

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 27, 1997

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 1997.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour R. D. MARSHALL (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDBFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.),

J.P.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B.,
Mr. B. M. TAITT, B.A. (Hons.), M.P.A., LL.B.
(Hons.)

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

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B.

Mr. L. R. TOLL, Q.C., M.A.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International
Transport) (Leader of the House)

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

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

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

Mr. D. CARTER

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

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

Mr. J. M. EDGHILL

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

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

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

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

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, May 13,
1997.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to
move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of
Assembly of its meeting of Tuesday, May 13, 1997, which
Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

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

Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption)
Orders Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1997.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of
the Barbados Investment and Development
Corporation for the year 1995-96.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the year 1994-95.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill, the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, 1997 be read a first time.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago the death was announced of Mrs. Claudine Callender, mother of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Mrs. Callender was not known to me. I think I know Mr. Callender more than I ever knew Mrs. Callender but from all accounts that I have heard, all offers of condolence which have been drawn to my attention it is clear that Mrs. Callender was the typical Barbadian mother. Motherhood is universal but we like to think in Barbados that the Barbadian mother is like God.

This would have been a woman who nurtured her children; and if we are to judge by the length of the obituary column, this was a woman who cast her bread wide on the waters leaving children, grandchildren and a broad spectrum of relatives both here in Barbados and abroad to mourn her passing.

I would wish to take this opportunity to say on behalf of myself and on the behalf of members on this side of the House to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that we share very much in his loss. It is something that comes to all of us. In my own case, I always make the point that anybody who, at this age where we are in the House, still has his or her mother up to this time is indeed very fortunate. I belong to a group of people who unfortunately lost mothers very early in life while we were teenagers.

For those who have their mothers in their forties and their fifties, and some of us I believe are in their sixties, it is an outstanding achievement and I would wish for the Honourable Member and his relatives, particularly brothers and sisters, to remember them at a time like this and on

behalf of Honourable Members on this side to offer to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East our deepest sympathy and I would wish to formally move that the usual resolution pass this House and that it would be communicated to the members of the Callender family.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of members of the Opposition, I would like to extend my sympathy also to the members of the Callender family and their extended family on the passing of the late Claudine Callender. I believe I met her on one occasion when I went to a home somewhere in Christ Church to collect an old lady who was a member of the Jehovah Witness faith and met Mrs. Callender and Mr. Callender whom I met on previous occasions.

I cannot say that I knew much about her. I will take as my reference point her two sons, the first of whom was at one time the better known Callender, Win, who worked for many years at CBC and who with the limited knowledge that I have of broadcasting is responsible almost in full for my brief stint and training at CBC in broadcasting. He certainly is a very generous person and a person also of high principles and moral standards. I always found him to be like that, a person who did not engage in small talk and gossip but was very focussed in what he wanted to achieve and had also committed himself to his profession of broadcasting with great dedication.

I was always happy to lend my full support when I was on CBC's Board subsequently to Win's success and movement through the ranks of the Corporation as a model broadcaster.

The second son became known to me and the rest of Barbados and became the more - you cannot always say that politicians are better known than radio broadcasters but became more known when he became a Member of the House of Assembly, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. One can see from his active community involvement at the national level and otherwise that clearly qualities would have been instilled in him which would have emphasised the importance of rendering service to others, observing the kind of standards of integrity which are necessary for a person who is going to become a Member of this Chamber and also be humble in the way in which the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has carried out his responsibilities in this Chamber.

Drawing those leads from the book of life of the late Claudine Callender we can extrapolate that she obviously in her own way has made a great contribution to raising some fine children who themselves have gone on to be distinguished in different fields.

I extend my sympathy to the entire Callender family along with members on this side, some of whom will speak in extending our sympathy to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East on the passing of his mother and hope that her loss though it may have caused him to grieve will, in fact, when he reflects on her life, be a new launching pad for even greater achievements in her name and in the name of the Callender family.

We extend our sympathy to you and your family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
11.40a.m.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I believe it was a Scottish poet who wrote "everyone's death diminishes me."

Indeed, those of us who have had the experience of a mother passing on, will vividly recall not feeling so diminished at any other time in one's entire life. Therefore, I understand only too well what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East would have gone through, what he is going through, and what other members of his family would be going through at this point in their lives.

There is another side to it all and the Honourable Member can rest assured that mothers never die. They always flash before you at critical times in your life. Almost every day at some point you remember your mother and it is as though the reality is there. Whatever one's beliefs may be of a life hereafter, there can be no doubt of the continuity of the life of a mother in the minds of her children. Whatever grief the Honourable Member is experiencing now can be tempered by the fact that this will be his experience. It is most extraordinary that it is something that no one understands until they have had to go through the situation of the loss of a mother.

