 25 years in the bosom of the IMF, never cut back on their foreign service. Never. But Barbados sought to do that.

Do you know what the Jamaicans and the Trinidadians did, Sir? They sold their properties and

are now looking at what we are buying and looking to try to rebuy properties again. They sold properties rather than cut back but not Barbados. We ran down properties. One fell night of the long knives people went home from all 9 Missions and we ran down our foreign service and we are still feeling the pain of it today. That, in my judgment, would have been throwing good money behind bad.

For many reasons, Iverta is not suitable and it was better that we spent money upgrading people's salaries and indeed we did and had to do since 1994 than to spending money putting icing on gingerbread at Iverta knowing that we were going to put it on the market. What that money would have done to up the value is anybody's guess. I think that we are doing excessively well in the offer that is coming to us.

The leisurely lifestyle to which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East refers does not apply nowadays. There are ambassadors and high commissioners who now live in flats and apartments in central London to be close to business. Those days are gone and for small developing countries like ours we want a business place. We want our Missions to be business places,

I agree with all Honourable Members who have criticised the Addendum. I am shocked that I have come back into Government and found a situation where addenda is being served up to this House if you get two lines you are lucky. These one-line addenda, I hope that the comments of Honourable Members, including myself, will not fall on deaf ears. We cannot do the work of the civil service and do our own work too.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say what I said on the last occasion when we were here. Whenever the Leader of the Opposition or, indeed, any member of the Opposition, is passing through London, if they let it be known to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I would be very happy to have them view any or all of the properties owned by Barbados, both old and new and you can arrive at your own judgment.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Honourable Members, like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East who is sleeping in his seat, who goes to the Mission should get up and make the point. We are there to accommodate.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is not sleeping. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Only the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East can say that, Sir.

In respect of New York, in my closing minutes, let me say this. In the entire history of the conflict at New York, Barbados has not been well served. New York continues to be our largest mission, our most high profile, the one servicing the largest number of Barbadians, the one that is most politicised, and it lies ill in the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition that he should get up and talk about politicising and political partisanship.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I actually said the opposite. I said there is no basis for me to make the accusation of politicising and partisanship because I do not think that that is an approach which Barbadian nationals living overseas adopt. I did not think that you felt that I was accusing you of either.

The fact is that there was a function on Friday night and one next on Saturday competing with each other and if you wish to close your eyes to the fact that there is discord, nobody at this end created that situation. Every attempt is always made to work along with the authorities and that obviously did not happen on this occasion.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is the very point. You have this division where certain Barbadian organisations in New York are dominated by a certain political party and do not want to work collaboratively with a national effort. So on this occasion what we had was 2 functions. It is not new. None of it is new, not a single Consul General starting with the first one who unfortunately is not in his seat has been able to cure this situation and it continues and it is not good for Barbados.

I see the Jamaicans, I see the Trinidadians, the Guyanese, everybody else, can somehow bring together their nationals but in the case of Barbados we continue over the entire life of statehood of Barbados, the 31 years of statehood, to have this situation where there are some on one side and some on another side and I am going to this function and I am not going in that function. I cannot operate at that level.

I think that somehow we have to find a way to cure this because what it does is to distract the Consulate and the UN Mission from the business that they ought to be getting on with, the business about which I continue to speak. There is a lot of work for us to be doing out there. The United States is our major trading partner and these little political shenanigans and so on are distinctive, they are divisive and are not to be encouraged. When the Leader of the Opposition goes up there and he goes to address his party faithfuls there, perhaps he needs to speak to this issue a little more than he has spoken in the past. I would be grateful for him to do that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 35 stand part.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.35 p.m.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (Re-opened)

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would crave the indulgence of Honourable Members with your Honour's permission to recommit the item Notices in order that the Bill to amend the Barbados Cricket Association Act might be laid.

Mr. SPEAKER: If this is the will of the House so be it.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I beg to move that the Barbados Cricket Association (Amendment) Bill, 1997 be read a first time.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER NO. 4 - A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT GROVES, ST. GEORGE TO THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR A SUGAR CANE VARIETY TESTING STATION

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, Government proposes to lease 6,617 square metres of land at Groves Plantation, St. George and the buildings thereon to the Barbados Agricultural Management Co. for use by the Sugar Cane Variety Testing Station at a rental of \$100 per annum for a period of 12 years. The Barbados Agricultural Management Company has requested the use of the premises to accommodate the Sugar Cane Variety Testing Station. The Station itself manages 32 acres of several cane

varieties planted at Groves Plantation on land leased from H & G Limited. The Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited took over the management of the station in 1993 and is presently negotiating the land from H & G Limited. The station intends to use the residence to house one of its officers and for other office space. The shed and pens will be used to store equipment and to accommodate some of its research equipment.

The lessee shall be responsible for the payment of insurance of the building, land taxes, utilities and other outgoings associated with these leases. The lessee shall be permitted to develop the land at its expense and in undertaking such development shall comply with the Town & Country Planning Regulations.

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this measure but I want to say from the outset that it is time that the agriculture process in this country be carried on at a faster rate. Since 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 we have not seen anything in my opinion from this Government that has given any indication that they are serious about agriculture. Why I am saying this, Sir, is that we are witnessing a large portion of land being removed from the agricultural sector and we need to find out from Government if agriculture is still important to this country. In the early years when land was taken away to go into housing for the poor in this country, the Democratic Labour Party was severely criticised for it. Now we are seeing situations where land is being taken out, not for housing the poor, Sir, but for many other things and we are not hearing anything being said.

I want to know, Sir, when are we going to see the Barbados Agricultural Management Company doing the thing that it was set up to do, that is taking full control of the agriculture sector in this country. It does not make sense to have the BAMC and the BADMC, all entities that are close to the Government and the two seem to be operating in different lights. That is that the Barbados Agricultural Management Company seems to be bent on producing vegetables and other crops of the country whereas the BADMC seems to be only interested in importing crops.

I honestly believe, Sir, that for agriculture to go forward in this country we need to see the role of the BADMC going under the BAMC. We need to strengthen the hand of the BAMC. We do not want a situation, Sir, where one entity is importing while the other entity is saying that they can supply. We will find ourselves in a situation where small farmers who have spent thousands of dollars to develop their crops have to scramble

because there is an instant surplus on the market when there is no need.

I am not saying that the poor people in this country should not get cheap vegetables but I am saying that external fanners should not be allowed to compete with the local fanners. The same way as we cannot compete with them because of their protective markets we should be doing the same thing in our country. I am saying, Sir, that we also need to see the BAMC going a step further and those products that they can import and pass on to the small fanners that have small mark ups they should be given the right to do that.

The BAMC should not be an entity to buy at high cost but it should be an entity that should be used to reduce the cost to the small farmers. It needs to go one step further and I look forward to the day when that occurs because if we continue to allow the *status quo* to remain as it stands, agriculture in Barbados will not go anywhere. There are too many add-ons in agriculture, Sir, and in an industry that has so much risks we cannot afford to allow this situation to continue.

I am saying to this House, Sir, that I am supporting this particular action that has been taken today because I honestly believe that the Barbados Agricultural Management Company, being the largest single company in Barbados in the agricultural sector, has the right to look after the varieties that needed to be planted in the fields throughout Barbados but at the same time it cannot control the varieties and there are many other things that can allow it to become profitable that it should be in control of. 3.45 p.m.

We, in going into the 21st century, cannot allow our agriculture industry to operate by divide and rule where some people are prepared to make losses in the fields because they know where they can recoup their gains. We must revolutionise our agricultural industry by giving some more power to the Barbados Agricultural Management Company and the Barbados Agricultural Management Company must go a step further because I honestly believe that the days of asking small farmers to grow sugar cane are over but they must use their good offices to show the small farmers in this country that there are many other things (hat they can get involved in where they can be profitable and that might be in the rearing of black belly sheep as an example, but the one closest to my heart, Sir, is the keeping of poultry.

I will tell you why I say that, Sir. A man on a quarter of an acre of land can grow chickens. He can use the fertilizer from the chicken pens to supplement his feed for his animals and the Barbados Agricultural Management Company as a matter of policy should be telling farmers what they can do. In the beautiful constituency of St. Lucy

which I am proud to represent, Sir, we have farmers down there who used to be small farmers and who are now in the processing industry and I can tell you exactly what they are doing, they are keeping chickens, they have the processing plant and at the same time they are keeping pigs also and they are using the by-products from the poultry industry to supply the feed for the pig industry.

One step further, Sir, they are also using the by-product from the poultry industry as fertilizer for their fields, saving valuable foreign exchange for this country and yet they have people as directors begging small farmers to continue to plant sugar cane when they know it is not profitable.

I am saying that we need to see the Barbados Agricultural Management Company as an organisation that is educational to the small farmer and not only looking after the interest of large farmers.

It is true it has been set up to look after the HIP Estates but it does not mean that it has to end there. It has a more developmental educational role to play in this country and the time is ripe for that institution to show small farmers that there is still something valuable in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, I have no objection against this particular Resolution and I will support it but at the same time, I expect that the same way we are prepared to come in here and support things for the Barbados Agricultural Management Company we are prepared to tell that organisation that there is still a role for small farmers and that every single piece of land in Barbados is valuable. But we cannot tell farmers that every single piece of land in Barbados is valuable when we want them to grow the wrong crops and it is not profitable for them.

