

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 - 99

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 1998.

PRESENT

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

His Honour R. D. MARSHALL (Deputy Speaker)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 9, 1998.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the Honourable the House of Assembly of its meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 1998, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Today I rise on a fairly sad note. About three years ago I lost my father and even though my

father was ill for 10 years the full weight of his death did not really strike me until it actually happened. I would say that for a couple of months I was in a daze reflecting on the good times. There were no bad times, and I could very well understand what the Honourable Member for St. James North is presently going through seeing that since we last met he lost his father.

I said that my father was ill for 10 years and in his case even though his father was a diabetic for a number of years his death was somewhat sudden and I can very well imagine how he felt especially occurring at a time when he was travelling on Government business and had to hurry back home in order to console those grieving relatives, apart from himself and his grandmother, of course.

I obviously would not have known Hal Willoughby Walcott as well as persons of his own age but I certainly remember him from his various visits to the districts of which I have been associated - Orange Hill and Greenwich Village, which he used to frequent on many occasions. I am still to ascertain exactly what was the nature of his business but I recall whenever I saw him in Greenwich Village he used to be in the company of a member of the opposite sex and I can only assume that in the same manner that his son normally gives counselling that Hal has been in the habit of giving this type of counselling to various persons in various districts especially members of the opposite sex fairly frequently.

In this respect, Mr. Speaker, when one looks at Rawle and one gets accustomed to dealing with Rawle one would not be too surprised with the new technology where we are talking about cloning as we move into the year 2000 because if you knew Hal well certainly when you are looking at Rawle and you are seeing the way how he moves you are really seeing the real Hal Willoughby Walcott.

He was an extremely brilliant man. I recall listening to him in conversations at the various places of libation in the district. Seeing him holding a conversation, Mr. Speaker, one would have to ask who is that man. He would talk and talk and talk and he would never let anyone get into the conversation. He was very good at words and here again one knows Rawle very well. It is as a result of his social activity in Greenwich Village and Orange Hill by Di Thorington's shop, by Gamby's shop, by St. Clair Boyce and those various places that I came to ask as a little boy, "Who is that man?" That is how I came to know him.

I am told that he was educated at St. James Boys' School, an extremely brilliant boy, did not remain at the St. James Primary School as long as most of us would normally remain and I am told that when he was about nine years he was ready to go to secondary school. His parents seemed to have been very wise people because of all the secondary schools they chose Combermere.

Seeing my association with Combermere in the years following I can very well understand why Hal behaved in this way. There is something special about Combermere and it is not difficult to identify our brothers. Certainly without even asking anybody it was easy to associate Hal with Combermere. Maybe that is one of the regrets he had about his son Rawle in that he did not go to Combermere. Rawle did confess to me that that is the only flaw on his character.

Mr. Speaker, he did not just go to Combermere. He excelled. He went to Combermere at a time when it was extremely difficult for poor boys from the country area to compete with the other boys from the city areas who were exposed to the various activities which would give them the type of confidence to do well at these secondary schools. Rawle's father, Hal, went on to obtain the grade 1 school certificate which would have meant that he did eight subjects and he would have got a distinction or credit in all eight, a remarkable achievement.

He was at school with people of the likes of Rudolph Goodridge who I understand was a former chief education officer and I understand that had he gone on, and in those days Combermere did not have a sixth form, and my understanding is that if he had had the opportunity that most of us that followed him had, he certainly would have been a Barbados Scholar. Those students with whom he associated cannot recall a single time when Hal was beaten in a single subject.

He left however after completing his education at Combermere because there were a number of things he wanted to do in his own time. He worked for a long period at the Ministry of Public Works where he was very well liked, very well known and where whenever you had a problem pertaining to land taxes at that time - I understand that the Ministry of Public Works used to deal with land taxes and the licensing of vehicles - he was the person to whom you went whenever you got a problem.

His brilliance was so well-known at the time that I understand that even though he did not actually do the commercial subjects at school in those days it was rare for anyone to do short hand, typing - especially a man - and book-keeping. He excelled in this particular area and he assisted many private concerns in their accounts coming on to the end of the year, an extremely brilliant man. In the words of his colleagues a brainy person.

I would also say that at this time while he was at school he was also a very religious man from early. A Sunday School person and we know that his son is a very religious person as well. One could recall, listening to those persons who knew him well, his attending Sunday school and singing in the choir and encouraging his children to follow his example.

He was a very community minded person. My understanding is and I recall seeing it even with those young boys and girls who used to play football on the open field to the western side of Greenwich Village he would always go and watch them play and try to find out exactly what their needs were and would try to encourage them if he felt that they should go on to put themselves in a position whereby they would be able to get the skills to excel. 11.35a.m.

I am also told that he had a number of friends and he kept birthdays. I was talking to someone who knew him very well. That person's birthday is the 9th of July and Hal's birthday was the 10th of July and every year he would bring a present for him. Sometimes this particular friend got so embarrassed that he would actually accept on an annual basis Hal's birthday present and in most cases forgetting that he should actually reciprocate.

He was very dedicated to family. He never married and this was because Hal was very devoted and dedicated to his mother. I have never seen anybody with that type of relationship. My understanding is that his mother is now in her 90s. The closeness and association to his mother was something that one really cannot explain.

One recalls seeing him, certainly those people who pass on Highway 1 on mornings, in the gallery reading his newspapers and in those days talking to his mother. One would really miss that type of togetherness and closeness. Certainly it showed that part of his character has also remained with Rawle even though Rawle has gone one step further.

Certainly, if we are to judge by the example which Rawle has set, one has no doubt that Hal's contribution to this society has been a meaningful one because in every respect Rawle has done his father proud and, certainly, this Chamber joins with the Honourable Member for St. James North at this time in his bereavement.

We can assure him that the relevant Resolution expressing our sympathies at this time will be passed on to the family in due course.

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself and the Honourable Members on this Side with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew on the occasion of this Honourable House acknowledging the contribution to Barbados of the father of the Honourable Member for St. James North.

I learnt of his death only this morning, a few minutes ago, in fact, and learnt also that wisdom prescribed to him that his mortal remains should rest in the parish of St. Philip. I hope that information was correct. I did not know of his

death or perhaps I would have made certain to have attended his funeral.

I did not know the deceased, father of the Honourable Member for St. James North, and therefore I am not in a position to speak with dogmatic certainty about his life, certainly not to the same extent as that of which the Honourable Member for St. Andrew spoke. But I have known him through his offspring, the Honourable Member for St. James North, with whom I have enjoyed a friendship going back certainly over 25 years to our early years at the University of the West Indies in the early 1970s. That is a friendship which I have cherished over the years because our careers have tended to coincide and follow similar paths. I now understand the influences which would have gone into the shaping of the character of the Honourable Member for St. James North.

There used to be, I am told, an Anglican cleric in the 18th century by the name of the Reverend Sydney Smith who was very witty and a very brilliant man. I think he used to be the Priest at St. Paul's Cathedral. He apparently hated the Bishop of Exeter and once said that he has to believe in the doctrine of apostolic succession because if he did not so believe, he could not otherwise explain the descent of the Bishop of Exeter from Judas Iscariot.

Now, I have to believe in a succession of some kind because as I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and I heard him identifying some of the proclivities of the late Hal Willoughby Walcott, I saw them all reflected in the Honourable Member for St. James North, his son. He said he was a very intelligent man. I have been bold enough in this House to level that accusation at the Honourable Member for St. James North more than once. It is an accusation in respect of which he never raised a protest. I can understand better now where that intelligence would have come from, but it is certainly an intelligence which I have watched over the better part of the quarter of a century and which has impressed me over that period of time.

The Honourable Member for St. Andrew said that the late Hal Willoughby Walcott worshipped often at the Shrine of Bacchus. He poured many a libation during his lifetime. Lawyers have a phrase which they use in the law of tort, I believe, that says *res ipsa loquitur*, that speaks for itself. None who can claim to know the Honourable Member for St. James North would think that the late Hal Willoughby Walcott could dare to disavow his paternity on those grounds.

So, Mr. Speaker, the late Hal Willoughby Walcott, of course, has clearly made a contribution to Barbados, both directly and indirectly. I am not going to get diverted into discussing the singular disability under which he must have laboured in having gone to school at Combermere. I am beset behind and before on this Side of the House by

Combermerians and I am having regard to my personal safety but, clearly, the late Hal Willoughby Walcott had a distinguished career at Combermere. It seems as though he was intelligent before he got there but in more recent times we have seen Combermere take very little and make very much out of it.

Mr. Speaker, my sympathy goes out to the Honourable Member for St. James North on this occasion. He has obviously lost a very significant influence in his life and none but he can know the pain which a son feels on occasions like this having lost his father so suddenly and having lost him, as I understand it, when he was abroad on Government business. 11.45a.m.