Unfortunately, I did not know her personally but I knew his father very well indeed. We worked together at one point in time for a very short period of time. From time to time I recollect his speaking of her in very gentle and kindly terms many years ago. So that one can actually feel and imagine the kind of nexus of that family that has produced the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. It is therefore not surprising that he has opted for this difficult task of participating in the representation of people in this country.

I sincerely hope that he will find peace in the fond memory of his mother and some consolation in the few words which I have been able to communicate to him today on the Floor of the House with the full assurance, I am absolutely sure about this, that you will recognise in a very short period of time that there is going to be a

continuing spiritual relationship between yourself and your mother and in many ways superior to what you may have enjoyed during her life on earth.

Indeed, if you share those beliefs of an "after life," then I suspect that the extent to which you have that belief the greater would be the experience of the continuity of living rather than of death which certainly has been and continues to be my own experience. For example, I was outside the House of Assembly when this present situation we are embarking on started. When I heard what the House was about to get engaged in, the first image that flashed across my mind was that of my own mother. That feeling of warmth and the feeling of the goodness of motherhood which you benefitted from is something that is absolutely extraordinary. I am sure it will be heightened.

I wish to associate myself with the words spoken both by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Official Opposition, with the Resolution proposed by the Leader of the House. In my own capacity as Leader of the National Democratic Party, I also wish to convey through you to your father and to all your sorrowing relatives our very deepest sympathies.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it is a sad occasion for us as we pay respects to a very devoted wife, a very loving and committed mother, a deep Christian and a lady who represented what we in Barbados consider to be a perfect Barbadian woman.

We on this side are deeply touched by the loss of this wonderful person. In a sense I have to concede that I knew Mrs. Claudine Callender in a very personal way in the sense that it is common knowledge that I was a very close friend of the family and her two sons. Over the years, and in particular over the last 10 years or so, I was a very close friend of the family, and not in any other form than to have been associated with them, certainly in a non-political environment.

I had the good fortune of being able to talk to Mrs. Callender from time to time. I can attest to the fact that she was a very deeply committed person to the general upliftment of people, certainly from the point of view of developing their Christian values and certainly from developing the right values in children as she shared many of those encounters with many children at the school of her husband which was contiguous to my home in Government Hill, the Callender School. I think her living is testimony of the kind of life that should be lived by right-thinking Barbadians.

Her son is a very close and dear friend of mine, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. His

involvement in the community is a direct consequence of the genuine and sincere quality that his parents bring to the Barbadian society.

I recall his father on one occasion going out of his way to buy many little toys and tokens to share and to present to children at a sports day. I said, what a wonderful gesture where, this family can give up some of their own revenue to bring goodwill to so many young Barbadian children. That attitude is one that persisted in the family. They were a very close knit and loving family who cared for each other and they have extended that to the wider community. 11.50a.m.

I am not surprised that both of their sons are community minded persons. I certainly respect both of them, I appreciate the work that they have done in the community and I know that they will use the life of their mother to the good of people. They mean no harm to anyone, they are good contributors to this society and I expect that their mother's living will be continued in the form that she would have wanted it, certainly by the way how she lived her own personal life.

I was very sad myself to learn of her very abrupt passing because she was a very strong and vibrant person, very alive in her communication with people and I was quite taken by surprise when she departed this earth so quickly in such a short time. I was very shocked when I heard that it happened so quickly but nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that life has to go on.

I myself lost my father when I was a very young person, at age 20, and as the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said, it is not easy to lose a parent at such an early age, but one thing that has helped me over the years, is that even though your parents die, you never feel that they are not with you or that they are not present.

Certainly, I am one who has lost a parent and I would encourage my colleague to accept that this world is a continuum and we have to accept that all of us will pass one day. We must accept it and continue to live and to act out the fine example. Certainly he would be proud of the mother he had because she was one that any son or daughter would be proud to have as a mother.

I extend my personal sympathy to the family and I hope that they will recover and continue the wonderful family environment that I know that they have enjoyed over the years.

Thank you.

Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to join the other Honourable Members in expressing my sympathy to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the other members of his family on their recent loss.

Quite naturally, having been involved in politics in Christ Church for a long period of time, I would have had the opportunity of meeting the Honourable Member's family and in particular, his father and his mother. The contribution that the family has made to many causes in Barbados, for example, education, sports and introducing children who have made their mark in Barbados, is a great one. This, of course, could only have taken place if the principal advisors and people who are responsible for the character of the members of a family were people who themselves were of great quality.

The Honourable Member's family were also known for their devotion to their religion and in that capacity, many people in the Christ Church area will recall their steadfast determination to uphold the principles of the religion that they believed in. I would like to say, Sir, that I had the honour of attending the funeral and I was struck by the warmth and the sincerity of the grief that was displayed.