If this country is to go forward every man must put his hand to the plough and I can say to you that one of the most valuable ways of putting the hand to the plough is utilizing that land that you have to the back of your house and to the front to produce something that is needful.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has raised a number of issues in relation to the use of land in Barbados. There are a lot of myths in relation to the use of land as well as in relation to the profitability of agriculture.

As you yourself know, Sir, I have already given notice in this House and I hope that next week we will be able to have the formal notice of the Resolution which deals with land. It is very important that we have an objective analysis in Barbados of the existing use of land, the existing ownership of land, the existing taxation of

land because as we move into the next century new policy initiatives will have to be taken in this direction.

Listening to the Honourable Member, I must say though there are a few things that disturb me because the Honourable Member speaks about the role of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company as a developmental institution, as an educational institution. My understanding of it, Sir, is that when that institution was created during the time of the Democratic Labour Party it was created for the specific purpose of ensuring that land which was devoted to sugar cane would continue to be devoted to the planting of sugar cane but that a degree of rationalisation of the production and the marketing of that sugar would take place. It was recognised that the existing pattern of production comprising a number of relatively small units of production was uneconomic, and that Barbados wanted to preserve the benefits that were derived from the foreign exchange earnings of sugar exports but that the cost of production in Barbados, with the existing pattern, was so high that even the price that we received under the preferred markets could not make it profitable. So that approximately 14 000 acres were brought within the ambit of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company together with the fact that, because of the historical ownership of the processing end of the industry which was different from in many other countries in that in Barbados the processing industry was owned by the land owners as opposed to being owned by other interests, it was necessary that the BAMC would also take over the management of the factories.

From the very outset the policy and objectives of the management of the BAMC was not to enter into the activity of growing crops other than sugar. As a matter of fact within the first two years there was a row between the management contractors and the local Barbadian managers of BAMC whereby the local Barbadian managers were pointing out that historical experience was that you could grow successfully rotation crops in the form of yams, potatoes, cotton and other crops and still be able to grow sugar cane at an optimum period of time.

Now, I believe that over the course of the last 5 years the contractual managers have begun to recognise that it is possible that some rotation crops could be grown without prejudice to the viability of the growing of sugar cane but the Honourable Member in his speech seems to ignore some historical experiences. 3.55 p.m.

Traditionally, the role of educating other landlords who were agriculturists in Barbados to participate in diversification exercises was never that of any institution other than the Ministry of Agriculture. It was the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados from the 60's onward that

pioneered the utilisation of land for purposes other than sugar cane growing.

One only has to go back through the debates in this Honourable House, starting from when the late Sir Edwy Talma was Minister of Agriculture in Barbados from the beginning of Ministerial Government, when all of the demonstration farms at Sayes Court and all around Barbados, to Home in St. Philip, Haggatts in St. Andrew were right around and you will see that the diversification policy was pursued in all of its aspects by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Indeed, I can go further and point out that certainly during the Joy Edwards administration, as Minister of Agriculture and certainly during the period of the time of L. B. Brathwaite and others in which specific programmes were devised to 'utilise and capitalise on all of that information. Therefore places like Spring Hall land lease in St. Lucy and all of the irrigation schemes in Christ Church, in St. Philip and in other areas were an attempt to bring the small farmers into economic units so that they could take advantage of this knowledge that was built up in these special governmental units that were demonstration farms. You are growing sweet potatoes, and yams for export, okras and all of those were crops which were identified as having potential for small farmers to grow on irrigated units.

So I do not know why the Honourable Member is now saying that we should reverse ourselves in this respect and place that burden upon the Barbados Agriculture Management Company (BAMC). That cannot be right. The BAMC was set up specifically, as I understand it, for the purpose of ensuring that that acreage of land that was devoted to sugar cane growing would continue to be devoted to sugar cane growing on units which were large enough to be able to take advantage of the economies of scale.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. I do not mean to interrupt, but the Honourable Member is misleading this House. He is quite aware, Sir, that on page 186 of the Development Plan for 1993 to 2000 the policy that the BAMC and the agricultural industry on the whole had to follow is very well dictated here. I will just give you a part of that policy, Sir, that is, that sugar cane should control over 32 000 acres of land, cotton over 2 000, cut flowers over 500 acres, fruits over 2 000, vegetables over 1 500 and pasture over 6 500.

So it is a clear policy, Sir, that the Barbados Agricultural Management Company had to follow a particular guideline and as you would know, Sir, because of the vast amount of land they had to control, this policy in the Development Plan of the Democratic Labour Party was also part of that policy for the BAMC.

Thank you.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, certainly, the Honourable Member by quoting that demonstrates my point very clearly because nowhere have I ever heard that the BAMC is to control all 32 000 acres of land in Barbados. Nowhere have I said that and the point that I was making was that within an overall agricultural land use policy the role of the BAMC was specifically in relation only to sugar cane growing. But outside of that there would be others who would also be growing sugar cane. There would be others who would also be carrying on floriculture. There would be others who would be carrying on dairy farming. There would be others who would be carrying on the other identified and proven potentialities of the diversified agriculture.

We must understand that we are only dealing here with an institution which, in essence, is taking on the specific role of carrying on all of the activities which are necessary for ensuring that such land as is devoted to sugar cane growing is farmed at the maximum and optimal level and they were never to be exclusive. My understanding is very clear that the BAMC was not to be the exclusive producer of sugar because there were other farms in existence who, because of their size, particularly the farms of the group like Barbados Farms Limited and others that could be economic. I think that there must be a little misunderstanding here. I am all in favour that the Barbados Labour Party's record is very good in this respect. The Barbados Labour Party were pioneers from the very beginning under the time of the late C. E. Talma when he was on this side because it is not new now that you have Members on this Side going on that Side and Members on that Side coming on this Side. There are always a few people in every session of Parliament who find that there is no difficulty at all in being accommodated on both sides.

The basic position is that very few of them are able to survive the next election. If you look at the records very, very few and the late C. E. Talma was unique in that respect.

Asides.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: He was never from Christ Church East he was from the whole of Christ Church. He was a double member man.

I think it is time that we have a review. I believe I know very clearly, Sir, that in every 10 or 15 years there is always an outcry in Barbados about land ownership. In the early 1960s there was an outcry when Sandy Lane was converted from a sugar factory to the position of being a hotel. The late Ronald Mapp was pilloried as Minister for agreeing to that. Town Planning had just started and they had a lot of things.

But no administration has ever subdivided as much land and the figures will show this as that period 1971 to 1976. That is a fact of life. When you think of it the whole of Sunset Crest, Lancaster...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is giving the House the impression, Sir, that when the land in Sunset Crest was subdivided it was done out of the interest of the country, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Sir, the Honourable Member is fairly difficult if you do not keep your head straight because he is a task master at confusing himself and sometimes he is likely to confuse others. As a matter of fact, that is why I am bringing the Resolution in here so that we will have a total, all-party committee to enquire into the whole history of subdivisions in Barbados, era by era, 10 years by 10 years, and we will see. 4.05 p.m.

I do not even want to go back in some of those regions because many of the activists are dead...

Asides.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: ...If the Honourable Member on that Side says it is his buddy, it is all right with me.

Sir, I think that a country has to decide in its mind on certain priorities and if land is part of the resources a country has to take a decision on its land use policy. My understanding is that Barbados and successive governments have made this decision and they have set out development plans and physical development plans in which land use is allocated for the various competing purposes.

I do not know of any development plan that has been set up here in this administration and before by the other administration which have been breached in any serious way. As far as I know, one of the controlling factors, and a very important factor, has always been that Barbados from the time of the Senn Report has a fairly clear idea as to its watershed and the utilisation of land within that area.

There have been arguments at the time when Lancaster Plantation by Discovery Bay Hotel and Sunset Crest were developed, as to where the boundaries lie. There were arguments when the St. James Secondary School was built as to where the boundary lies and periodically there are reviews of the zones because modern technology has provided, as I understand it, new techniques in determining some of these matters which were the subject

of determination previously without the aid of modern geophysical equipment.

I believe that not so long ago, during the Honourable Member's party's regime a new review has been commissioned. So that is a fact but I only rise here to say that it must be made clear that this accusation about new releases of land taking place...

Aside.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Farmers in St Thomas? Fanners in St. Thomas is an agricultural area where, as I understand it, for the very desirable purpose of trying to accommodate people who were in the land slippage area of St. Andrew, subdivision permission was granted; but that is not something that is new. I remember when half of St. Andrew was moved as a result of land slippage and put at Bagatelle at the corner where the gas station is during the time of Joy Edwards.

I remember the late Lloyd Smith coming in here with resolution after resolution asking for people to be removed from a place called Coconut Walk in St. Joseph and Paries Road and the Spa. The Honourable Leader of the House's father used to own the Spa one time. One morning he went back there and he came and found that everything had slipped and he had to get up and come back down to Bridgetown because there was no land left.