I therefore want to fully associate this Side of the House with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member of St. Andrew to extend my heartfelt sympathy and the sympathy of Honourable Members on this Side to the Honourable Member for St. James North and his family and to indicate to this House that we support the Resolution and the sentiments contained therein.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, at times when Members suffer loss, we stand in solidarity with those Members and share their grief and make comments on the life and work of those who have passed.

I knew Hal Walcott first by reputation before I met him. I do not think that it is possible to have lived in St. James without ever having heard of Hal Walcott. When I met the man, it really was in very interesting circumstances. He was an employee of the Ministry of Health & Environment at the time and I was at a function one evening when I saw a very large man across the room, a man of height and girth, clearly commanding tremendous influence and attention in the room because people were just gravitating around him almost like satellites coming and going and one could see that he was pontificating because he was talking and turning from left to right. I thought there was something familiar about this person but I could not pick up what in fact it was. I was looking across the room fascinated by this man and people around him were breaking into peals of laughter and laughing out hard. More and more drinks were coming and going but more of it was coming and disappearing. People around him were clearly consuming vast quantities of food and drink.

Eventually I went over and said, good evening and he said to me good evening, Miss Minister, and how might you be today. I said, very well thank you and who are you. He said to me, my name is Hal Walcott. I said, have we met before, there is something very familiar about you and he laughed. He said to me, I believe you know my son. I said to

him, who is he? He said to me, his name is Rawle Eastmond, do you know him? And I laughed.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: In fact, I recognised immediately why it was that this man across the room whom I had never set eyes on before appeared so familiar to me. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew was right when he spoke about cloning because before me was an older, larger version of Rawle Eastmond.

I stood and spoke with him for some time and then everything that I had ever heard of this man came back to me. He was a person of extremely sharp wit and keen intellect, clearly very well read, very well spoken and we discussed a range of issues. And all this time that we were conversing he was bantering with other people, side volleys, side blows to people who came up to him and using his wit like a knife sometimes to cut down a comment that was hurled at him, sometimes like a lasso to pull something into him, to watch him one understood why people often described Hal Walcott as a real character. The man was indeed a character, he could not enter a room and escape your notice. Such was the enormity of the man, the aura that gravitated from him and around him. He was a raconteur of class, he told many tales, tall tales, lewd tales but tales that at the end of the day you just had to laugh at because of, not just the tale itself but often the way that it was delivered and the edge that he would put on the comment that he was making.

One could see how in fact he was able with this force of wit, with this intellect and this great personal charm to influence his son. It is no accident that with a man who wielded that kind of personality, who spoke of his tremendous magnanimity, that this is a man who went from one length of St. James to the other, often just to be generous to persons or to give somebody a lift. The Honourable Member from St. Andrew spoke about giving a gift every year, that kind of detail to attention. He was a lover of persons and in fact, those of us who were present at his funeral could see from the overflowing numbers in the church, all along the road and all along the grave, people of high and low estate and station, all speaking and eulogising in their own way the qualities of this man who had passed and who we had gone last Saturday morning to mourn.

He was a person who himself loved people.

The Honourable Member for St. James North who is my colleague often said to me that it was his father's reputation, the love that people in St. James had for his father which was so much of assistance to him in his political career. He was able to cash in, if I may use that expression, on his father's reputation, on the magnanimity, the generosity, the love and outpouring of himself and his spirit

that Hal gave to the people of St. James. So that when the Honourable Member for St. James North knocked at a door people would say, you are Hal's boy, you are Hal's son? Well I know Hal for year. Then it was not a question of whether they would vote for him or not but the fact that it was Hal's child and that they felt that they needed to treat with goodness this child of Hal's who stood before them, the child of the man who had been to them, generous.

He was, in his own way, an extremely humble person. That was particularly characterised by the choices he made for his own funeral arrangements. He said that he wanted to be with the common man, with ordinary people and he chose to be churchd at the church which he had belonged and worshipped his God, the Salvation Army Hall at Seaview and to be buried at Bushy Park taking that long drive through the country of Barbados and to be buried at what is not regarded as the big cemetery in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: He wanted serenity. He went to St. Philip perhaps to help to bring the right kind of political influence to that part of the world. In his passing, he was conscious of the fact that he needed to inspire that part of the world with a certain political colour and therefore he chose that he should reside there and let the earth of that part of Barbados be the recipient of his bones and his dust.

I do not know myself what it is like to lose a parent. I must tell you that I think about the lost of my own parents with some degree of fear and trepidation because that hour to all of us must come.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: That will not happen. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West is making the point that some times some parents do outlive their children. He has expressed no wish that that should happen, at least no open vocal wish but only God knows what he treasures in his heart.

I watched Hal's influence on his sons, Rawle who is as articulate, as bright and as much of a formidable intellect as his father was, and Jude who himself in his own area of specialty, that of entertainment, wields enormous influence. Both his sons have inherited an understanding and love of God but perhaps what we see most manifested is their epicurean and catholic taste for all things of life, all manner of flesh whether it is food or otherwise, Sir. In fact these are matters which entertain, which engage the time and effort of man. 11.55a.m.

I was making the point, Sir, that we see Hal's influence living on, not only in St. James, in the political career of his

son Rawle, the Honourable Member for St. James North, not only in his personality but in the work that his son Jude does in his particular sphere of specialty and his entertainment.

Both sons themselves are known to give counselling, of the kind that the Member for St. Andrew referred to, all over Barbados. There are people who in themselves exert enormous influence and who have inherited his love of people. It is not an accident that both of them are engaged in activities where they are in constant contact with people, one in public service and one in the entertainment industry where he makes again constant contact with people, where they give service to people and where by various means and each in his particular area of endeavour seeks to improve the lives that people live and to bring cheer and solace to individuals. That in a way was part of the life's work of Hal Walcott, a man who really dedicated himself to people and who often would stop and engage people, whether it was at a number of shops or on the street or in work places in the public service where he worked for many years, in discussion about wide ranges of matter, whether it was religion or current affairs or some area of philosophy. I have heard Hal wax warm, moving smoothly from one topic to another, often confounding those around him who did not have his breadth of knowledge and who had not read as widely as he has.

I think that his family will miss him greatly, that the parish of St. James, out of which he came, and in which he lived for all his life and in which in fact he died, that those many persons all across St. James, who were affected by his influence, by his personality, his many acts of kindness, often done in secret, completely unheralded and very often at great personal inconvenience and expense to himself because my understanding of the man, and I did say that I knew him more by reputation than by contact with him, but he was in fact a person on whom you could rely to help you in any circumstances no matter what personal difficulty it presented to him and no matter what circumstances he had to overcome in order to give that assistance if he felt that you truly needed him.

Those persons whose lives he touched in St. James and beyond, those who knew him in the civil service, but particularly his family, will miss and mourn him for a long time and I imagine that he will be spoken of as one of the enduring characters of the St. James parish and in particular the St. James North constituency.

I would wish to extend on behalf of my own family, the constituency of St. James South, our deepest condolences to the Eastmond and Walcott families and to those who in fact who were near and dear to him. Much obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to associate myself with the sentiments which have been expressed I first have to say that there are two disabilities

which I suffer, one is that I was unaware that Mr. Walcott had died until I came through the door to these Honourable Chambers and heard what was going on and more particularly as I have become aware of who it is that has died I have to say that I was thoroughly ignorant of the fact that it was the Honourable Member's father. The two persons did not link in my head at all and I really can offer condolences to the Honourable Member quite sincerely because the gentleman whom I have heard described, whom I knew, was a magnificent person. He was all that has been said of him with the possible exception that it is unaccustomed for slander to be bandied around in these Chambers or on these occasions but I sat and listened in absolute awe as Your Honour did not even move an eyebrow as the institution which the late Hal Walcott attended with such fervour and distinction was assaulted by a colleague who, were it not for the fact that he is delivering a eulogy, might indeed have found himself physically lesser off.

Sir, in light of the fact that I know who it is, I know that could he speak the late Hal Walcott would have been the first to refute any such suggestion and indeed would have hoped that those who did not have the opportunity to grace those halls would have been given the opportunity, perhaps in Heaven, to participate again.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to find exact words that can bring solace to an individual who has lost a loved one. When that loved one is mother or father or spouse it is even more difficult. But even so, the Honourable Member will take solace in the fact that no matter what is said, the fact that others can speak to some of the warmth which he would have felt from his father, is evidence that life is worth living. Because when our parents leave us, especially in tragic circumstances, and especially when it is unexpected, indeed even when it is expected, there is no real comfort that one can get from the terrible void which one feels irrespective of the age of one's parents and I know that the Honourable Member will suffer periods of absolute pain over the next few months and maybe years. 12.05 p.m.