I therefore, Sir, would like to say to the Honourable Member and to the other members of his family that the contribution which his mother made to Christ Church and to the wider community in Barbados is a well recognised one.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to join the other Honourable Members in extending sympathy to my colleague in this time of lost and grief.

I, myself, have the very good fortune of having my mother still with me but last year when she became ill, the prospect of her loss confronted me and I found that I felt a degree of grief and feelings that I did not know how to cope with them. From that perspective, I am able to empathize with the Honourable Member and to understand what in fact he must have gone through and must be continuing to go through. I know that the bonds between mothers and sons are particularly close, so that I have no difficulty in saying to him that we on this side, and all colleagues in the House, stand with him at this time.

I did not know his mother at all, but it is clear from all that has been said and all that I heard at the time of the funeral and all that has been said today from those who personally knew her, that Mrs. Callender was a woman of tremendous character and that much of her life was spent giving to her family and in service to her community through her faith. It is interesting that both of her sons

have continued to give to their communities through their life and work, qualities that clearly, they saw in her and inherited from her. In fact, I imagine that many of their better attributes are some of the characteristics which she must have helped to instil.

Often the bond between parent and child grows closer and deeper as the child ages because it is then that you are able to appreciate the nature of the sacrifices that parents have to make and the difficulties and challenges of raising children, not only raising them but seeing them accomplish something, particularly when they become well-known in society in their particular fields of endeavour.

It must have been a great joy to her as she aged, to see her sons and to see the kind of service they were giving and to feel some degree of pride in these young men whom she had borne as indeed it must have been a joy for them to fully appreciate the depths of love and affection and giving that has so characterised this woman in the way that she nurtured them and in the way that she nurtured the rest of the community.

I would wish, therefore, Mr. Speaker, to extend my deep and profound sympathy to the Honourable Member and to say that he remains with me in my prayers during what must have been a very difficult time for him. He must take comfort at this time in the faith that was his mother's and the assurance in the Bible that no matter how long and dark the night, no matter the degree of weeping, joy always come in the morning.

I therefore wish that when this period of acute pain is passed that he would be left only with the joy of the memory of the wonder of this beautiful woman who was his mother.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too would like to join in extending condolences to the family and friends of the late Claudine Callender.

Judging from all which has been said and from the little which I knew of this very gracious lady, it is quite clear that she was a lady who lend support to her husband, to her family and to the family school and to the larger community. Indeed, if we were to judge from the numbers that actually attended her funeral, it can easily be said that she was held in very high esteem by large numbers of people. 12.00 noon

She came from very humble beginnings, she was a very strong religious person and she was well respected, I

dare say, not only in the parish of Christ Church but virtually throughout the island.

I recall speaking to two families from St. Philip when she passed away and they were able to cite a number of very wonderful things which she had done for them. Clearly from what was said at the funeral she was indeed an inspiration to young and old and in particular it would appear to the older people in the community many of whom actually used to seek her advice.

I believe that her life sends a message to us, the message that you do not have to come from the heights and the terraces to make a contribution to this world and to this life but you can be judged by your deeds. It is quite clear that she was indeed judged by her deeds as a very righteous and upright person. One of those very many mothers in Barbados who struggled, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that their children do not endure the little humps and bumps and the hardships of life which they themselves would have gone through and that she paved the way for a better life for her children. I therefore want to say to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East that on behalf of the South Zone of the Barbados Labour Party with which he is very closely connected and to which my constituency is also connected, that we extend our deepest sympathy to him on this occasion. On behalf of my constituency with which he has a very beautiful working relationship as well, I extend deepest sympathy to him and indeed on my personal behalf.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to pass on my condolences to the Callender family on the passing of Claudine Callender, mother, sister, wife. Claudine Callender was all those things to the Callender family. She was a strong force and as is said, behind every successful man there is a woman. Although Claudine Callender was not out there in the forefront next to her husband, she was a tower of strength in the background. For a person to be born in the twenties and raised in the thirties during those hard years, coming from humble surroundings, she would have to have worked very hard to maintain herself.

In those days, Sir, not many people from those surroundings would have had the opportunity to have had a refrigerator in their house, but in those early years she would have worked hard to overcome all those things.

Claudine Callender will always live on in the hearts and the minds of her children, her sisters, her brothers if any, and as a wife to her husband and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of my family and myself to say to my colleague the Member for Christ Church East

to draw from the strengths of Claudine Callender and let what she has done as a mother and as a person, make them better persons.

Claudine Callender, like her children, did community Wbrk. She was a member of the faith of the Jehovah Witness and I am quite sure she would have done community work. She would have done her house to house servicing. She has done her part on this earth and I can only say to members of the family that she has gone on to rest and that she would be there when they go to be with her.

I thank you.