We have a phenomenon in which the Scotland Area has been the subject of slippage and you have to move the people somewhere.

Aside.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: ...As I understand it, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has made it clear that he has a new boundary in his mind that the people of St Andrew will always be there.

So, Sir, I welcome the idea that the research element of the sugar industry will be continued. The landowners themselves never ever carried out that research. It was the Ministry or the Sugar Producers' Association that carried out that. Therefore that research has to be carried on by somebody and since the BAMC is in charge of both the processing and of the growing up to a certain extent - I believe they have 40% - it is a logical body and I do not think there can be any quarrel with this Resolution.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join the debate a bit late but I need to comment on 2 aspects of it. The first is that I know a lot about the sugar sector reform as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will know and while it is true that the BAMC was not initially established for the purpose of engaging in a major

programme of crop diversification it is nevertheless true that there was always an understanding that in Barbados one has to diversify around sugar and because of that we made a demand of the managers that they put in place a programme for crop diversification which would meet the objectives of the programme of sugar sector reform.

It is not entirely correct to say that BAMC was only interested in producing sugar. I think that initially that would have been its prime impetus to get the production levels back up but there had to be a component of the restructuring of the sugar industry which involved diversification around sugar, which is very important.

The second point I want to make is that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South should not be too quick to heap praise on the Ministry of Agriculture because the Ministry of Agriculture has an approach which the old people say "too far East is West" and having started a process of crop diversification there is no entity in Barbados which did more to disadvantage sugar because it lost complete interest in the matter of sugar production at a certain stage.

I do not know when that occurred. I may have been a neophyte as the Honourable Member once described me in those days, but when I came to office, I found in the Ministry of Finance in the sugar sector reform that the Ministry of Agriculture was not in the least bit interested in that process of sugar sector reform and a very deep hostility had developed between the sugar planters and their associated companies and the Ministry of Agriculture. We were unable to fill or mend that breach between the 2 entities and therefore the BAMC had the herculean task of going it almost all alone.

I say that to put the overall matter in perspective and to say I am glad that we have been able to get the levels of sugar production back up. I am also glad that the process of crop diversification continues but I am disappointed that notwithstanding what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has said there seems to be a slowing down of the work in crop diversification when you look at the figures in cotton and a number of other areas. The performance has not been as spectacular as one would have anticipated. When you consider however that sugar contributed so much to growth last year, sugar alone grew by 36% and contributed largely to the robust economic growth which Barbados experienced last year, it is a tribute to the management of the sugar sector.

What the Honourable Member has raised about land use we need to have that debate urgently and if you are bringing the Resolution, I am very happy to have it. 4.15 p.m.

We need to discuss it against the background of the Investment Sector Loan and the Agreement with the

IADB. That is critical. We need to discuss it against a background of the policy left in place by the Democratic Labour Party which predated the ISL.

More than that, I want to throw out a caution in here today that some of the same people who were involved in decimating the sugar sector in this country are now once again involved in a process of backroom dealing to try and get access to prime land as well as the plantation houses and related properties.

It went so far that the Chairman of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust had to write to the Ministry of Finance and beg them to separate the offices of the BAMC from the BACT because his memo, a handwritten memo, indicated that the Chairman of the B AMC, the man who is in occupation of Foursquare Factory, knew every step the BACT was taking in relation to the sale of land and the BACT was very worried.

There has been a lot of backroom dealing and that dealing goes to the highest levels of Government in relation to sugar property. The reason why I feel so irate about it is because it was very difficult in the first place to try and get the sugar sector reform in place and some of the same people, one of whom said he would never ever plant another sugar cane blade on his property in Christ Church, and who leased out all the land for somebody else to plant the sugar, is now the Chairman of the sugar management company in this country and is meddling in the affairs of the Agricultural Credit Trust...

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: That is what the Chairman of the Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust indicated in his memo to the Director of Finance earlier.

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, it is a handwritten memo. I can show it to you. Any time the Honourable Member for Christ Church South wants to see it, I can produce it. He asked for a separation of the offices because the BACT could not get its work done without the sugar interest knowing all the time what is happening. In other words, all kinds of people want to wheel and deal behind the scenes to get control of the surplus property which is not under sugar production.

I throw out a warning to Members of the Government that a lot of those people who the Honourable Members on that Side have empowered to manage the sugar sector have no interest in the success of the sugar sector. Their principal interest is to get their hands on some of the land and some of the surplus properties which are available and will become available in due course.

I am issuing that warning again and I am saying that I can buttress what I have said by a direct reference to a memorandum sent by the Chairman of the BACT, recently honoured, to the Director of Finance asking for certain arrangements to be put in place.

These things concern me because in some cases some of the recommendations are that the people negotiate directly with the Minister responsible in relation to the purchase of property. That is what the Chairman of the BACT is recommending that a beach property in Christ Church which was attached to Kingsland Estates called "Spion Kop" - the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would know it - was recommending that a man who wanted to purchase it should negotiate directly with the Honourable Member for St. Peter, and this is what the BACT is recommending.

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Members on that Side do not know what is happening and if they do not know, they had better care instead of saying that I do not know, or that somebody on this Side is dangerous.

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I know it has not been sold but what the BACT was recommending was that the Honourable Member for St. Peter enter in negotiations on their behalf with somebody who was purchasing the property. I can only tell you what was in the document

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, I will produce the document when he is here. They have seen it.

Aside.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, it may not be enforced but it tells me something about the way in which people believe that those assets are to be divided up, and I am very worried about that.

I am not making any allegation against the Honourable Member for St. Peter because I do not know what has happened with "Spion Kop" but my allegation is that there are people in the sugar sector and others who seem to believe that the best way for the sugar industry to move ahead is for them to divide up the prime properties and leave all the hard work to the BAMC in producing sugar on whatever land is left. That is not the way we had conceived of the sugar sector reform.

I am glad to hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church South say it cannot work because it is the

one issue on which I believe my emotions will run high, that question of the dividing up of those sugar assets and into whose hands the benefits of those sugar assets should evolve.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because despite all that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South says, despite all that we may say in here about land use, there always seems to be a group of people in this country who are able to go above every regulation, beyond every rule, and directly to the source of power to get their supplications met in relation to the subdivision of land and the sale of land over which Government has control. That is a matter that attention needs to be paid to because we will not be going along with those kinds of arrangements. There is too much at stake in sugar sector reform and we expect therefore that the industry will be run fairly without the kind of influence and backroom dealing which we have seen evidence of so far in the process.

I look forward to the land use Resolution. We on this Side are very interested in participating in such a debate. I hope that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will bring it and that it would not languish on the Order Paper like all of the other items of Private Members' Business which have been there for some time.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, none of the comments coming from that Side are directly related to the Resolution before us so I need not respond. I just want to remind the Honourable Member for St. John and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that it certainly is not this Administration that took a decision to subdivide 1 000 acres of land at Groves and Kingsland for the purpose of a golf course.

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

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

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
SALE TO GRANVILLE WEEKES OF LAND AT
SINCKLER ROAD, HAGGATT HALL,
ST. MICHAEL

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to sell a parcel of land, Lot 18, at Sinckler Road, Haggatt Hall to a Mr. Granville Weekes. This land is part of a larger area which was acquired by Government for recreational purposes. The area being sold is not included in that part of the land which is needed for recreational purposes.

At one point it was thought that the Division of Housing could convey the land directly to Mr. Weekes

under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act since he was a qualified tenant prior to the acquisition but there was a school of thought within the Ministry supported, I think, by the Attorney General's Department that since the tenancy came to an end when Government acquired the land the right by the tenant to purchase ceased. 4.25 p.m.

To be absolutely sure that a good, clear and marketable title would be given to Mr. Weekes, we have decided to bring this Resolution for the sale of this parcel of land to Mr. Weekes which he would have been able to buy if Government had not acquired the larger area which is needed for recreational purposes.

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

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to learn from the Honourable Member for St. Andrew that a portion of this land will still be allocated to the young people within that area of Roberts Road, Sinclair Road in Haggatt Hall because when I first saw the Resolution, I was a little concerned that it would have taken up part of the land where the hard court is because what I am particularly concerned about are those youth in Roberts Road and Haggatt Hall who lime at the corner without any real facilities for recreational purposes and hence the hard court in that area is in dire need of lighting and I am very glad to know that they are not encroaching on that piece of land. I am saying that that area is in great need for further infrastructural development particularly for the young people in that area because a lot of housing development, which I am not objecting to, Sir, is happening in that area but there is also an urgent need for us to place a lot of recreational facilities in that area particularly like a pavilion and lighting on the hard court so that the youth in that area could have a place for recreational activity.

It is unfortunate that not too far away, I would say at least a mile away in Dash Valley there is the pavilion but what is really needed is that that pavilion should be extended and made into a community centre again for the youth in the area to do other cultural practice like drama, dancing etc. Although I want to thank the Minister for not encroaching on that land in Roberts Road, Haggatt Hall, I am still making a case for further development of that area to provide the right facilities for recreational activities for the youth.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I would like to give the Honourable Member the assurance, although he is already aware of the fact, that we are still proceeding with the recreational facilities which will come to the area very shortly.