However, the Honourable Member can rest in the knowledge that he has benefited from the short period of time he spent with his father. Short is relative, but as time goes by the pain will recede and the more glorious moments will ascend. When one thinks, as the Honourable Member right next to him can confirm and other Honourable Members who have gone through this, they will be able to confirm that the glorious moments will ascend and they will become more and more frequent and you will be able to remember your late father with a certain peace and even joy.

It is strange that you will not accept that now, but in time, that will come. In offering the Honourable Member our

condolences, I think I could speak for my daughter who spent time as a colleague with the Honourable Member in a professional school in Trinidad. She spoke of him with approbation, which I was able to confirm, having myself spent time with the Honourable Member in a slightly different relationship but in the same kind of environment. I have to share the view of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South that the Honourable Member for St. James North is one of the more intelligent of the Members of this House.

That does not show up in his choice of political party, but we have to take his word that he was completely sober at the time when he made his decision. That decision obviously would not have been guided by his late father, who had shown a much deeper understanding of these matters when the time came for he, himself to make his decision.

One of the great things about people who have been associated both with the educational institution and the political institution which we have been associated with, is that we are able to look with favour on those who in exercise of their own independence make a choice. We hope that the Honourable Member will continue to enjoy the choice he has made and we will think of him no less because on this occasion he may have erred.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also a great joy for us at our age and condition to be able to do eulogies in this House and to be sincere and yet not necessarily have a long face and say traditional words merely because of the occasion, but rather that we could recreate in short the environment within which both the person who is being eulogised and his or her offspring would have found reality.

I am pleased always when I am able in this House to see that at the times when we praise our parents or those close to us when they pass this scene that we are still able to have a measure of levity and a sense of decorum which tells me that our parents' activity in nurturing us was not in vain.

I am sorry that we were not able to be present to touch and to share the immediate grief on Saturday morning, but I am glad that this opportunity has presented itself for me and for the rest of my colleagues who are not here or who may not speak to say, on behalf of all of us in the Democratic Labour Party and certainly all of us on this Side that we extend our sincerest condolences to the family and we associate ourselves with all the sentiments that have been expressed here today.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I too would want to pay tribute to the late Hal Willoughby Walcott. It was last

Tuesday morning while sitting in the chair of the Honourable Minister that a caller paid sympathy to my father. I proceeded to tell the caller that it was not my father and that is when I knew that the Honourable Minister's father had died and he was at the time away on Government's business. When I contacted the Minister, he was already on his way to Barbados and travelling through Miami. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I met Hal Walcott only briefly on two occasions but I have been a friend of the Honourable Minister for many years. In fact we shared many times in the profession of a teacher. We shared a lot of time as examiner in CXC in a subject that we had both chosen and we have spent many times together. I believe that a lot of what Hal Walcott has taught his son have indeed paid tribute and has been very exemplary to the Honourable Minister.

I must say that a lot has been said about the great Hal Walcott, but in paying tribute to him, Carson Small in his eulogy said that he was a very humble man, a man of extraordinary ability, especially in the field of mathematics and accounting where he worked at the Sanitation Service Authority in the field.

He also made a point that here was a man who had maybe a premonition that he was about to die and selected his hymns, selected the persons who would speak on his behalf and indeed selected the cemetery where he was to be buried. This indeed was a man who had great foresight and therefore we must pay tribute to a special person.

All Honourable Members have made the point of his great ability, his socialisation across Barbados and indeed in my constituency. I first heard about Hal Walcott years before I met him, way back in a tiny village in St. George, Sweet Bottom, where Hal spent many evenings socialising with the people in that village. So he was well-known in the constituency of St. George North as well.

I also had occasion to meet his niece, Yvette Ward, who lived in Toronto when I was serving as Vice Consul and she always spoke about the work of her Uncle Hal. She always made a point that Hal had a special place in her heart and that Hal was special to her and indeed, all his family, Hal Walcott was a special influence because of his brilliance. I believe the people in his village, his family and indeed the wider St. James community had looked up to the man, because he was a person who helped in filling out the income tax return form for the residents. He helped to counsel them. He was a man gifted in the playing of music. He loved literature and he was well-read. In fact, Carson Small made a point that at the time of his death, he was preparing a library, an extension to the small library he had. So one wonders what type of literature he was about to put in this library. It was said that he was going toward religion, but he never accomplished this field.

Therefore, I would like on my behalf and on behalf of the constituency of St. George North which he frequented, to say to his son that he has lost a father that has made his mark on Barbadian society and indeed the Barbadian at large.

Thank you.
12.15p.m.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I would wish to associate the entire Government with the remarks and condolences that have been expressed on this occasion. I did not know the deceased although from the accounts that have been rendered in this House and on the occasion of his funeral I feel that I have known him for my entire life. I must also on this occasion thank the deceased for his contribution to my own upbringing. The House has already been told that Mr. Walcott frequented many a place of libation across Barbados and it is a matter of record, Sir, that my father used to maintain a small shop which was one of Mr. Walcott's watering holes and I am reliably advised that his contribution to the family income was enormous and I have officially to place that on record.

I must also say that I am also happy that like many of us he survived the enormous disability of having to attend a certain secondary school. My parents were wise enough to ensure that in 1960 when they had a decision to make that they did not allow me to go to Combermere and I have always felt the happier and the better for it. I must say it speaks to the character and the certain qualities of Mr. Walcott that he endured that education and came out as a wholesome person and much the better for it.

I want to say, Sir, that I was at the funeral on Saturday morning and I was first of all struck by his wit. Mr. Walcott obviously was one of the most popular men in Barbados but he insisted on having his funeral service in a church that was designed to hold no more than 10 people at the most. In fact, I asked the priest how large the congregation was and the priest said that on any given Sunday they may have four but if they have an overflowing service they may have six.

Mr. Walcott was not as much concerned with the numbers. He was concerned even in death to be associated with humble people. The warmth of the service was extraordinary and in every respect that warmth was engendered by the fact that he had himself before his death ordained what service he was to have. One senses that you were dealing with a person who was perfectly at ease with himself, perfectly at ease with his place in society and that this was one of those of whom Gray would have written in an Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard, that but for the twist of fate it could have been a Hampden or a Cromwell or in our case that but for the twist of fate one could have been

celebrating the life of a man whose accomplishment in our country's history would have been massive.

In the course of my political years, Mr. Speaker, I have gone to many a funeral where the sensation that we were losing the salt of the earth was very strong. On this occasion, Sir, I would want without having known him to celebrate his life as being another life of that passing generation of wonderful Barbadians who have really been the bedrock of this society, who have by their industry, the special qualities that they bring to the Barbadian way of life have helped to make this society such a very good society, such a wonderful place to live and who have asked for nothing more than to live on not in their own accomplishments but in the accomplishments of their children and in their children's children.

Mr. Walcott is one of that large but vanishing generation of Barbadian patriots, our unsung heroes and heroines whose contribution to this country's development has been manifested in public service, in community service just as it has been manifested in just being a good citizen and is perhaps the most wonderful aspect of our heritage as a people. It is in that context that I would like formally to associate the entire Government with the remarks that have been made on this occasion and to extend our deepest sympathy to the grieving relatives but more especially to the Honourable member for St. James North in whose person Mr. Walcott continues to live on.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me associate this Honourable Chair with the sentiments expressed. Of course, not the sentiments expressed about Combermere, because I believe that all Honourable Members here know that Combermere has always been the greatest school of all and will continue to be the greatest school of all.

My family and I join with all Honourable Members in extending our sincere condolences to the Honourable Member for St. James North and his relatives. This House with acclaim accepts the Resolution of sympathy and so directs that the appropriate Resolution be sent to the relatives of the deceased.

As a mark of respect I now invite all members and all those present to stand with me and observe one minute's silence.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that replies to questions Nos. 59 and 61 asked by the Honourable Member for St. John are ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 14 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT DEANE TOWN, ST. JAMES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to move a small amendment in terms of the village. The area is Deane Village which is better known as Deane Town. That is the name by which it has been known for some time and it should really be reflected in the record.

This is a Resolution for Deane's Village better known as Deane Town. This acquisition relates to six acres of land at Deane Town in the parish of St. James. The land is part of an area where we hope to have the much talked about Deane Town settlement. 12.25p.m.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that in a previous Barbados Labour Party Administration there were a number of houses on this particular parcel of land. As a matter of fact, at one time my understanding is that there were over 100 households in this area. It is one of the few areas in Barbados that remained for a long time without the basic services with no roads, no telephone, no lights and no water. The kerosene oil lamp was much utilised in those days even after most of Barbados had already been receiving electricity and the standpipe to the bottom of the road at Lancaster was utilised by the residents of the area.

Between the period of the previous Barbados Labour Party Administration, 1976-1986, it was felt that those residents should experience the same type of service that was enjoyed by the rest of the population of Barbados. It was felt at the time that it would have been a little too costly to bring the services to those residents. At the time, most of the residents in the area had indicated their preference for relocation.