Mr. D. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join on behalf of my family and the people of Christ Church East Central to extend sympathy to the Callender family. I did not know the lady very well but certainly I knew her husband as a man of strength in the Christ Church area who really helped the people in that area both educationally and in the sporting fraternity.

In my early years I used to hear Mr. Callender speak of his children. I did not know them and I was a bit confused later on when I was hearing about Win and Wendell. Certainly since I got to know the Member for Christ Church East he was and is a tower of strength certainly to the people of his area and my area and I know during the past three weeks it was a very trying time for him, in that normally we speak to each other at least 4 times a week and quite recently I realised he was unable to *espy* on long conversations. I can only sympathise with him on this occasion and I do hope he will regain his strength.

The Member for St. Michael South Central intimated that really the loss of a mother is something that comes all the time. I really have not experienced that but I only hope he is true and that Wendell's mother will have some sort of strength as a reminder to him that he can carry on his work certainly in the community and in this House of Parliament. We have all got to go through these trying times and certainly my time will come. When you have never had the experience where your shoe burns you, you would never experience it until the time comes but I will say, certainly on behalf of my family and myself, to you Wendell and your family, I would express sympathy towards the whole family and the people of Christ Church East.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I too would want to join my voice in expressing my condolences to the Callender family on the passing of the mother of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. I knew the Callenders for a number of years. I did not know the mother very well but I know the father has been an

educator and has done human services to many of the educational institutions in this country. 12.10 p.m.

I believe that Mrs. Claudine Callender was a respected religious woman who has dedicated her life to the fulfilment of things that are honest, things that are beautiful and things that are of good repute and report.

I would want to say that I have found her son to be a friendly person, a person who contributed tremendously to my constituency branch, a person who has helped me and who has helped the Party. I believe that at this time we would want to pay our respects to Wendell and offer our condolences.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I join the others in expressing my personal condolences to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East on the loss of his mother.

Some months ago in here there was a resolution relating to the school that his father has been running for a number of years and on that occasion, I pointed out that when I was the Minister of Education, a number of new initiatives were being taken that sometimes were unpopular because of the hostility of Bajans to change. At that time, I could always count on Mr. Callender, elder Callender for a lot of support and good advice as to the direction I should take and I said then and I repeat, that I am deeply appreciative of that assistance on that occasion.

Like some others who have spoken, I did not know Mrs. Callender personally, but certainly from what I have heard since her demise, she belonged to that vintage stock of Barbadian mothers a generation or two ago who always put their children at the forefront of their interest and concern. They were sufficiently proud and independent to say that no matter what my own personal circumstances are or may have been I am going to ensure that all the sacrifices that are necessary to make my children get the best of what is going, will take place. And I have heard a lot said in the last few weeks from the day of the funeral and on about the character of Mrs. Callender and certainly, from all I have heard, she epitomises the good Barbadian mother of a generation ago.

She was also a woman, as I am told, who could take courageous initiatives outside the family. When she decided that there was a need for a church in a district she, despite the fact that she was relying on her husband's income for the maintenance and upkeep of the family decided that the spiritual well-being of her family and those who worship with them and indeed those who live in the wider Christ Church area were such, that she had to make the kind

of inordinate sacrifice in the interest of their spiritual well-being.

I also would like to make a reference to my friend the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North talked about the southern zone. I had responsibility at one time, I do not know if it is still current, but at one time for the coordination of the southern zone and particularly the last general elections.

Therefore, I had to interact with the candidates in the southern zone perhaps more than others and it was during that period that I got to know the Honourable Member better than I had known him before. Time has passed and I have gotten to know him even better. This is not a tribute to him and I will not spend time discussing the qualities that are really apparent in him.

But I am certain that the forthrightness that characterises him, his independence of thought and his courage must be legacy of a mother who raised him on her knee and taught him that these qualities were essential if he were to break through the barrier of bigotry that would seize this country by the neck. Some still persist, Mr. Speaker, but for those of a background, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and like many other Honourable Members in here to be able to break through that barrier require the consistent support and guidance of a caring parent, Claudine Callender must have been one of those persons.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is the greatest pleasure of mine to be able to sing the praises of a really virtuous woman who has made her impact on this society through her children. The way they were raised through her church and the way in which she committed herself totally to the integrity of her community where, from all reports she was a model person. To her husband who made an enormous contribution on his own to education and to sports in this country who must have felt rather fortified at the end of each day as he laid his head on his pillow, that next to him was a woman whom he could count on whatever the challenge.

On behalf of my own family and myself and on behalf of the southern zone to which I have a general responsibility, especially the Christ Church group for a nice neat well organised group in the south, I express my condolences and those of the whole group and I hope that as some Honourable Member has said, the loss of a mother is different from the loss of most things but I do hope that he would find comfort in the fact that she was thought highly of by so many people in this community and today, obviously thought of very highly by those who are

members of this legislature who had the good fortune to have come into contact with her.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to briefly associate myself with the comments and sentiments which have been made with respect to the passing of Mrs. Claudine Callender.