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

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

ORDER NO. 10 - THE BARBADOS CRICKET
ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1997

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I notice that this is a Bill that could provoke a lot of debate but I am not going to be long on it.

Sir, on December 22, 1933, a group of persons got together out of a desire to promote the game of cricket in Barbados and in joining with other West Indian Colonies and British Guiana in promoting cricket and they formed themselves into an association under the name of the Barbados Cricket Association. Among that small band of persons who had the foresight at the time to form the Barbados Cricket Association was one Grantley Herbert Adams.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, he was the wicket keeper for Barbados.

William Bowring, Ernest Allan Collymore who was the Chief Justice, Edwin Richard Denys Moulder, Hampden Archibald Cuke, Conrad Arthur Louis Gale, Grantley Herbert Adams, E. L. G. Hoad, John Kidney and F. A. C. Clairmonte promoted by petition a private Bill in this House which was eventually called the Barbados Cricket Association Act. That Act provided for the incorporation of the Barbados Cricket Association.

Unfortunately, at the time the Cricket Association was not given power in the legislation to borrow money or indeed to charge the assets of the Association. Sometime subsequently, when Mr. Joey Armstrong was alive, rules were made for the Association and in those rules, in fact Rule 15, a power to borrow money and to charge the assets was conferred on the Association but again, unfortunately, that power to borrow which was in the rules was subject to the provisions of the Act. So here you have the parent Act which is dominant with no power to borrow but the rules which are subordinate regulations authorising the Association to borrow.

The matter has been referred to me as a matter of urgency in order to facilitate the BCA in the development of Kensington Oval in time for the English tour next year. It is known, Sir, that the Government has provided some financial support in the form of a guarantee to enable the BCA to do necessary and urgent construction at Kensington

Oval for the tour. They have to raise funds to carry out the works at Kensington Oval. Without the power in the Act to borrow they will be unable to raise funds. I hope all members will support it because we have to invest the Association with the authority in the Act which governs the Association to raise funds and charge the assets of the Association and that really is the purpose of this very short piece of legislation to cure a defect in the Act which has shown itself. 4.35 p.m.

I am asking all Honourable Members to support the Bill. What we are doing, Sir, is amending the Act by inserting after section 2, the following as 2A, Sir.

"The Association may enter into contracts in its corporate name including contracts to raise or borrow such sums of money either on mortgage or charge on any property of the Association or on bonds or debentures or otherwise as are required to enable the Association to carry out its lawful business."

We could have done it differently but we tried to harmonise this language with the old language. I was advised by the draughtsman that when you have an Act that goes back 20 or 30 years and there is a particular drafting style any amendment should try to capture the original drafting style and that is the recommendation that has been made.

The amending clause gives the power to raise or borrow money and to charge the property of the Association by mortgage, bonds, debentures or however they may deem appropriate.

With those brief words - we could speak all evening on cricket particularly in light of what is happening in Pakistan. I do not think we should bother our heads too much about that disaster in the making that has befallen West Indies cricket. Let us forget them and just deal with this - I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my support to this amendment. Everyone knows now that the Barbados Cricket Association is virtually getting itself prepared for the upcoming series against England and therefore there is need to put this issue beyond doubt as to whether in truth and in fact they are in a position to borrow moneys for this particular purpose or not.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, as well that there is no one who can actually doubt the tremendous contribution which sports and particularly sports tourism activities make to the economy of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I recall the last two occasions that the England team was here, there was an influx of tourists in Barbados and as a result of that almost every sector that you can think about benefitted.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, that all of the golf courses were fully booked. I recall, Mr. Speaker that you really could not get a rented car in Barbados at the time. Mr. Speaker you had to put one particular day on for horse racing and then of course the night clubs and so on benefitted as well. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are expecting now even more English cricket fans than before and I would believe that this is the opportunity for us to ensure that the Barbados Cricket Association is in a position to make these things possible once again. Barbadians did complain at that time, Mr. Speaker, because a lot of them with tickets who tried to get in to the cricket were virtually denied entry because all of the places on the inside were taken. Bermudians and Trinidadians came in very large groups.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that the inability to borrow money should not really stand in the way of the Barbados Cricket Association. We should do everything to make it possible for them to have this done.

What I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, is that I would love to see more and more national sporting associations putting themselves in a similar position where they too can approach lending agencies in order to have a lot of their sporting programmes come on track. I find that far too many of them are always in a position of having to come to Government asking Government to support a particular programme and so on.

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that when the law was drafted in the 1930s that the Association then anticipated that one day they would have to put themselves...

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: That is what I am saying. They thought that perhaps they had money but they never thought that the day would come when they would have to come to borrow money in this particular position.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about Kensington Oval just briefly because I think I have mentioned it already, that at the turn of this century what is going to happen is that Kensington Oval is going to revert to the BCA only and Pickwick who virtually have a lodging there will be no more because that is the term of the lease. I think it is the year 2002 or 2003.

The point being made, Mr. Speaker, is that the Pickwick players have been silent on it and I do not know why they have been silent on it. I do not think we can just wipe Pickwick off the face of the cricket map in Barbados.

I believe they have to perhaps identify some place, somewhere, for a new home. Pickwick has produced people like the George Challenors and Tim Tariltons and the Theodore Birketts and so on and in recent years they have the Adrian Griffiths and the Adrian Grants.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: That is not nostalgia. These are fellows who are still with us. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if they can produce those players Pickwick can still produce players for Barbados again and I believe we have to do something really and truly to assist them. That is the way I feel about it, Mr. Speaker.

The Barbados Cricket Association, Mr. Speaker, also has to do something in terms of its finances. Let us be quite honest and quite frank with you. They have taken a lot of body blows from the lotteries. They started off with their instant money game and it was doing very, very well but then up sprang the Lotto and Olympic and that virtually took the wind out of their sails. They were going very well. In fact they had actually introduced the cash award when you won the First Division cup as St. Catherines did this year and I want to congratulate St. Catherines for having won the First Division Cup. That is a team from St. Philip North.

Aside.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: When we play games in St. Philip we remove that political barrier. St. Philip is one. I believe, Mr. Speaker, too that the \$100 a year for membership at the BCA, I think that is too low to allow you to go in every year and you watch cricket until you are cloyed with cricket. You watch all the test cricket, the first division, the Red Stripe, whatever cricket that is being played and for \$100 a year. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that is a bit low and I am saying they must do something to improve their finances.

I do not recall the percentage but, Mr. Speaker, the actual pay out percentage to the West Indies Cricket Board when you have test matches is something too that the Barbados Cricket Association has to lobby for with them and they have to look at that very soon because the percentage which they pay out to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control as opposed to what they retain for themselves in a test match is extremely disproportionate. 4.45 p.m.

I do not know if they know the figures. I am speaking about the proportion of pay outs, what they retain in the BCA in a test match and what they have to pay the West Indies Cricket Board of Control. They keep something like 2 percent and they have to give the West Indies

Cricket Board all the rest. They cannot afford to be business-like and to have that type of arrangement in existence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of urgency, we should put the Barbados Cricket Association in a position where it can indeed borrow from the banks or from the lending institutions so to ensure that cricket in Barbados is not denied to Barbadians who want to watch the test match or indeed to the visitors from England who are coming in for cricket.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I do not need to be persuaded of the importance or urgency of this amendment. I have heard for a long enough time all the lamentations of the Barbados Cricket Association so far as their financial situation is concerned and I well understand the defect in the 1933 legislation which the Amendment today seeks to cure.

Of course, I would be churlish, I believe, if I did not join the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in applauding the foresight of those persons who in 1933 thought the establishment of the Barbados Cricket Association not only important but necessary. The way the Association has performed ever since its formation has placed us in Barbados everlastingly in their debt although they have long since been gathered unto their fathers.

The urgency of this Amendment as explained by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and as confirmed by the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, has to do with the rehabilitation of Kensington Oval and its preparation for the test series early in the New Year.

Like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I am very happy that the Opposition's support of this Resolution was not made to depend on the performance of the West Indies Team at present in Pakistan. But, Kensington Oval looms largely the thinking of all Barbadians, those who love cricket, follow it and even those who do not. There is a certain reverence which applies to mere mention of Kensington Oval and we all look forward with eager anticipation to that test series next year. I believe that most of us look forward to the posture of prayer that something would happen to restore the morale, obviously on the mind in the West Indies Team at the moment, so that all the grand preparations which the Barbados Cricket Association has embarked upon will be justified by the performances which one hopes one will see at Kensington next year.

Of course there will be many analyses of the crisis with the West Indies cricket at the present time. The squabbling over leadership makes the point important in cricket, or as important in cricket as it is in politics, there

being a very close philosophical link between the two, that wherever there is a disjunction between the power and authority in a leadership, there is bound to be unrest and there are bound to be problems.