At the time we had anticipated a plan in two phases in that the first phase would have involved the relocation of the entire settlement since most people had actually opted. The second phase would have involved Government's acquisition of that area and the subdivision of the area at some point in time into the type of settlement which would accommodate

the type of development we would want to embark on at this point in time. Since those persons were relocated most of them went to the Apes Hill Development. Some went to Sion Hill and the land has remained idle. The services still have not been delivered to this particular area.

This Resolution, therefore, Mr. Speaker, seeks to make this parcel of land part of the overall plan for the development of our new Deane Town area which encompasses land at Waterhall, Orange Hill and Lancaster.

It is hoped, as I had indicated earlier in the House, that this development would encompass over 100 acres of land, an entirely new housing development concept. Even though it is a new concept, yet it complements the development which has already taken place at Westmoreland, Orange Hill, Greenwich Village and the surrounding districts and would also satisfy the heavy demand for low income housing in this area.

We have already brought some of those acquisitions to this House. Members on both sides have been clamouring for a large acquisition whereby we look at providing over 1 000 house spots or lots. It is hoped that with this development and with the other acquisitions which are to follow - we still have other acquisitions for 40 acres in one area at Lancaster and 61 acres in another area. We have already acquired about 10 acres at Lancaster and the 40 acres are already before the House.

It is hoped, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to incorporate the existing settlements, as I mentioned. The recreational facilities are already in place. If you know Orange Hill very well you would know the large playing field at Standard, St. James, a pavilion which is expanding on a daily basis. There is also a parcel of land, the old playing field on the northern side. It is hoped that we would be able to put an additional pavilion on that side and that we would be able to also include hard courts as well on that site.

It is anticipated that there would be provision for day care centres and the various demands for business activity in the settlement as well. We would not want to do it on an *ad hoc* basis and even though we have already started the process by having 28 terraced units to satisfy an immediate need in the general St. James area, we believe the project is one which should involve greater professional attention. At the moment, we are looking at having the comprehensive plan for the entire area with the various centres of which I spoke in place. It is hoped that, certainly, before the end of the year the actual plan for the entire area will be known after the experts have done their surveys.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful that his Resolution was brought before this House at this time and not later in the afternoon. I want to say that Deane Town is one of the best pieces of real estate that one could find anywhere in Barbados now considering that all the best land on the west coast has been taken away by the rich and famous and now that the land sharks have moved inland, I am a bit concerned about this piece of land at Deane Town.

As you know, Sir, Deane Town is that piece of land that sits on the brow in St. James that overlooks Royal Westmoreland. Mark my words, Sir, it overlooks Royal Westmoreland. It is also to the south of St. Silas Heights. There is also a road leading from St. Silas Heights in or near to Deane Town and that can be borne out by anybody who sits in this Assembly that knows the area.

I am saying, Sir, that in 1981 when those people were removed from Deane Town that whoever removed the poor people from Deane Town and took them where they took them should not have been able to sit in this Assembly anymore because when one looks at the area of Deane Town, it is regrettable that people could move people from Deane Town and take them anywhere else. It has one of the most beautiful views in Barbados because, Sir, when you drive across Westmoreland and you look at that brow, that is where Deane Town used to be, and that is where poor people used to live, and poor people were removed from an area like that and carried to other spots in Barbados.

Sir, it could not have taken \$ 1 million to build a road furthermore \$100 000. It is true that the area lacked facilities but it is clear to me that the Administration of the time knew exactly why they wanted to move those people.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order, Sir. I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is implying that the Government of the day actually removed those persons against their will. Rather than dealing with the Resolution at hand and dealing with the merits of what we are trying to do, he is going back, Mr. Speaker. If the Honourable Member wants to go back, those people between 1961 and 1976 were clamouring to be relocated. They actually were begging to be relocated.

I have a personal knowledge of the area because my mother used to live there and those people wanted to be relocated. They were not removed as the Honourable Member is saying. But if he is speaking about the administration of the day, it was that administration between 1961 and 1976 that would not listen to the people living in that area including my old lady and her relatives. 12.35 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful that the Democratic Labour Party administration from 1961 to 1976 did not remove the people from Deane Town and it was foresight. It is clear to me that whoever refused to remove the people from Deane Town could at the time appreciate the value of the land and had plans to bring services to that particular area. I will not accept excuses in this Assembly that any Government would refuse to put in amenities where people have good land and now could come to this same Parliament and get money to widen a road from the west coast up to Apes Hill.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Now this same administration that is going to widen the road from the west coast up to Apes Hill....

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It so happens that two weeks ago I read that there will be a golf course at Apes Hill. In other words the infrastructure is put in for the golf course but the same administration could not put in the lights, water and roads for those poor people in Deane Town. The Minister will have to agree with me that the land at Deane Town is one of the best pieces of land that you can find any place in Barbados. I challenge him to deny that, Sir. All that is required is to acquire a small portion of land from the St. Silas Development and put in the roads because the water is there already, the electricity is there already and all you need is the extension into Deane Town.

I am saying Sir, that if you doubt me, I am challenging you to go and take a view of Deane Town. I agree with the Minister when he says that there is no need for Government to be buying small portions of land and that Government should acquire a large portion of land in that particular area for housing development. It worried me how the Minister could make an argument like that and when you go into the Orange Hill area, when you look at the Resolution that came before you that there are many small portions of land that were acquired. I am calling on the Minister now to give back those poor people the land in Orange Hill and to continue with his policy which sounds good to me. I cannot accept his policy to be good when on the one hand he is acquiring large portions of land and on the other hand he is depriving small people of small portions of land.

I am saying to the Minister that he has the opportunity now and he has now identified to Parliament the large pieces of land that he will be compulsorily acquiring and I am calling on the Minister to give back the people of Orange Hill, who need that land for their grandchildren and great grandchildren, those small portions of land.

Sir, we have a situation that at Deane Town we do not know who will own the land at Deane Town because as you know, Sir, there are many great plans for that particular area. I am calling on the Minister today to go back and look at who owned the land at the time when they were removed, put in the infrastructure and offer those people the right to go back to Deane Town. I think that it is only fair that if anybody is to live on that land at Deane Town it would have to be people who were there before and who the Barbados Labour Party told that they should move and they provided alternative sites for them to move. I am calling on the Minister because I know where his heart is, to offer the people who were previously at Deane Town the first choice of getting land.

Asides.

" Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do not care whether it is you or not. I am saying that even if the Minister has an interest he has a right to get back a piece of that land at Deane Town. I am calling on the Barbados Labour Party to make sure that the people who lived at Deane Town before, that they get a right to get back there. As I said before, Sir, it is one of the most beautiful pieces of land in Barbados. It overlooks Royal Westmoreland right down to the west coast. It is a beautiful piece of land. I know, Sir, that there are many land developers in Barbados who would like to get their hands on that piece of land at Deane Town.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying that even if the Speaker wants to get piece, he should be entitled to get piece too for the simple reason that the same way that the land shark feels that he could get all the land in Barbados I feel that some Members in here should be entitled to piece of that land in Deane Town too. Not me, I do not need any.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is why I am putting a case for the poor. I know that you are not poor anymore, Sir.

I would expect the Minister to come to this Parliament in a couple of weeks with some abandonment of acquisitions. I look forward to the day when he does that because there are poor people now in Orange Hill who had their lands well planned out who were deprived of that right. Sir, he said that Lancaster had a lot of land and that is a fact. All he needs to do is to go and acquire more because if increased housing is his policy, I am sure that those poor people in Orange Hill who they acquired land from would have been putting houses there. If you want to build houses why would you deprive people who want to build houses and at the same time turn around and build on the same piece of land. It does not make sense.

Poor people in this country must get the same rights as large developers. I am saying that for years I have been calling for roads to the north of Barbados and widening of the roads *etcetera* but it seems to me that St. Lucy cannot get that same privilege but we can get roads leading where the rich and famous drive from the west coast to Deane Town and up to Apes Hill. I want to know when my turn will come. There are taxpayers down there too, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That is my personal business. If I am developing land, I have a right. I am sorry I did not sell you some.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying, Sir, that the lady who lives in St. Andrew whether she is in Babylon or not should be one of the first people to get a right to purchase a piece of this land in Deane Town.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, she should be entitled to get a piece of this land. As you know, Sir, that because of the widening of the road down there they have been affected. I am also putting in a plea for those people in Babylon to get a piece of this land in Deane Town. I do not want any other piece of land I want a piece of this prime land for those people in Babylon.