I myself, like most Members did not know Mrs. Callender, but I certainly knew her son, who is the Member of Parliament for Christ Church East in this Assembly and it is fairly obvious that she would have had to be a very fine lady to have raised a son like the Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East is special to me in that he is the only Member in this Parliament and any other recent Parliament or a former Parliament that had been a friend of mine at my home even before he entered politics. His father had also been special to me in that when I was an athlete representing Barbados in the 70s and late 60s, he was a tower of strength and certainly the type of advice that he would have given me in making Barbados proud at some of my exploits in those early days. Also my wife was a student at the Co-operative High School and she has always had very fond memories of the association between Mr. Callender and the students of the day. 12.20 p.m.

Even though I never met Mrs. Callender I came to know her through my wife's speaking about her on many occasions, especially seeing that most of my wife's friends were students of the Co-operative High School. I was out of the island and I tried my best to make it back for the funeral, and I was very saddened at the fact that I could not do so. Therefore, I take this opportunity on behalf of my wife, on behalf of the good constituents in St. Andrew who expressed their sympathy in some other form in wishing Mr. Callender all the best in this difficult period.

I have not reached the stage where I have lost my mother, but it is certainly an occasion that I dread, and seeing the closeness between myself and my own mother it appears as though it is something that will never happen. I can very well imagine how he would feel at this time and I would like to assure him that he has the sympathy of all the members of St. Andrew and I wish him all the best. Thank you.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I, like other Honourable Members, did not know personally the mother of the Honourable Member but I have heard others extolling her virtues and I have no reason whatsoever to dissociate myself from any of the views expressed.

I know certainly that she has produced very fine sons whom I have come to know over the years and they are sons with whom I am sure she would have been very proud. While not knowing her I can attest to the closeness of the relationship between herself and her sons. In fact, I happened to be in the same place as the Honourable Member a couple of months ago when his mother was alive and I learnt then that she had been experiencing some illness. I did not know the severity of the ailment at the time but the Member informed me subsequently and I was much shocked when I learnt of her passing.

I think nothing is left to me really but to extend to the Honourable Member as I have already done on behalf of myself and family my deepest sympathy. Perhaps it is easier for me to say this than for the listener to absorb it, especially in trying times, but just always remember that she would not wish you to be sad and that death, as the goodly Christians will say, is really an occasion for rejoicing rather than sadness. Thank you.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I just wish to associate myself with the remarks that have been made. Mr. Wilmot Callender was a very close and dear friend of mine for many years. We toiled in the field of education as teachers for a period of time and we got to know each other very well and our relationship has continued. He would on occasions tell me of his wife and his children and I subsequently got to know them also.

I know that he is an outstanding Barbadian who has produced outstanding children along with an outstanding wife.

I could not really allow the occasion to pass without associating myself with the remarks that have been made and I extend the condolences of myself and my family on the passing of the mother of the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with all the sentiments expressed. My family and I and my constituency of St. Michael Central express our sincere sympathy and condolences.

This House with acclaim accepts the Resolution of sympathy and so instructs that the appropriate Resolution be sent on to the grieving relatives. As a mark of respect I now invite all Honourable Members of this House of Assembly to stand and observe one minute's silence in respect to the passing of the late Mrs. Callender.

[Members stood in silence for one minute.]

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ORDER NO. 4 - RESOLUTION TO VEST LAND IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the vesting of these properties in the National Housing Corporation is another phase in Government's commitment in ensuring that not only adequacy of houses in the housing stock but also proper management of Government property.

The revitalisation of the housing sector since September 6, 1994, I believe the members on the other side would agree with me, is only comparable to the period between 1951, 1961, 1976 and 1986. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, in our Manifesto we said that we would resume the building of terrace units and you have seen the performance of this aspect of the manifesto pledge by the resumption of the building of housing units at Maynards. We plan to go to Pondside next and Flat Rock.

We have also seen the collaboration of the private sector whether it is in the form of a joint venture as we see at Cane Garden or the facilitation by the division of Housing with members of that sector. 12.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is now common knowledge, from the amount of acquisitions which you have seen in this Chamber since September 6, 1994, that we have satisfied that aspect of our Manifesto which addresses the whole issue of a resumption of the Sites and Services Programme which in itself was dormant between the period 1986 to 1994 if only because of the structural adjustment strictures of that period. Mr. Speaker, it has put us in a position where we are now better able to deal with the problems associated with tenancies relocation, low income housing and the problems associated with natural disasters.