Power comes from a title. Men are given titles and on the basis of those titles they can exercise power. So a West Indies captain, given a title, can spin the toss and can lead out the team and can set the field and can change bowlers. He has the power to do it conferred by title, but authority derives not from title but from performance and from moral stature and what one is witnessing in West Indies cricket today is that there is a disjunction between power and authority. Whenever that has happened in cricket, in politics or even in an organisation, any leadership, in the church even, instability ensues, crises develop and leaders fall. Until that effect is cured and until authority and power combine in the same individual in West Indies cricket, as we have known in the past, we are going to continue to have the problems we are having.

It is not easy for a man to have the title of leader such as the present West Indies Captain has, and all discussion centres around somebody else in the team and it becomes an untenable situation because of that dysfunction between power and authority.

I hope and I do not take any sides here, I just approach the matter as, even if I may say so, an intellectual. My analyses have led me to that conclusion. Wherever I have analysed leadership that is what I see and I think that a solid responsibility devolves on the shoulders of those persons responsible for making the decision to cure that defect as soon as possible. It is no rebuff to the present Captain. The solid reality is that whereas one person exercises power conferred by a title, the authority which every leader needs to discharge his responsibilities successfully resides in another person. 4.55 p.m.

Therefore all the problems that the team have been going through have not mystified me because I understand how fatal that dysfunction can be. I say that by the way but all of this links up to the preparation of the Barbados Cricket Association for the test series next year and connects with the wishes of the people of the West Indies that the team will bounce back from its present morass of misfortune and once again embody the hopes and dreams of the people of this region of which Barbados is so critical a part.

Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulty in supporting this amendment. I think that it is timely and in the future the Barbados Cricket Association will be able or should be able to secure the funds it needs to do the very valuable work which it has done in Barbados over the last 64 years. Its management of the First Division Cricket

Competition, Intermediate and Second Division and its sponsorship of test cricket at Kensington and all of its activities over the last 64 years have tended to justify the faith placed in it by its founders, by those bold men who, in the 1930s, had the foresight to agitate for and to secure its formation.

I would be unfilial if I did not join my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, in congratulating the St. Catherine Cricket Club on its success in First Division Cricket Competition. St. Catherine Club of course has its own distinguished history, a history with which the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has long been associated and with which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has also had some affectionate association.

The record will show that its success this year had a lot to do with the input from St. Philip South, the stellar performances of that great batsman, Thelstan Payne. So, Mr. Speaker, there is not much more for me to say because the amendments do not give rise to any controversy. It is necessary and timely and has the full support of the Opposition.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Bill but as I look at it I am very concerned about the marketing of cricket. I think that if the BCA is going to find itself getting involved in financial transactions of this nature it obviously has to look at the marketing of cricket seriously. I understand that there is a special marketing committee which is looking at cricket right now but I would like to address a few of my concerns.

I think, Sir, that this also links up with the relevance of sports tourism and the emphasis on sports tourism meant that we look for more people to come to Barbados and I think this resulted in the difficulty with locals getting tickets for cricket because of an emphasis placed on attracting visitors to Barbados to watch cricket as part of our sports tourism plan.

I believe, Sir, this has now caused us to look at the expansion of the facilities at Kensington Oval but we need to take it much further than that. We need to look at cricket on the local scene and I am reminded of this every time I go to a football match and see hundreds and sometimes thousands of youngsters at these football matches at the community level. If you go to the Stadium you will find thousands of people watching the best tournaments.

I am reminded, Sir, of the first night cricket match at the Stadium and I have not seen those matches since they came up. We have heard no more about that. I think we need to look at more innovation in cricket in order to make it much more acceptable to a wider cross section of Barbadians. It does not go down well when we go to

cricket and find perhaps 100 people at a game that has been long established and when we look at the sporting events which are not really traditional we find 1 000 people. Something must be wrong with the marketing of cricket that it is not doing as well financially outside of the major test matches. I think we need to concentrate heavily on that.

I believe we need to look at some improvisation. When Kerry Packer came up with his coloured clothes and white balls there was an outcry from the traditionalists in cricket. Since then we found that the face of cricket has changed. We had more one-day matches and we had more coloured clothing names going on shirts and so forth.

I do not believe that this spirit of innovation has enveloped the administration in Barbados. They seem content to allow cricket to remain as it always has been. This is sometimes one of the greatest challenges to be faced when you are dealing with traditionalists in a sporting organisation. They want to hang on to things the way they know they are supposed to be done technically and they give little consideration for improvisation in order to make the sport more attractive to a wider cross section of the public.

In essence, they have no consideration for the implications of marketing and its impact on the sport and for the financial viability of the sport which could arise from serious marketing.

One of the concepts of marketing has to deal with product development where we look at things such as the packaging and the branding. This is something that we tend not to give consideration to when we are looking at sports.

This brings me on to something else, for example, we have professional walkers who will walk in Barbados, probably 50 or 60 of them, and when we have a fun event like the Nation Fun Walk you will find that you will get 4 000 to 6 000 walking in that event. This is simply because there had been efforts made on making the event more attractive for a wider cross section.

I am just giving examples of things you can do in cricket. While there is a place for cricket as we know it traditionally, I believe at the community level we need to look at making it more interesting and I want to make an appeal that just as we have lights - and the Member for St Michael South East loves these lights, because he is one of the commentators in the Pine where they play night football and hundreds and thousands of people come out to watch this football at night - we need to look again at the concept of night cricket.

In communities, people go home and they can come out in the cool of the night and watch the game and if

you have the place barricaded well enough you can charge them a dollar or two and you can still make a few dollars. 5.05 p.m.

The BCA has to look at developing facilities where one can play cricket at night so that people can come out and be entertained in the cool of the day, not in the hot sun.

You will notice that if you go to a fair, people would come out to the fair at 5.00 o'clock when it gets cool. On Independence Fun Days most of the people came out at 4.00 and 5.00 o'clock when it was cool but cricket is played in the heat of the day. So we need to look at utilising our facilities in such a way that we can attract the people so if it means bringing some lights to these grounds we need to do that.

I am reliably informed that the women like to come out more in the evening, and at night particularly.

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Women cricketers and others.

There is also the concept of Softball cricket as well, Sir. This is also another diversion that you can engage yourself in where women can play the Softball cricket as well at night or early in the morning, whatever. That would encourage some people to come.

I think these people who believe that these sports are supposed to be maintained the way they were, are in effect, not falling in line with modern trends and they need to look at the modern trends if they are to repackage these events to make them more attractive.

I also want to make a special appeal to the BTA that while they get a lot of people here for these big matches, we still have to look at other avenues where we can bring people here more consistently year round to increase tourist arrivals. The niche markets need to be addressed more seriously and we need to develop more of these events that will attract people especially in the off-peak seasons like, May, June and also the weak September period.

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: We do not talk about Crop-Over because we get people then but May, June and September we can look at.

Aside.

Mr. W. C. C. CALLENDER: Well, June and September. We know Crop-Over is full already so we do

not put anything in July or August but the other months we can look at.

I believe, Sir, that it is okay to allow the BCA to get involved in these things but I think a word of advice is very necessary here that they need to do what the persons who like to use to catch phrases use, they need to "re-engineer" cricket to make it more financially viable outside of the big test matches.

I also want to make a point, Sir, at the community level. We were talking about Pickwick which might have difficulty in having a ground to play on after the year 2003 but I know that over time there have been some village cricket clubs, like Goodland and those which have been put out to pasture because the land has been taken over by developers.

I am making an appeal, Sir, that we keep a good eye on those lands that remain to make sure that the people in the communities can still play their cricket because once you can play the cricket in the communities, then you can move onto the international stage. If you do not have grounds at the community level like we had when we were growing up, where every half a mile we had a pretty good ground, now as in Christ Church, for example, the area where I live, you may find there is only one major ground under the hill, that is, at Inch Marlow.

I still continue to ask for this ground to be acquired. I think it is in the process of being acquired. I hope that process will not be retarded for any other reason. I am sure that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, since a number of his people from Carter's Gap play on that ground, and since he has promised to assist the people of Christ Church East still, despite his concerns about his representation, will speak to the goodly Ministers involved and ensure that his people in Carter's Gap and surrounding areas are not put out to pasture by any means. He understands very well that when these people are put out to pasture, especially these people in communities, what the implications are of these things. Since he has suffered defeat twice already, I am sure he would not want to suffer again and would want his proteges to have their early approaches to politics not as pleasant as one would like, but that all is well.

I believe that commonsense will prevail and the land at Inch Marlow will be provided for the people of Carter's Gap, Silver Sands, Fairy Valley and the surrounding areas so that they too can develop the sport of cricket and many of them could go on to play at an even bigger level.

I am not forgetting the goodly people of Lodge Road who, I understand, are now trying to get a pavilion built up there as well. I have my eyes all over Christ Church because I am the only MP out here on this Side for

Christ Church so I have to make that point that I would have to look after Lodge Road as well.

I have to look after Dover. I hope that the BCA will bless the Dover team and will see that they get into Division 1 too. They won the Intermediate last year. They are in the finals this year and I hope that the BCA will look upon them with good grace and they too will be allowed to play some First Division cricket. That would be the only First Division team I think in the whole of Christ Church. I think it is about time that Christ Church should have a First Division team. I believe the BCA will look upon this very favourably and treat Christ Church well although there seems to be a pattern of not treating the younger set of Christ Church people too well but we are happy still, and we are a good happy people in Christ Church and will continue being happy.