I am saying that Deane Town development is a rather interesting development and I support the Minister on this. But I would call on him to make sure that the first people to have the opportunity to get a piece of this land in Deane Town that overlooks Royal Westmoreland would have been the original people who were living on this particular site. I know with your support that those people will be offered a right to have a piece of that land overlooking the Royal Westmoreland.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, where ever one goes all over Barbados the greatest demand these days more so than for jobs, is for housing. I think that we have to put this particular acquisition in some correct context and speak with a greater degree of accuracy than the Honourable Member who preceded me and who, in fact, has framed the debate in such a way that would suggest that poor people are going to be deprived or that the average Barbadian is going to be deprived of an opportunity to have a stake in the land at Deane Town.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. She continues

to misquote me deliberately or otherwise. I never said that the people at Deane Town would be deprived of having a piece of land because there are no people at Deane Town.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said just now. If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is confused, I am just not going to let him confuse me.

Mr. Speaker, what I have to do, is to commend the Honourable Member for St. Andrew for his initiative as Minister of Housing. To date, he has brought before this House a number of compulsory acquisitions which has brought into the pool and bank of land available to the Government for use in housing for the construction of housing and the distribution of lots in excess of 300 acres of land. That land is going to be used (1) to give to the number of persons or to be sold to the number of persons who want house spots to build their own houses of their own design whether of board or of wall. Secondly where the Government will build houses or enter into arrangements with private contractors to build houses and persons will be able to access and purchase these houses. 12.45 p.m.

In fact the majority of the land has been designated for low income earners, for starter homes and for that cadre of Barbadian who needs assistance in getting houses. The middle class people, the upper class people can always source moneys at the bank or the private lending agencies to build their own homes. They can get first mortgages and second mortgages with great ease. But there is a core of Barbadians that it remains the responsibility of successive administrations to look out for, who do not have the same access to capital, who do not have the same finance base, who do not have collateral, who do not have people to stand as guarantors for them and we, as an administration, must make sure that that person has access to housing. It is that particular niche market that this Government has tried to secure and to ensure that they, like other Barbadians, will be able to own a piece of the rock that their navel strings are buried on. It is in this context, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I would wish to frame the Deane Town Development.

The relocations that took place there years ago to which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy referred were persons who were relocated at their own request. All over Barbados there are persons who ask to be relocated for whatever reason. Sometimes the reasons do not necessarily make sense to us. We see people bring out antique furniture to replace it with wrought iron and modern furniture. It may not make sense to you but people behave like this. The people who were at Deane Town wanted to be relocated, they asked to be relocated and were relocated at the expense of the

Government as was the practice. What is it now that the Government is attempting to do at Deane Town today, not to secure it for the rich and famous as has been suggested, not to secure it for a wealthy class of Barbadian, or non Barbadian, not to hand it over to big developers, the land at Deane Town has been acquired by this Government to create in excess of 1000 lots. On those lots will be constructed starter homes, low middle income homes and middle, middle income residences. So some of the lots will go into housing that will be built by the Government, either by its own agencies or by using private Barbadian contractors.

Apart from the houses that will actually be constructed, and I want to repeat again who they are for, starter homes, low income homes and middle income homes, 1000 lots. Apart from the houses that will be constructed there a certain amount of the land will be reserved to give to persons or to sell to persons who want lots only as opposed to persons who want to buy houses.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member would have to be misleading the House, Sir, for the number of things that Deane Town is supposed to do, Sir, it is quite impossible, Sir, because the land area cannot be that large.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, that is not a point of order, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: He cannot help himself, Sir. Whether he rises on points of order, points of disorder, the point is he must always be getting up.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member please, could you withdraw those words and let us proceed?

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I withdraw the words, Sir. Apart from housing, Sir, I was making the point that a number of lots will be reserved for persons who want to buy land because there are always individuals who want to build and design their own homes, who do not want to be part of a development, might want the lot but might not want to have a model house which mirrors the others in the development and would wish to put their own house down on it, with their own design or in their own time.

The Deane Town Development then will then be linked by way of a bridge to a further development that is taking place at the Hope because the two areas are relatively contiguous geographically and hence what you are going to have is not a single cell development at Deane Town but a broader development to other communities which will be interlinked.

Further to the actual physical construction of houses and lots the Honourable Minister recognises that we must move past in Barbados a stage where we put down just concrete houses or where we put down lots without adequate recreational facilities for the young families that will move in there, for the young people, for the children who will live in the community and as a result a day-care centre will be built as part of the Deane Town Development as will a number of recreational facilities including, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of shops.

What is being developed therefore at Deane Town is a new community for a class of Barbadian who truly needs housing. This development is going to be a model development that future housing developments in Barbados will be patterned after because a lot of development has gone down in Barbados previously, or there have been other physical development of housing areas that have not had any kind of recreational facilities put in for the younger members of the community.

If you run out of supplies you have to go out of your district to often travel for some long distance before you can get to a community shop or somewhere that you can buy something. If you want to work near home there is no shop that you can set up yourself as an entrepreneur and open within your community. Therefore what we are going to be seeing is what I think is an ideal model, not just residential development and houses but recreational facilities for the older children, play park and so on for the younger children, day care centre within the community so that those persons who are passing the area or who are resident in the area can access this day care centre without having the children dislocated far from where they are living or have to walk the roads or get transportation home.

The opportunities for upward social mobility by having within the community not only shops that service the community and create jobs for persons within the community and beyond but the opportunity for people who will themselves be resident in Deane Town to become entrepreneurs and open businesses out of those shops which would form part of the community.

I think the Honourable Minister and the administration has acted with a high sense of responsibility recognising that if Royal Westmoreland surrounds it, that the average Barbadian must continue to have a stake in what is prime residential land in Barbados.

It would have been possible as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy pointed out that the developers would have wanted, because of its physical location, because of its magnificent view and because of its proximity to already a high level development, they would have wanted to snap it

up. But I think that the Honourable Minister must be complimented for saying and taking the stand that he is taking the stand that he is reserving that parcel of land for the average Barbadian to have a stake in high quality and high cost land and prime residential land in Barbados. 12:55 p.m.

It ensures that development of the upper scale, and on the lower scale continues to compliment one another and that we do not build enclaves for the rich and famous, but that we say to them that all Barbadians must be brought along and move upward together. And in the same way that you can have a Sandy Lane or a top-level property with a chattel house next to it, in the same way that low income residential communities have surrounded upper middle income communities, when you look at the proximity of Haynesville to Prior Park, again we are seeing that the Honourable Minister moved to go north of Prior Park with another starter home development, that in Hoyte's Village. And so we are ensuring that for that Barbadian who himself may not always have been able to afford those properties, who may not otherwise have been able to afford that land, that provision is made for them to live at a level and in a place where their rights as Barbadians are secured.

We must make the point, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that not only is a development of this nature going on, which I am insisting will form a new model for residential development in Barbados but 100% mortgages will be provided to the persons who will buy these houses. This will ensure that they have the opportunity to get into the houses and get there as quickly as possible.

The use of 100% mortgages for that class of Barbadian who does not have a large disposable income and who may not be able to save the large amount of money necessary to pay as a deposit on a house or land or toward a mortgage, has been much discussed and debated in this House. I think that both sides support the idea of 100% mortgages. I must commend the Minister that not only is he creating this development which will be a model development in Barbados, but that he is putting in the necessary financing of the 100% mortgage provision to ensure that the development gets underway and to create an impetus in Barbados for the provision of 100% mortgages for Barbadians at a certain level.

There are a lot of people in this country whose ability to get a job or a house is either delayed or stopped all together by the fact that they do not have, once they paid their monthly or weekly expenses, large disposable incomes which will allow them to make the initial deposit on a property. Also, because the financial institutions would not give them 100% mortgages, they are in fact stopped from having the opportunity to own property in Barbados.

These are persons who have a high sense of responsibility and if given the opportunity to have the 100% mortgage and to have the property, would pay their mortgages and their bills regularly. So happy they will be to be property owners in this country.

We cannot under-emphasize or under-estimate the value of what is being done at Deane Town. Nor can we let it be cast in the mode of the rich and famous and the big developers, when in fact what is being done, is securing the patrimony of Barbadians, is securing the right of the average Barbadian who otherwise would not be able to get a look in on this prime residential land, is securing his right to land in the country of his birth. Therefore, the remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy really do not converge with reality nor in fact with the nature of the development that is going to go on at Deane Town or the measure that the Honourable Member brings before this Chamber today.

We must commend it, not only because of the broad way in which the development is framed, of its interlinkage with other communities, of the social protection which it seeks to give to a particular class of Barbadian, but we have to commend it because it secures for the average Barbadian a piece of land that would otherwise have been lost to him.