We have also, Mr. Speaker, vigorously pursued the disposal of abandoned and disused Government buildings, in particular, the public baths. On occasions we have also transferred various properties to certain community and charitable groups. Only recently you saw the vesting of the Jewish Synagogue in the Barbados National Trust. Very shortly we will be doing a similar thing with respect to the property presently housing the Salvation Army.

Only recently too, Mr. Speaker, you have seen the vesting of certain properties in the Barbados Tourism

Investment Corporation to assist in the whole process of urban regeneration so that those properties could be better utilised by another agency. It is hoped this is a process that will continue and whenever agencies, whether it is a Government agency or a private agency make a request, Government will certainly facilitate.

Mr. Speaker, the National Housing Corporation as the executing agency for the Government's housing programme, and as the agency which, in accordance with the factions as set out in the Housing Act, Cap. 226, is better suited to deal with the management and the disposal of Government's property will, from time to time, be called upon to assist in the exercise which I alluded to earlier in our Manifesto.

The vesting of these properties, Mr. Speaker, in the National Housing Corporation, will give them the opportunity, not only to manage the properties but where they consider it convenient, to dispose of those properties and to use the funds from the proceeds to assist in its capital works programme.

Mr. Speaker, since September 6, 1994, we have had a very ambitious programme for the National Housing Programme as part of Government's new housing thrust. Of course, we have been hampered on the ground due to the fact that most of our plans only started since then and if there has been any delay, it has a lot to do with the fact that the process of acquisition and the process of Town Planning approval takes some time. It is hoped, Mr. Speaker, that with the disposal of these properties and other properties that Government would be able to move swiftly in order to ensure that every single Barbadian is afforded the opportunity of owning a house or of renting a house spot.

Mr. Speaker, these funds are critical because, while we cannot rely solely on the disposal of properties in this manner in order to finance the National Housing Corporation or the Government's Capital Works Programme, they would go a long way in ensuring that certain commitments which we gave as part of our social contract leading up to September 6 and beyond are carried out.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping, if the National Housing Corporation sees it fit in accordance with Government's commitment to place these funds at the disposal of the Corporation, that we would be able to proceed with our plans to complete Pondside, a project which will cost about \$5.4 million. We have already seen the completion of Maynard's, Phase 2, a project which costs \$943 000 and Maynard's Phase 3, a sum of \$1.5 million. The Rational Housing Corporation is also proceeding with the

construction of a number of starter units at Corbin's Village in St. Andrew and Hoyte's Village in St. James in this financial year.

We are also hoping to go to other areas, including areas in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, when we have finalised the whole process.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that the project in Bush Hall?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Yes, that is the project. When we have finalised the process of the acquisitions and Town Planning, the units will range from \$65 000 to \$76 000 depending on the size of the bedroom units. This will be a joint venture project with assistance from the private sector. We are hoping that we will be able to persuade certain financial institutions to assist perspective purchasers with the 100 per cent mortgages . which we have been encouraging from time to time.

We are also hoping, Mr. Speaker, in this financial year, to make it possible for the National Housing Corporation to realize its dream of having a new complex. Almost every day I am somewhat worried with respect to the complaints which are being made about the state of the Corporation's building. I do hope that we will be able to have the staff of the Corporation moved out before something serious happens. They will be embarking on a new building project to the tune of \$7.8 million.

We are also engaging the National Housing Corporation in fairly new territory in this administrative year, Mr. Speaker, in that the new office complex at Warrens will be done by the National Housing Corporation. It is anticipated that property will be vested in the National Housing Corporation. They will not be able to achieve the completion only with funds from the disposal of these properties which are vested in them from time to time and it will certainly be necessary for them to seek alternative financing elsewhere. Plans are well on their way. It is anticipated that the Warrens Complex, at least the initial construction phase, will be a reality by August 1, 1997. This project will be one to the tune of \$35 million.

Mr. Speaker, I do hope we will be able to complete most of our programmes in this financial year with the assistance that will begin from the disposal of these various properties which are vested in the National Housing Corporation.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir. 12.40p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not sure that I understand what the Honourable Member just said. I really tried very hard to follow but except for the opening paragraphs, which were obviously mistaken, I did not follow anything else. I am going to respond to the four opening paragraphs which seemed to suggest that they have been a revival of housing in Barbados. Is this something that is happening that is not apparent to the naked eye, Sir?

The Honourable Member went on to say something and he gave some times, I think he got mixed up, he said 1951 and 1961. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Your Honour would have been a young boy in 1951 but between 1951 and 1961 all we had was the landing schemes in Goodland and then we had the properties that were built in the Pine without any backdoor. Is the Honourable Member discussing those times when we had houses without privies, with the privies out in the back? Is that what the Honourable Member intended to say?