I think I have made most of the points I wanted to make. Just one final point, Sir. I had a note here, the use of Sir Garfield Sobers in sports. It is unbelievable the kind of attraction that Sir Garfield Sobers attracts whenever he goes anywhere but yet still I am not seeing the BCA using him to the extent that he should be used. I know he is a Sports Consultant with the BTA but when you have someone as great as Sir Garfield Sobers who can come out to be an example to the guys in the communities, I believe there should be some scope to use him in the communities as a model for other people.

There should be some creative ways of using Sir Gary. I believe he can come out and just give a brief lecture, a little pep talk to teams in the area. Let him come and ask him questions. Sir Gary attracts unbelievable attention wherever he goes. I believe there should be a role for him. He should be the prime model in cricket. Too often in this country we tend to overlook what we have that is good and we tend to look elsewhere. I believe it is time that we use him to help give the communities somebody who is a model in cricket to look up to and this has not been done as it should be. He is being used overseas and whenever he mixes with tourists there is the greatest impact I have ever seen from any human being having been close to him myself when I worked at the Board of Tourism.

Also, Sir, I believe that coaching at the community level is also very important so that cricket as our No. 1 sport will not die. We need to start from the communities and build it up and, at the same time, we have to look at creative ways of making it more appealing to the wider communities. I think too, Sir, we have to look at greater technical expertise so that our cricketers can do even better than they are doing right now.

Speaking to some of the guys who have done coaching overseas, for example, those who have gone to

South Africa, one of the reasons why the South Africans are doing well is because they are into modern technology in cricket, automatic bowlers and all kinds of things. 5.15 p.m.

I believe that we just cannot take things for granted and we need to look at using modern technology as well and this is one of the directions that I think the BCA should go into. We are leaders of cricket. One time Barbados had some of the best cricketers in the world and I think that we have to try to regain that position. There was a time when we did not have a cricketer on the West Indies team so we have to rebuild but in order to go forward we have to use modern technology and we have to look at innovation and to use the modern catch word, we have to look at re-engineering to get us in the direction that we seem to have lost. We need to get back to No. 1 in the world.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one brief intervention in this matter.

I believe, Sir, that over the years the BCA has made a valuable contribution to the cultural aspect of West Indian life. I would also want to say that cricket is one of the sports that has bonded Commonwealth countries together and more so West Indian culture. The BCA has over the years performed creditably, I would think from 1933 or thereabout. We now have Division 1 as well as Second Division and Intermediate Division. Years ago, it was not felt that the rural parishes like St. George or St. Joseph or St. Andrew or St. Lucy would have had a place in a division of BCA but since in the early 80s the policy has included the country teams and I am very glad for this.

I believe, Sir, that the BCA has to adopt a more modern approach to management of cricket and their finances in particular. Do you realise, Sir, that in today's society you have the BCA keeping out members of the general public? If you are not in a position of power, if you are not somebody in this society, you cannot join the BCA. I applied to join the BCA five years ago and I have not got in, up to now they have not even recognised my application. They are many people who have applied to join the BCA and have not got in. Some have applied since me and have got in because they are somebody. I am happy that Government has given them the finances that they deserve but do not tell me that the BCA can only let in people because they are waiting on numbers. If a person dies then they let in somebody else. In today's society, I do not believe that this is fair. I feel that the BCA should adopt an approach where the whole BCA should be a public company and all cricketers who want to become part of the BCA should be members. I believe that

all Barbadians who want to buy a share in cricket should do so. There are hundreds or thousands of Barbadians who would want to invest in BCA cricket and many Barbadians who may have \$1 or \$10 to invest and who would want to see cricket improve cannot now do so.

I have spoken at length to the President and I have told him what I felt, that they must open up the doors to the common man so that everybody who wants to join the BCA can do so. I would like to see that as they turn in the new century the BCA would adopt a more modern approach to allow persons of all origins and all classes to become part and parcel of this Association.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, some seven or eight days ago, I would have found it extremely difficult to support this particular Bill but there has been an announcement since that the West Indies Cricket Board is going to allow Desmond Haynes to play in that cricket match in Barbados.

As you are aware, Sir, if they did not change that stance, Sir, there is no way that Denis St. Elmo Kellman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, would be supporting this Bill because I feel that the same way that Jamaica Cricket Board (JCB) can dictate where limited overs cricket should be played in the Caribbean the Barbados Cricket Association should stand up on behalf of the people of Barbados. I am not sure that the WICB is controlling cricket anymore because it is clear to me that there is a new path within the Caribbean where every policy is now being dictated in Jamaica and we the people in the other Caribbean islands are forced to follow what is being directed in Jamaica. I am saying, Sir, that if everything is being signalled and directed in Jamaica and then the BCA who is supposed to speak on our behalf cannot speak on our behalf, I will find it extremely difficult to come in here anymore and support any measure on their behalf.

A message must be sent from this Parliament to the BCA that I might be prepared today to back this one, but I am not prepared to come in here and back this unless I get a strong message from the BCA going to the WICB that no one country can dictate where Shell Shield Cricket, Red Stripe Cricket or whatever it is will be played. The Caribbean is supposed to be a Caribbean of unity and we cannot as politicians talk about uniting the Caribbean when we are dividing the Caribbean in the one sport that we are supposed to stand firm in. How can we talk about Caribbean unity when we do not even have unity in cricket anymore and yet we have all this foolish talk about uniting the Caribbean? How can we unite the Caribbean on the one hand and on the other hand we are trying to divide by using the source of cricket?

Shell Shield cricket, Red Stripe cricket whatever you have to call it, must come back to the Caribbean and it

must be part of all the Caribbean countries. No one country can afford to dictate where cricket should be played. We are all partners in cricket and the West Indies Cricket Board must understand that we are all one, we are all Caribbean people and the Caribbean is not only a place for Jamaica.

I share those views. I do not know who else shares those views but it must be a clear message going forward to the Board that the West Indies Cricket Board is not a Jamaica Board but is a board for the whole Caribbean.
5.25 p.m.

I would like the President of the Barbados Cricket Association to understand that when he goes to meetings he speaks on behalf of the whole of Barbados when it comes to cricket because if it is one sport that you are taught when you go to school it is cricket. So cricket is the in thing from the time you start primary school. The West Indies Cricket Board must understand that if they decide they do not want Desmond Haynes they do not want me either and the Barbados Cricket Board must understand that if they cannot bat Desmond Haynes they cannot ask me to bat any money for them either, because the same way they did it to Desmond Haynes they would do it to me too. That is my philosophy. I am clear about that. I am not padding any wicket for anybody. This is the day of reckoning and all those who want to be on the board of reckoning should come, because when you mess up a man like Desmond Haynes you would understand, a man who went right through the world promoting tourism for the whole of the Caribbean, and now for some man, just because he has a dislike for Desmond Haynes, wanting to give him one kick. If you want to kick him you have to kick me too. The West Indies Cricket Board must understand that if one member is weak all the other members have to be also.

Let me tell you something. In 1933 a group of people, including 3 black men formed the Barbados Cricket Association, sixty four years after they are asking 28 black men to support them.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ...and women. I meant men in the general sense, meaning man and woman. In that group of people, Sir Grantley Adams was part of that group and this organisation was short-sighted. I cannot see any organisation that can allow anybody to pass an Act which would not allow them to borrow. I do not know, Sir, if that organisation, at the time, felt that the Government of the day must continue to prop it up or they were guaranteed some privileges that I did not know of. I was not of that era, Sir. I am of the era in the nineties, Sir, where we are asked to change legislation to accommodate these same people who made a decision 64 years ago.

But I am not going to be privileged to sit down and not make my opinion known. So I do not care who feels that they cannot offend some rich business people because they control the whole of Jamaica and that they must have a right to do what they feel like. We are going into the twenty-first century and I keep saying in this Parliament that Barbados must understand that you are always hearing what the big countries are doing. If small countries are not prepared to stand up for themselves, when will they grow? We have to stop feeling that because we are small we cannot set our own pace. If this is what politics is all about that we are small - and we are ignored, I am one small person who will not be ignored. The others can and I know you, Mr. Speaker, you will not be ignored because you rule.

The Honourable Member for St. Andrew wants me to admit that he did not want the landfill and the Prime Minister refused to look at him. I would not say that. But getting back to the Bill, Sir, I am saying that the Barbados Cricket Association must understand that they have a role to play and they have a responsibility to the people of Barbados and the people of Barbados love cricket in any form.