Anybody who wants to get lots there or houses there can go through the normal channels of applying to the National Housing Corporation. These are the ways these things are done and the Deane Town development is going to be no different. I know that there are currently people all over Barbados who are trying to get houses and who are trying to get lots to build houses on. I believe that people will look forward to being part of this new and exciting development with 100% mortgage facilities and will be lining up to put their names down, including people who want to move out of St. Lucy because of lack of representation.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy making points about a woman from Babylon in St. Andrew. The people of St. Andrew are extremely well represented and they do not need a quasi representative from St. Lucy. Their real representative sits in this Chamber and nobody can challenge the work he has done to repair roads, to develop new roads, to create new housing, to create new lots and in fact, helped to transform Barbados, particularly for those persons who previously did not have roads and so on. There are many people who live in the heart of St. John, who if the Honourable Member for St. Andrew had never come to Parliament would not know what a paved road is like.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: That is the reality and therefore we cannot have the Honourable Member for St. Lucy trying to pooh pooh, if I can use a good Bajan

expression, Sir, the quality of this development and the quality of the representation and the work which the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is doing.

All those people, whether high or low who seek to walk about St. Andrew now, will find themselves...

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:...more low than high, that it is not only a matter of being low, Sir, that some developers will be out of the running. There are not going to be in it because of the quality of the work now done by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I know too, that so keen has the Honourable Member for St. Andrew been, that now that there is not an unpaved road in St. Andrew that he will soon be coming to St. Michael Central via St. James South, Sir, but the point is that he is on the way. Deane Town must be seen in the context of the other housing developments that are going on all over Barbados. Whether it is at Apes Hill, whether it is at Lower Burney, whether it is at Hoyte's Village or Husbands Heights, whether it is at Bournes Village, Flat Rock, all over Barbados wherever a large enough parcel of land can be found, they have been acquired by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and added to the land bank.

The bank out of which then all Barbadians will draw, whether they draw a lot, whether they draw a house, whether they draw with 90% or 100% mortgages, it is a bank out of which all Barbadians will benefit, those who want houses and land and could not previously get. All that is required is for them to make the necessary financial deposit and make the necessary application through the appropriate bureaucratic channels.

I was making the point earlier, Sir, and I am going back to the quality of the development that is going in at Deane Town and I do not want to underestimate it. In a constituency like St. James South which is the largest constituency in the country, we have developments that have been put down without any kind of recreational facilities at all.

Aside.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: That is true. There are many housing areas all over Barbados that have no recreational facilities. There are several middle income developments that have no recreational facilities and this has been a particular deficiency in the way Government does

housing developments. Very often the persons for whom these developments are targeted are young people in their 20s and 30s and maybe in their 40s. A lot of them are in their reproductive years and the way you would see these communities develop it is almost certain that there would be children in the communities. 1.05p.m.

Therefore if we are looking at providing proper housing for Barbadians we cannot provide that housing unless we think of the kind of social development that is necessary by putting in adequate recreational facilities for the younger children like play parks, for the older children like basketball courts and so on. Oftentimes these children have no creative outlet for their energies. They have no space to run around other than the main road. There is no community centre where they can gather and have a social, a sing-in, to get together and set up a choir, have a dance, have skills training. There is no place in the community.

So I must compliment the Minister for his vision in determining that not only are you going to put down concrete and residential developments and lots but that you will put them in a way that the future generations of the residents of that particular community have a place where they can participate in recreational activity, where there will be community centres which, where there was a community centre for all kinds of broad-based community activity, these facilities would help to foster what is missing in many developments which is a sense of community where people do not know their own neighbours. They do not see the person down the street. The child from the gap next door runs by and you do not know who he is.

Also because there is no point of communal or community contact for the people who live in these communities it is critical therefore if we want to chart a new type of development in Barbados that we should build into these communities opportunities for recreation, facilities for recreation and community centres which allow the people of the community to get together and to carry on various types of activity.

I am pleased to learn of this development. I look forward to its completion and I rejoice even now for those many average Barbadians. With 1000 lots it is entirely possible that we may have perhaps 2500 residents or more. This will be a massive new development and I rejoice for those persons who will enjoy this new development and those new facilities.

I have one entreaty to make of the Minister. Minister, your vision has been broad but I would wish that even as you put down the community centres and the day care centres and the shops that you put in some green spaces

into this community, some trees, a little green park, some tree-lined avenues because these will help. NCC will do the play park for you. We will model it after the one at Husbands Gardens. It cannot reach the St. Joseph standards but we can at least reach the one in Husbands Gardens.

I am making the point, Sir, in my capacity of Minister of Health and Environment...

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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Sir.

When residential developments have been built in Barbados there have been no green spaces put in and so you come to a development like Husbands Gardens - 369 houses or thereabouts, West Terrace Gardens - 526 houses in the second phase and just concrete. Visually, aesthetically, environmentally the place could be transformed and could be completely different if you could just do some tree-lined avenues. You set the houses back another three feet or so and rather than putting in so many houses you put in some green spaces, a little green park with a bench so that residents can sit down in the evening and talk or look out. If it has such a magnificent view you might consider putting in a space where people can sit and look out on the West coast but let us have built in, Minister, some green space for the aesthetic and environmental benefit which can be derived.

I think that if you could add that to this development then truly not only will this be a model for Barbados but for the rest of the Caribbean. I salute the Minister for what really is a tremendous vision and a tremendous project, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2:30 in the afternoon.

His HONOUR R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2:30 in the afternoon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly. 1.15p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to clarify one or two points which were made in the presentations of Honourable Members on that Side. There are two main ones.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy did enquire how is it that with such a small parcel of land we are going to have so many house spots. Actually this area is part of the larger Deane Town area. This is the area that has traditionally been called Deane Town but the actual Deane Town settlement in itself comprises areas at Waterhall, Deane Town, Lancaster and Orange Hill. We are hoping that included in that development will be a total area in excess of 100 acres.

As to where the actual lots will be located, the specific area, and where the actual shops and recreational centres will be located, we will await the completion of the overall study which is being done by the National Housing Corporation. We want to be sure, however, that we do the relevant acquisitions so that we know exactly how much land we have in place for this overall development.

I would also like to indicate, notwithstanding what might be assumed, and when the Honourable Member did mention that the site overlooks Royal Westmoreland, I do not know if he was trying to suggest that because the area is blessed with a beautiful view that low income persons should not be entitled to this view.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member is giving the impression that I stated that that area is too good for poor people. I said that the people who were originally there should have the first right to go back there because it was unfortunate that they had to move in the first place, that Government should have put in the necessary amenities at the point in time instead of removing them from the area. When you go and have a look, Sir, you will then understand why I made that point.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to assure the House that this particular area will be used for low income housing.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 17 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING
CORPORATION OF LAND AT FLAT ROCK,
ST. GEORGE FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, we have already had a full debate in this House when this parcel of land was acquired for housing purposes. This Resolution simply seeks to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation.

I would just like briefly to say that this land is being acquired not just for low income housing but we are also hoping to relocate those persons affected by the amendments to the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member talked about vesting the land but in his language he is saying that we are acquiring it. Is he vesting it or is he acquiring it? For the record he needs to correct what he just said.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I do not know if the Honourable Member was listening. Just for the benefit of the Honourable Member, I said that the same comments which would have been relevant to the actual acquisition by the Crown would be relevant to the vesting in the National Housing Corporation. We have already acquired the lands at Flat Rock. What we are simply doing now is to vest the land, having acquired it, in the National Housing Corporation.

I would just like to say that there will be 28 service lots. We are hoping to have 20 terraced units at Flat Rock. Those terraced units are already under construction and it is hoped that they can be completed before the end of this financial year.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 12 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR-
PORATION OF LAND AT MOUNT BREVIOR
PLANTATION, ST. PETER

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this is a similar vesting to the one which was just completed. We have already acquired this parcel of land at Mount Brevior in the parish of St. Peter. We have had a full debate in this House on this particular Resolution. What has happened is, like the

last Resolution, we are hoping to have enough lots in the north to facilitate those persons who have been affected by the amendments to the Act.

There are also a number of persons, I believe, some of those persons who cannot be accommodated at Farmers in St. Thomas who will be moving from White Hill. There are still one or two of them who have indicated a preference to move a little further north. It is hoped with this vesting in the National Housing Corporation that they will be relocated here.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 16- RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING COR-
PORATION OF LAND AT NEW CASTLE, ST.
JOHN, PARISH LAND, CHRIST CHURCH, LAYNES
ROAD, BRITTONS HILL, ST. MICHAEL AND
BAWDEN'S, ST. ANDREW

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to vest a number of parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation which have been owned by Government for some time. The disposal of these various parcels of land is in keeping with existing Government policy of disposing of adjoining lands to existing landowners where there is no planned use by Government for any specific purpose and where there have been indications that the adjoining owners are interested in purchasing these parcels of land.

Mr. Speaker, since public baths are also included, it is also a continuation of a policy which proceeded this Administration of disposing of public baths to individuals or entities where there is no interest by the community or the Community Development Division in the particular area.