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: I have no doubt that the Honourable Member will tell us about the digging of pits, she is very good at that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please, do not let us get into the digging of pits.

The Honourable Member got mixed up because he could not have meant 1951, he meant 1961, I think that is what he wanted to say that the first time the people of Barbados had a feeling and could come to believe that they had a stake in housing in this country was after 1961.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: To tell the truth, if they were told not to pay rents then, if you look at the receipts which the National Housing Corporation and its predecessors have received, they paid an awful lot of rent in the meantime. We are not discussing the time when houses used to drop off trucks and that sort of thing. We are talking about serious housing. The year 1961 is when the people of Barbados finally began to understand that they had a stake in this country.

If the Honourable Member wishes us to discuss houses, terrace housing came to Barbados during the period that he conveniently left out. We need only look at the eleven estates that have been created. We can go just up from Bush Hall, Sir, to Eden Lodge, Lodge Terrace and come down and come around to the Farm.

Sir, you do not need a litany of the housing estates but then we had Rock Dundo Park, Rock Dundo Phase 1, Rock Dundo Phase 2 and Rock Dundo Phase 3 and after that we moved to Rosemont and Kensington Lodge. Kensington Lodge was where they were going to put in the solar dryers, Sir. Kensington Lodge has not yet got the solar dryers. Kensington Lodge was going to get some solar dryers but the erstwhile commentator on the radio decided to change in midstream. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South will remember that we were going to have dryers and there was going to be a swimming pool in Kensington Lodge. The Honourable Member for the City has forgotten that there was to be a swimming pool, I do not know what happened to the swimming pool but I would not discuss the swimming pool.

The Honourable Member for St. Andrew is a relatively young person, Sir, and therefore he might not have been seized of these matters because at that time he was living in a place called Sion Hill. It is true that when he was living in Sion Hill at those times, you might have fallen into the reasonable habit of assuming that Sion Hill was a horizon. The truth is that all down in the City...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: I just feel that you should not distort history. If the Barbados Labour Party has any credit that it wishes to get for housing in this country, then a Minister from the Barbados Labour Party can get up and make a speech that would address the positive things that the Barbados Labour Party has done in housing. The Honourable Member can do that without in any way attempting to have a drop out in his...

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: By implication there was the suggestion that you have resumed a housing start.

Mr. Speaker, I think you are going to have to hold a lecture for Ministers on that side, Sir, to allow them to become familiar with the history. They only have to go through the debates. There was a Minister of Housing called Philip Greaves. That Minister of Housing must go down in history as the most effective Minister of Housing in the entire history of Barbados. Let the records so show. I cannot sit in here and have this revision of history.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TATTT: On the basis of his achievements alone he was qualified to be anything, on the basis of his housing achievements alone.

Mr. Speaker, it really upsets me. I was here doing some work and we had agreed that there was nothing in these Resolutions to worry anybody but the Honourable Member gets up and wants to put a hole in history.

Even Honourable Members on his side, the Honourable Member from the City is sitting next to him and you can tell from her body language that she would wish he would sit down and you could have told him to sit down just as you are telling me now to sit down. The Honourable Member for the City wanted to tell the Honourable Member, do not stir up trouble by talking such foolishness. The Honourable Member for the City could have given the Minister of Housing a note rather than communicate by her facial expression.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, how did I get in it now?

Mr. B. M. TATTT: Anyhow, Sir, the Honourable Member is suggesting that the next resolution which is introduced by the same Minister is not likely to take the same tact. I am going to wait and see how that goes but I would prefer him not to try to distort history. He has been to a school where the teaching of history and geography was exemplary, as Your Honour can attest to. I really would not wish him to come in here as a Member of Parliament and get mixed up with the history.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAUT: The Honourable Member is asking me to repeat something which I said on the call-in programme recently for the assistance of the people here.

Would you believe that we had a call-in programme and there were people seriously debating whether Barbados is below sea level. Mr. Speaker I cannot believe what we have come to. I came out and I heard the radio and they were seriously debating whether Barbados was below sea level, so I had to get involved.

Asides.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: He is telling me Sir, that a former Minister was involved and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South would have to take responsibility for any of those former Ministers because he would have chosen them. Can you imagine that they were arguing whether Barbados was below sea level and I had to bring, as I am now bringing to the Honourable Member the history of it. When it comes to history and geography, the school that you went to requires that you make it accurate all of the time.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 12.50 p.m.

ORDER NO. 3 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND AT WEYMOUTH, ST. MICHAEL TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE POLICE SPORTS CLUB

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution pertaining to the lease of Government owned lands at Weymouth.