They must understand that cricket cannot only remain in the urban areas, that if cricket must be commercial in Barbados they must be prepared to carry it into the rural constituencies and there are some places in Barbados that are developing the infrastructure in such a way that sooner or later the place we call the home of cricket is going to look like a second rate place.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You want me to say standard but I cannot promote your action. I must promote North Stars. That is one of the fastest growing and most promising grounds in Barbados and it is so beautiful that even tourists who do not understand cricket are prepared to come and watch at North Stars because of the scenic situation in that beautiful area. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that I support this Bill today, but if the Barbados Cricket Association continues in the direction they are going, and I honestly believe with the new Chairman that they are prepared to take a more radical stance. I have all confidence in the new Chairman. I honestly feel that he would not run away from his duties just because some big guru in Jamaica feels they have a lot of money and they cannot be challenged. I honestly feel that the Chairman of the Barbados Cricket Association is prepared to run against anybody and I would like to believe that this is the understanding coming from our new Chairman because it is in the interest of West Indies Cricket that the President of the West Indies Cricket Board should be challenged at all times. We cannot continue to have a situation where

people believe that they are elevated to positions and they are in a role of dictatorship.

I honestly thought, Mr. Speaker, that when the "C" was removed from the West Indies Cricket Board that we would have seen democracy within the West Indies Cricket Board but I can honestly say, in my opinion, there is more dictatorship now in cricket now the "C" has been removed than when the "C" was there, because previously, Mr. Speaker, no one man ruled that cricket should be in one particular area but now the "C" has been removed you cannot get Red Stripe cricket in Barbados anymore. Thank you.

Mr. D. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the amendment to this Bill. I would say at the outset I never intended speaking because obviously I am a member of the Barbados Cricket Association but there are certain things that I know and I would really like to come to this Parliament and speak about. The Barbados Cricket Association set a standard here among sporting organisations whereby back in the sixties and seventies when they were struggling financially they came up with the idea of a Lotto and because of that Lotto they were able to improve their plant significantly. 5.35 p.m.

As you can see now at Kensington, we have got some fairly good pavilions there, because we did not properly maintain the plant, and we probably fell back slightly. But all the other Caribbean Governments realise how well Barbados is doing with their cricket and it also is attracting tourism, even if every four years or every three years, not until respective Governments try to help their countries in getting their plant to look better.

Now, I am of the opinion and I am sure that the management then did a good job and they will continue to do a good job. I am very glad that the Government has taken the decision to help the Barbados Cricket Association. I have got one little quarrel about the whole thing, that is the amount of money that the Barbados Cricket Association really gets from the proceeds. It is a small percentage, 2 percent and I believe the time has come whereby something has got to be done whereby the respective countries should get a bigger share of the markets. Now certainly from here I cannot run the Cricket Board, but certainly our Members who are a part of that should be able to speak at length and make sure that their respective countries get a better share of the market.

There is one problem I would say we have now in the West Indies and certainly in Barbados and that is cricket development. Over the years we were able to produce outstanding players, but quite recently we are

going through the doldrums and, I would say this now up front, some of the past players only intend to help younger players when the televisions are there and the print media are there. We have got some young people who need some help in this country. We have only got one qualified coach employed at the Barbados Cricket Association and certainly we at the Sports Council operate from the premise that we look after primary schools.

I believe the time is right where former players who have got something to offer should really help our present day players. Every West Indian and certainly Barbadians are so happy when we are doing well and I know that we are now a country who is down because we are doing badly.

As I said, cricket development is the number one priority and we have got to start here in Barbados. It was said before and I would say it again, I believe that we have got too many teams in the first division. The time is right where we can say to respective teams that within three years we will have ten playing first division cricket rather than fourteen teams. I also believe, rather than two school teams there should be one school team whereby the coach who is employed should then have access to that small group of players.

As I said, the real reason why I got up and spoke is because the Member for Christ Church East alluded to the fact that the teams in Christ Church should play first division cricket, but in order to play first division cricket you must win a series of games and you must reach second division, the intermediate and certainly you may be considered for the first division. In relation to Lodge Road that you mentioned in your speech, I just want it to be said that some six months ago, the Member for St. Lucy approached the Sports Council about a project which he was participating in, in St. Lucy. It was a self-help programme and the Sports Council, through the Government's policy, gave the North Stars \$10 000 to assist the people of St. Lucy.

I would be very, very stupid if a member team of Christ Church is now helping themselves and as the Parliamentary representative for the area, Christ Church East Central did not do something positive to help the people of Lodge Road. I want to put it now on record that about four weeks ago, the Sports Council decided to give a similar amount to the Lodge Road team, so it is now in the open. Yesterday I was there, joined with them and participated in all their activities. But earlier I believed that the time was not right. The time is now right that I can now make it.

Asides.

Mr. D. CARTER: A prospective Parliamentarian was there. The point is that the Lodge Road team will get \$10 000 probably this year and as the project progresses sometime in the future, the possibility is there that the Sports Council will also help them with more money. But I now bind myself for \$10 000 declared to the Lodge Road Sports Club.

Mr. Speaker, I did not realise that elections are around the corner, but I believe this forum really is to make your point. I thought the important point here this evening is Barbados cricket, but I sincerely hope that the Government in future would just keep an eye on the Board and hopefully somewhere down the road we would improve the plant, we would improve the development of cricket in this country and certainly, I am quite sure that within three to four years, if the right people continue to run the Barbados Cricket Association and if the people who are not really Board Members but who love cricket, I refer to people like the Attorney General who has a lot to offer, can whisper to people and make sure that our cricket reaches the heights again. It is the saying that if Barbadian cricket is strong, West Indian cricket will be strong.

I must make a point. The Member for St. George North said that some ordinary persons cannot become Members, but I would like to clarify that. I would like the Member to know, and all the people in Barbados to know, that there is a system whereby as people die and leave the Membership, then new membership will take place. There is a system where you put down your name and it goes up as the time becomes available. Certainly, in my own case, my wife had to wait seven years to become a member and she only became a member last year.

Asides.

Mr. D. CARTER: So, Mr. Speaker, all I can say at this point is that I fully support the Government and I sincerely hope that we all do our best to make sure that cricket continues to go well in Barbados.

I thank you.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe other Members have said we will be supporting this Bill and I would not be very long. I believe that all the comments which have been made by Honourable Members are relevant, but I would call on the Minister of Sports, even though people do not like to talk about politicians being involved in Sports, I want to make my position abundantly clear.

If the Government has provided a guarantee or letter of comfort or whatever, for the operations of the Barbados Cricket Association, as with any other entity, there are some basic demands about the transparency of

its operations, the level of democracy and I will say, some of the basic tenets on which the organisation should function.

I am against *carte blanche* arrangements for organisations which sometimes, and some more often than not, operate inimically to those tenets of transparency and democracy. So if we are given a letter of comfort, then it means that the old boys club and the arrangements which have facilitated it have to be very carefully looked at. We have heard people in here complaining about membership. There are some people who do not have any difficulty at all on that issue of membership. That is not the biggest concern to me because if I was not offered membership, I would pay and go, and it would not be here or there to me if I was particularly interested in it. But the point is that I think that what is missing from many of those organisations is that level of democracy and accountability. Everybody wants it from the political class in this country and yet, whenever one looks into some of those organisations which have been with us for a long time and which we would like to say have served us well, there is no commensurate level of democracy.

The Barbados Cricket Association and its operations at Kensington are critical to the success of world class cricket and that in itself is going to be critical to the economic growth in Barbados next year. I know Government is very much looking forward to the one-shot increase as we did in 1994. We know that it does wonders for your growth GDP figures and there will be that commensurate one shot. I hope that the Government will acknowledge that it is a one shot contribution to growth.

But that is not the point. Attempts are being made to make the operation, they say, more commercially oriented and business like. I think that in that regard it is one of the reasons why there needs to be more accountability and a certain level of democracy in the operations of the Association, so that it can carry out those business functions in a manner that would satisfy the interest of the majority of Barbadians. We will give our full support to the Barbados Cricket Association as long as it is acting according to those principles. But I will go a step further and say to the Minister of Sports that if the Government is itself lending assistance by way of guarantees or whatever else to the Barbados Cricket Association that there are certain demands which, between us, we need to sit down and discuss. I am not comfortable and never was, even when I was Minister of Finance, with these arrangements where you provide comfort with almost a blindfold, without any influence and without any say. 5.45 p.m.

Nobody is saying we want to run cricket. Nobody is saying we want to select the cricket team. Nobody is saying that we want to determine when matches should be

played at Kensington. I believe there are some other issues which would enhance the development of cricket in Barbados and which the Barbados Cricket Association itself has not been able to resolve. That goes as far as the relationship between the Barbados Cricket Association and the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, the nature of that representation and the kind of issues that should be dealt with.

I think that is the best way to facilitate national objectives, not to be discussing it at the level of Heads of Government. That is the wrong place for discussion on those details. What we need to do is to have an arrangement where the Government itself in offering assistance is able to exert some influence in the development of the Division and the consensus building on the decisions which are taken by the representatives of the West Indies Cricket Board as it is now called.