It is hoped, Mr. Speaker, that the revenue which will be gained from the disposal of these properties will be utilised by the National Housing Corporation in the execution of its capital works programme.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution in vesting these various parcels of land will facilitate the National Housing Corporation in the disposition in this manner.

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

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, even though I have no problem with the Government doing a project in St. John, and we welcome it because we have been complaining on this Side that constituencies that are represented by ourselves seem not to be getting some of the goodies, but the main point I rise on is that we have a situation where we came to this Parliament and we have agreed to sell a large number of baths to people. It is a ridiculous situation to pass and see those baths in a dilapidated state after people have agreed to pay sums of money for those baths. I am saying Sir, that we need to come back to this House and re-negotiate the price at which the bath should be sold to those people because it is unfair that a man could agree to buy something for \$10 000 when it is in a particular state and up to today those baths have not been passed to poor people. When you look, Mr. Speaker, at the list of the people who have agreed to buy those baths, they are all poor people. Government needs to do something swiftly to make sure that the investment of those poor people are protected because I think it is unfair to ask them to pay the price agreed at the point in time because through no fault of theirs those people have not been able to get the properties. Now the value of those properties would have to be lowered. Some of them have been vandalised and I am saying that Government when they are dealing with poor people need to operate more swiftly. 2.50 p.m.

I have said on many occasions in this Parliament that it seems to me that when the rich want something done, we can come here in a day or two and we can get that transaction passed to those people but when we are dealing with poor people, it seems to me that poor people must suffer at the hands of this Government. I am calling on this Government to make sure that those baths be given to those people as swiftly as possible. They are some people who I had to advise not to give up the right to purchase the bath. I am saying that Government must understand that if they need money for their capital works that they must also treat the people fairly. It is regrettable that every time a transaction comes on behalf of the poor of this country, it takes so long to be completed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the vesting of the land in Parish Land in Christ Church to the National Housing Corporation is taking place. Parish Land is an area which has been developed over the years for the provision of housing for working class people and low income people in Barbados. I believe the development is probably about 60% complete and I hope that the Government will continue to provide road, water and other amenities in the remaining unbuilt on land. We are very

fortunate that in Parish Land there are established excellent recreational facilities and a good community development *cum pavilion* type structure. Parish Land is so large that I would ask the Government to bear in mind that the playing facilities, excellent as they are for cricket and football are in need of further developing to cater to the other gender and there are a large number of them in Parish Land.

The sport of basketball both by men and women, netball and volleyball needs to be catered to. It is not a question of the expenditure of a large amount of money because the playing field is so large that properly equipped the area within the confines of the existing boundaries, will also enhance the facility.

I would also point out that when one has a development as large as Parish Land, I believe it is nearly 300 lots, it is important that the area is monitored. I myself visit the area quite regularly because there is a lot of small business activity in the form of repairs of motor cars, repairs of upholstery and all of that taking place. I am surprised at the number of well covers which are broken and are unattended to. It is a significant thing because many of these wells would have been built 20 years ago and the covers do not last forever and they are not built out of steel as is the practice today. They are built of concrete and within the concrete there is steel and when the steel expands within the concrete they fray and the position is that there are a number of well covers, in my opinion, that are dangerous.

This is a problem that we have because there is always a 'to-ing and fro-ing' as to whose responsibility it is whether it is MTW's or whether since it was developed by the Government whether it is not the particular agency that developed it, namely the Ministry of Housing. The point is that what we want done is that some responsible individual from a Government department would take a survey and have these well covers fixed. We do not want to happen there what happened in a previous area, that is that young children running across the covers are deceived, thinking that it is good when in truth and in fact it cannot bear the weight of the adolescent and they go down into the well. I would hope that now that this is vested in the National Housing Corporation that at least in that area we could start with a programme of monitoring their land. It is a very important point, Sir.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I would just want to add that it is very desirable that portions of land from time to time be vested in the National Housing Corporation because it gives the Corporation the opportunity of selling the land or leasing the land to businesses or persons who are in need of house spots or are in need of land to do some other business of the sort.

It is important to note that this Government has divested a number of parcels of land since 1994 and that the process takes time. Whenever central government has to sell or lease a parcel of land, we have to come to Parliament to do it. With the National Housing Corporation one would see that the process is speeded up. A complaint that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has, we can assure him that once the National Housing Corporation owns the land, then persons will see that the request will be done in a speedier manner.

I am not sure that it is a means of poor versus the rich because a lot of these baths and properties were sold over the years, not necessarily to the poor as opposed to the rich or the rich as opposed to the poor but they were sold to persons who had put in good bids. A lot of them were sold off at very reasonable sums. The Government cannot give away properties. You are asking Government to give away the property. But Government cannot give away the property.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House, Sir. He is giving the impression that I am begging Government to give away the property to poor people. It is true that I would love to do that but I know that I cannot do that. I do not see why he would want to attack me for saying that they have a right to give the people the land swiftly. Is he saying that they have a right to keep the property until it falls down then to offer it to poor people, Sir? 3.00p.m.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am saying the property was sold for a very reasonable sum and you cannot say that the Government should give the land.

Aside.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I have made the point, Sir, that most of the people who have tendered and have got the opportunity for land will very soon be able to obtain the land because it is now vested in the National Housing Corporation so the process will be speeded up. That is the point I was making.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, just in response to one point the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made. He is indeed correct when he says that we have been disposing of baths and property and months/years have passed and the property is dilapidated. I would want this Chamber to know that that is no fault of this Government or any previous Government. Certainly in my own constituency I could think of a bath in the Baywoods that was purchased by a resident of the Baywoods in 1991 and that Bath is in a dilapidated state. Nothing has been done. The point is that after the purchase Government has absolutely no control.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member knows very well that he is misleading the House because the ones that I am speaking of are baths that they have agreed to sell the people but they have not received the papers in their hands as yet. I am not speaking of baths that have been sold where the people have the papers in their hands because it would have been unfair of me to blame Government for things like that. I am speaking only of the situation where they need to pass the papers to the buyers.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: These sales, Mr. Speaker, go out to tender and in most cases we sell to the highest bidder. We have no control and there is no distinction between those that have been completed and those that have not been completed in terms of their dilapidated state.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 18 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
PUBLICATION UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE
LAND ACQUISITION ACT CAP. 228 OF
NOTIFICATION OF ABANDONMENT
OF ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
WELCHES, CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to abandon a small area of land, 255 square metres of land at Welches in Christ Church which was originally needed for the South Coast Sewerage Project. At the time when the Ministry of Health had sought the assistance of the Division of Housing in this acquisition, inadvertently the wrong parcel of land was submitted. It has subsequently been shown that the plot of land which was acquired is not the parcel that is needed by Government. In fact, as I speak, Mr. Speaker, the sale of the correct parcel is being negotiated.

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, it is necessary to abandon this acquisition and in those circumstances I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak too long but it is clear to me that we need to watch procedures like these, Sir, where Government can easily come and acquire the wrong piece of land for other reasons and then later on, Sir, come back and abandon the acquisition. We need to guard ourselves against this situation and the technocrats within the Ministry of Housing need to make sure that whenever they go to give advice on a piece of land to be acquired that the right advice is given. Too many

people in this country can be hurt by wrong advice coming to this Parliament and we as Parliamentarians need to make sure that whenever we are discussing land, that it is the right piece of land that we are discussing for land acquisition and that people are not just giving wrong information when they should be giving right information. That is all I will say at this point in time, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 13 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF
LAND FROM SEARLES, CHRIST CHURCH
TO SIX ROADS, ST. PHILIP FOR
ROAD MAINTENANCE AND
REHABILITATION

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to acquire a number of parcels of land for the Six Roads to Searles Road project. It is part of the World Bank Loan Programme which preceded this administration for \$21.8 million from the World Bank to rehabilitate a number of roads in Barbados of which Six Roads to Searles is one.

The contract for this particular road of \$9 161 550 was awarded to Rayside Asphalt Paving Company Limited. Work started in April 1997 and we are hoping that the programme will be completed as it relates to Six Roads in 18 months. The programme will involve the construction of 3 roundabouts one of which is almost completed.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of persons in the area who will have to be relocated. We have already awarded a contract to relocate 23 houses to Lead Vale. We have had a series of town meetings with the residents of the area and we have had utmost cooperation from most of the residents in the area if not all of the residents in the area. Of course there is the odd case where one or two persons might not be 100% happy with everything that has been proposed. 3.10p.m.

We have also advertised for rented accommodation for those persons who might not want to go to Lead Vale, but it is hoped, Mr. Speaker, that we would be able to accommodate all persons in the area.