Dr. R. C. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, please.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution pertaining to the lease of government owned lands at Weymouth, St. Michael to the trustees of the Police Sports Club to facilitate the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

The gist of this Resolution pertains to a parcel of land which was leased to the Police Sports Club some time ago. Subsequently it sought to lease an additional parcel of land. The Government of the day had agreed to the lease of the additional parcel of land but the lease could not be completed at that time because it was realised after the transactions were finalised that the trustees for the Police Sports Club were not named. This matter continued up to 1996. The situation has now been rectified and this Resolution now seeks to lease the Police Sports Club the entire parcel, the parcel which they occupy and the additional parcel.

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

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second this Resolution but in so doing, since it concerns the Police Sports Club with which I am fairly well acquainted and associated as well I would like to say just a few words on it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the grounds at Weymouth mean a lot to the Police Sports Club. I believe, Sir, that there are just a few of us in here who can remember having played cricket in Queen's Park against the police. You yourself, Mr. Speaker, will recall the

days when Police shared with Spartan the grounds at Queen's Park and I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central as well will also remember those days. Perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Michael South he has played there himself, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at that time there were no major conflicts between Spartan and Police. There was a lot of inconvenience because Spartan had to share the nets. Very often you had a big group of Spartan players but they were restricted to one half and Police restricted to the other half and then they used to make the rule where next day of practice they would interchange them and so on. But now they are very comfortable over at Weymouth, Mr. Speaker. The grounds over there are now used as the major grounds for the inter-departmental police games. Whenever you have the games between outer districts and Central they play the games there and this is a facility which they now have which when they used to be over at Spartan they were not allowed to do, at least not on that scale. This has reportedly brought the police closer together than before because there were occasions when the Police at Crab Hill for instance did not know the police at District "C" but now having the facility over at Weymouth they are able to go over there and play dominoes and play darts and be one happy police family. I must say that they are very grateful for the facility.

Mr. Speaker, the police also make an annual tour with cricket and indeed there is a new competition now where police teams from all over the world will be converging on Barbados next year to play in the police competition where there will be teams from South Africa, New Zealand and so on who will come and play right here in Barbados. It is going to be a tremendous boost for tourism and Barbados is the second venue for this competition. The first venue was England and immediately after that Barbados was chosen as the follow-up. The policemen have always been extremely good ambassadors for Barbados whenever they go overseas and you always get very good reports from the police matches.

Mr. Speaker, another point I want to make is that the grounds at Weymouth is not only used for the police. It is also used by the Louis Lynch School, it is used by Weymouth Wales, it is really their home. The netballers use it and it is really a community effort over there and not strictly confined to police.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we should lend our support to having the roof repaired for the Police Sports Club. There was a very unfortunate fire where the roof was destroyed and to date they are still struggling to get it reconstructed.

The other point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that I have just one criticism of the whole thing and it is that

over at the same police complex you have an officers mess where the big boys from the Force will meet. I have always said it is something which I was never comfortable with. I have been there as a cricket commentator, I have been there in my capacity as Minister of Sports and what happens is that when we think that all of them should be coming together and when the rank and file and so on should be meeting with officers on the same level there have them segregated there and really and truly that is something I was never too comfortable with.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing better than really and truly owning your own ground and I believe the time has come when a lot of the sports clubs in Barbados will have to look towards not just renting or leasing but will have to look towards the actual ownership of the grounds on which they play. It can be very, very traumatic, Mr. Speaker, when you are told by a landowner, well this is your last year and you cannot play here anymore. The reason I say so is because we have had the experience in Flat Rock, St. George where a small farmer had just told a cricket team; look, I want this land and you have to go. 1.00p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen two teams in my constituency suffer the same thing, and I would urge cricket teams now to try to raise funds in order that they can purchase the land on which they play.

Perhaps a lot of us do not know, Mr. Speaker, but in the year 2003, Pickwick Club is going to undergo a tremendous experience. It is going to be really traumatic, because the ground there is actually owned by the BCA, but they bought it from the Goddards and a term of the sale was that Pickwick would be allowed to continue playing on the ground for 50 years and that 50-year period is going to be up in 2003. When that period is up, Pickwick would have to look for somewhere to go and it could very well mean the end of Pickwick and the end of the cricketing history of that particular club, unless they can go and find somewhere on which to settle and on which to make a pavilion.

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENEDGE: So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to associate with the words of the Honourable Minister of Housing and to give my support of this Resolution for the lease of the land at Weymouth to the Police Sports Club.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at 11 o'clock a.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: May I remind Members of the Management Commission that our meeting which started this morning at 10.00 a.m. continues immediately after lunch at 2.00 o'clock p.m. There will be no bell, so I expect you to be punctual.

Management Commission, may I also take this opportunity to remind Members of our annual CPA dinner which will be held at Sherbourne on Friday night at 7.30 p.m. We expect to see all Honourable Members there, please.

The question that this Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at 11.00 o'clock a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
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