So any efforts which are made by the Government in that regard will receive our wholehearted support and I hope that as an addition to this Bill and to whatever assistance Government can lend that an effort will be made to come up with some policy decision to enhance the operations of the cricket association by improving the democracy and the level of accountability in the operations.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Members for their contribution on the Bill and facilitating this debate and hopefully the successful passage of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, all Members made useful contribution and I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. Two weeks ago in an effort to resolve the Desmond Haynes business with WICB -1 have to be careful in the choice of language that I use to make it clear that I am sure neither this Government nor that one would have wished to dictate the election of any team. That is a matter for the organisation which runs cricket but it is incongruous that whenever sporting associations, the cricket association, is in need of funds they come and lean on Government. In fact, lie down in front of Government and the minute you try to advise them sternly you are accused of political interference or mixing politics.

Only earlier this year, the West Indies Cricket Board wanted to contract 30 players at high fee. Do you know what they expected? That the Government would help raise the funds to attract certain players. They cannot even put together a good 11 in Pakistan. Where are they going to find 30?

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Wes Hall as the Chairman of the selectors cannot find 30 worthy of contracting.

Some have contracted, but they wanted 50 at first and then it went down to 30.

Sir, the Government has made it clear to the BCA. We understand the history that I read here earlier today. An association that started in 1933 to which Grantley Adams was a signatory but did not back then see it as having any commercial side to its business. Sixty-four years later it is involved in commercialisation of cricket but does not have the power in this legislation to effect that commercialisation.

We have made it clear to them that they have to restructure, refocus and do proper planning. As an organisation that takes so much money from the public the Barbados Cricket Association has to commercialise. We have agreed to grant the Association \$250 000 to enable them to prepare a development plan and a strategic plan for cricket that will be like any other business operation. Any business operation has to develop a business plan.

When I came here on the last occasion to deal with matters involving the BCA, I pointed out then that they have revised the original concept when they came to the Government in July and they are having 2 phases for the development of Kensington and Government had said it would help provide loan facilities and give a grant but, on the other hand, it had to modernise its internal structure and do its operations as any reputable commercial business, that is, have a proper business plan and strategic planning. That is where it is at the moment.

I wish before I sit down also to congratulate St. Catherine on their championship for the First Division this year. That is a club that I have fond memories of. St. Catherine got into the First Eleven during the 5 years that I represented St. Philip North and I had had an association with St. Catherine a long time. Do not forget I lived in St. Philip for 19 years at different times.

I remember as a young boy the quality of cricketer that St. Catherine produced in the BCL in the 50s and I would go so far as to say that if the Honourable Minister of Sport is old enough to remember St. Catherine cricket in the 50s, they had better players than they have now. Harold Pierce was one of the fastest bowlers produced in Barbados. He came from St. Martin. Wilbert Beckles, Wilbert went to England. "Gander" Straughan, "Gaw Gaw" Stuart, Broxie Blades, Paul Maloney, Warwick Brathwaite, those kinds of players I remember in the 50s. 5.55 p.m.

I am very pleased to see where St. Catherine has come from. One of their staunchest administrators, Lionel "Dads" Blades, used to work at Dodds with my father. He was one of the founders of St. Catherine Club and

administered its affairs for many years. That club has really thrived and is a source pride to cricket in rural Barbados.

Sir, as for the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who spoke about marketing of cricket, I just want to remind him that the marketing of cricket depends upon the kind of act you have to market. If you do not have a team to market, you are wasting money. Let them try and market this West Indies team now that nobody in Pakistan is going to watch.

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: They say they have small crowds. Let them try and market this team now. You have to have a class act to get the best benefits from any marketing strategy or plan.

Sir, I am grateful to all Honourable Members. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by His Honour R. D. MARSHALL, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, 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. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Barbados Cricket Association (Amendment) Act, 1997.

ORDER NO. 8 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ORDER, 1997

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to approve the Urban Development Commission Order, 1997. You may recall that we had extensive debate on the Bill and at the time some concern was expressed

as to the areas which were to be designated in accordance with the Act.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I had indicated when the Bill was introduced that those areas outside of the rural area most likely would have been the areas which would have been designated under the Urban Development Bill. The specific areas with reference to the Rural Development Commission have not been designated. We had considered at the time having the Order done by negative resolution which would not have necessitated this debate, but we still felt that in order to enable members to know exactly how wide we were going, seeing that the designation with respect to the rural areas had not been done, that we would have done it by affirmative resolution.

Bridgetown, as you know, consists of the central inner City as well as a wider area which, to a certain extent, is the most organised built-up area in Barbados. We have gone outside of the Greater Bridgetown area seeing that there are certain areas which are generally considered urban for the purposes of this particular Bill.

In dealing with the Greater Bridgetown area, we generally looked at areas from Jemmotts Lane onto Martindale's Road, Roebuck Street, Country Road, Passage Road, Westbury Road and President Kennedy Drive. Greater Bridgetown would also encompass the area defined by Rendezvous Hill along the southern boundary which would extend to Holder's Hill to the north and the ABC Highway on its eastern boundaries.

This area is somewhat more extensive as set out in the Schedule. It is an area stretching from Thorpes Road, Husbands, to its intersection with Clermont and it goes right down to Waverley Road to its intersection with Keizer Hill Road to its intersection with Enterprise Drive.

There are certain areas that members were hoping to have included in the designation if only because they have seen the workings of the Urban Development Commission and the prospect for certain developments in their constituency. 6.05 p.m.

I certainly would have hoped that Orange Hill would have been included but I was not successful, Mr. Speaker, but you can rest assured that St. Michael Central is included in this designation.

With those brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution designating the Urban Development Area included in this order be now passed.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the Urban Development Commission has

designated an area and now you know which area of Barbados has been designated as urban. My only wish is that the Rural Development Commission would do likewise because I am yet to find out if St. Lucy is designated in any of these areas. I have seen it not in the urban and I see no workings of rural to indicate that St. Lucy is either rural or urban because none of the projects that have been done by any of these Commissions have affected St. Lucy in any way. I would like to know which designation St. Lucy is in or whether I should canvass my people that it is time to go alone because I am told that there are two Commissions and up to now, Sir, I am not clear where St. Lucy lies. It is not in urban and I have seen none of the works in the Rural Commission happening in St. Lucy so I am not sure where St. Lucy is designated. I was hoping, Sir, after watching the rural for over three years that when I picked up this document today, Sir, that somewhere in there, I would have heard that they skipped St. James and St. Peter and landed in St. Lucy but unfortunately for the people of St. Lucy, they have no designation because I have no evidence that we are part of rural.

I have heard about how many roads have been constructed by the Rural Commission, how many street lights have been installed by the Rural Commission but up to today I have no evidence that any of those things have been happening in the beautiful constituency of St. Lucy. With your help, Sir, I would like to find out from the Leader of the House when they are going to separate St. Lucy from Barbados because it is clear to me that St. Lucy seems not to be part of Barbados anymore and it seems to me that because I spoke about the Judge Gap in Barbados, Judge Gap is now where the Rural Commission stops its work. I want to know from this House whether they want St. Lucy or not or whether we need to go it alone because the good people of St. Lucy have been contributing but yet, Sir, they have not been getting their rewards.

I want to know, Sir, whether I should start negotiating with someone to build a hotel at the naval base and also to reconstruct one at North Point and whether I should continue to have discussions with the Arawak Cement Plant about more infrastructure for that beautiful constituency of St. Lucy. I am sure that if they are not prepared to do what we would like done, that we are doing enough in St. Lucy that we can now start charging a toll. We can do it at the Judge Gap, we can do it at Alleynedale and we can do it at Graveyard Junction so we are serious about these charges. We want to know if we are part of Barbados or not because if you have a Rural Commission that has been going for three years and not one single cent has been spent on St. Lucy and now the Honourable Minister could come to this Assembly and announce an Urban Commission and St. Lucy is not included, I have to wonder where we stand. We cannot be in rural because of all the millions of dollars that have been spent in rural not

one cent has been spent in St. Lucy so I want to know where St. Lucy stands and I am asking you through your Chair to find out from the Leader of the House which Bill and which Commission will deal with St. Lucy.

Thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member that you will be satisfied to be in the urban area?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: We are prepared to be in that area that looks after the interests of the poor people of St. Lucy.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I cannot really speak for the Rural Development Commission since the Minister responsible for rural development is not here and I would not want to confirm or deny anything that the Honourable Member has said but I know that a number of street lights have been placed in areas in St. Lucy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you speaking on a point of elucidation or are you winding up?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I am winding up.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. What he is trying to say is that the M.P. for St. Lucy has submitted a number of pole numbers for street lights to be installed and that they have not been installed, included to his Ministry which was referred to the Rural Commission but because the letter had gone through so long he thought they had

been installed but I can assure him, Sir, that they have not been installed as yet.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I really would not want to argue with the Honourable Member on that but I know I travel very extensively in St. Lucy and there are certain areas where I did not see lights before 6th September, 1994 and lights are now there. It is similar too with respect to a number of roads which have not been constructed by the Ministry of Public Works and if they have not been constructed by the Ministry of Public Works or the Urban Development Commission, obviously they would have been done by the Rural Development Commission.

I can give him the assurance that St. Lucy because of the configuration will never really become part of the Urban Development Commission.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned to Tuesday, December 16, 1997, at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House be adjourned to Tuesday, December 16, 1997 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 6.15 p.m.

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