This particular resolution, Mr. Speaker, is a little late in coming. It is late in coming because the original acquisition was done for, I think it was for 170 parcels of land in 1993 prior to this administration coming into office, but subsequently the lots were resurveyed. It was found that instead of 170 lots, there are now some 200 lots but the land itself is the same area. It is just that in some cases some of the landowners are a bit more than they were in the original

acquisition which was presented to Cabinet at the time when the decision to acquire was first made.

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

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

Mr. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that I am pleased at the progress being made in the rehabilitation of the road from Searles to Six Roads and also with the progress being made in the construction of the roundabout at Six Roads.

Of course, for the purpose of ensuring that the record is not distorted, I have to remind the House that this project was conceived by the Democratic Labour Party and was promised...in fact, the Party committed itself to the execution of this project at page 43 of its Manifesto when it promised to construct a roundabout at Six Roads and rehabilitate the Highway from Six Cross Roads to Newton in the financial year 1995/1996. So that we are grateful to the Government that it has not discontinued this project, but is continuing with it because the people who live between Searles and Six Roads have been very forbearing over a long number of years.

I travelled on that road for the better part of the 1960's when I was a school boy and for many, many years that road was in a state of disrepair. The residents between Searles and Six Roads have shown remarkable forbearance in putting up with the state of the road along that stretch.

I was present at one of the Town Hall meetings held by the Ministry of Public Works and I have to compliment the officers of that Ministry for the sensitivity they showed to the members of the public who expressed concerns of various kinds at the Town Hall meeting, which was held at the St. Patrick's School.

Mr. Speaker, so far as the roundabout at Six Roads is concerned I have to make the point which I have made in this House already, of course I have lived the better part of my life, not more than about 250 metres away from Six Roads. It has been a scene of many fatal accidents in my life time and many serious personal injuries occurred at Six Roads, particularly where tourists who have not known the area very well approached the junction and did not observe the rules relating to the use of the junction. Persons travelling along Highway 5, have historically approached that junction at some insane speeds and as a result, there have been many serious injuries there and quite a few fatal accidents in my lifetime.

The roundabout is now in use although not completed and already we have seen a vast improvement in the way that

junction is being used. Vehicles are forced now to approach the junction at safer speeds and there is a greater sense of security by all those persons who approach the Six Roads junction, nowadays.

So I think that all in all it has been a very useful and sensible project and we look forward to its completion within the time schedule set by the contract. We look forward to its effective use, not only by the residents of St. Philip but also by all those people who use Six Roads to go to various parts of the island.

Now, the Six Roads roundabout has not been entirely without controversy. I am aware that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew paid a visit to the site sometime last week in an attempt to get a hands-on look at the problems which have been raised by certain businesses in the area. I do not want to speak too much about that because I am aware that one of the businesses, at least problems in relation to one of the businesses are now *subjudice*. But in respect of that business which has now instituted legal proceedings and I speak of Shell, Six Roads, I am aware that the Ministry has blocked the entrance to the Shell Service Station from Highway 5.

Now, I am not an engineer and I lay no claim to the engineer's mode of thought, but they seem to be a certain illogic in the blocking of that entrance as far as I am concerned. When vehicular traffic could approach Six Roads at insane speeds and pose a danger to the users of that road, that entrance was not blocked. Now, that you have to approach Six Roads slowly, and where the danger now posed to users of the road have been substantially reduced, marvellous to relate, the engineers of the Ministry have now thought it necessary to block the entrance to the Shell Service Station there.

I find the logic a little puzzling because it is bound to affect the business of Mr. Cossey who runs the Shell Service Station at Six Roads and there is really no logical explanation for blocking that entrance off Highway 5 into the Shell Service Station at Six Roads. Since that entrance was blocked, I put myself to the trouble to go to the roundabout at Warrens where there is also a Service Station and also a Chefette Restaurant and I cannot see the difference.

Asides.

Mr. F. J. STUART: I really cannot see any substantial difference. I should like to urge the Ministry to take a second look at that. I can see a problem being created if persons are able to exit from the service station onto Highway 5. But they are only using Highway 5 to enter the Service Station, I cannot see what the problem is. Therefore I raise the point because I am aware that the Minister paid a visit there some

time last week and may have been a hostage to his advisers and did not see the point as clearly as we should have, simple as it is.

I hope that now that I have ventilated the issue the Ministry might want to revisit that issue and try to alleviate the distress which is at present being caused by the proprietor of Shell Six Roads and to those persons who have been patrons for a long number of years of that Service Station there at Six Roads.

The other point I want to make about that roundabout is this, that I heard voices being raised about the naming of that roundabout. I should like to repeat the call already made from this side of the House that when the time comes for that roundabout to be named that it be named after the late Reynold St. Clair Weekes, who was a distinguished parishioner of St. Philip, who served his country with exemplary selflessness and who at all levels of Government, in the Vestry, in the Local Government and in the Central Government rendered inestimable service not only to the people of St. Philip, but also to the people of Barbados.

I can think of no better candidate available to have that roundabout named in his honour than the late Reynold St. Clair Weekes and I hope that the Ministry will take me at my word. If that decision were made it would be a popular decision in the parish of St. Philip, because people in that general area believe it is the only logical thing to do. Therefore I want to place that call on record, the Reynold Weekes Roundabout at Six Roads. It is for that, that we on this side are calling. 3.20 p.m.

The other point I want to make is that this Resolution deals with acquiring land for road improvement but the issue of road improvement does not limit itself to the area between Searles and Six Roads. The issue of road improvement is a peripheral view in St. Philip, although less so in the constituency of St. Philip North at present held by the Barbados Labour Party than the constituency of St. Philip South at present held by the Democratic Labour Party.

The North has most of the roads done. I said less so in the North than in the South and I should just like to remind the Minister that I have made public calls, certainly in last year's Budget debate and again in the Social Investment Bill debate to have the road from St. Margaret's Church to Heddings resurfaced.

I am aware that well nigh 300 residents from that general area have collectively signed a petition addressed to the Minister addressed to the Honourable Prime Minister copied to the Permanent Secretary and copied to me placing their concerns on record. That road is in a lamentable almost criminal state of disrepair and the Ministry can repair it none

too soon because even vehicular traffic owned by the Transport Board has difficulty in making effective use of that road. It is not only the road from St. Margaret's Church to Foul Bay to Heddings but roads at Kirtons No. 3 and roads at Nursery No. 1 and 2. I am aware that Your Honour may not know St. Philip very well but there are these roads at Nursery No. 1 and 2, roads at Kirtons No. 3 and a large number of others about which I have already written the Ministry of Public Works which are in desperate need of repair.

I have to publicly commend the officers of the Ministry of Public Works, the employees at the depot at Six Roads who always respond readily to entreaties from my constituency office to deal with problems relating to roads in the constituency but they cannot do the kind of work which they want to do unless they get the necessary resources from the Ministry's office in the Pine. Constituents of St. Philip South do not like to be reminded of an occasion on which a road like Jessamy Lane was being resurfaced and the machinery came up from Bridgetown from about 11 o'clock the morning to do the work and by 2 o'clock the depot was being called and asked whether the machinery was ready that there was work to be done in St. Andrew and in St. Peter.

There are taxpayers in St. Philip South as well and I heard the Honourable Member for St. James South say that her constituency was the largest constituency in Barbados. St. Philip South is the second largest constituency in Barbados in the largest parish in Barbados physically and it is also a swiftly growing parish with a large number of vehicles and I hope that the Minister will not turn a deaf ear to my litanies but that he would take seriously the petition he got from constituents of St. Philip South and institute ready remedial action. That it is a DLP held constituency is irrelevant. There are taxpayers in the constituency of St. Philip South as well and I am aware that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew uses the roads in St. Philip very often as well as he does his regular surveys of the state of the roads across the country. He looks at roads in St. Philip as well. The problem is that he stops at looking and he does not come back to take any action to ensure that the roads are done.

I hope that I have highlighted all the problems in relation to acquisition and I hope that the Minister will have a second look at that decision to block off the entrance to Shell Six Roads from Highway 5. It does not respond to any of the imperatives of logic to block that entrance off at a time when no vehicles can now approach Six Roads at other than a sane speed while prior to the construction of the roundabout people travelled on Highway 5 at 80, 90, 100 kilometres per hour posing a serious threat to users of that junction. Now that the roundabout is going to be there and that junction has a more seemly use there can be no

logical reason why the entrance to Shell Six Roads should be blocked off.

I should like the Minister to extend the concept of road improvement from Searles to Six Roads to those other parts of St. Philip of which the Minister is already aware and in respect of which he has been petitioned by the residents of Foul Bay and Heddings and other parts of that general area who have been raising their voices for some time now and whose prayers seem to be falling now on deaf ears.

With those few words, we on this side are not opposing the Resolution. As I said, it is a DLP project which is being carried through by the present Government and we have no basis for raising any objection to it. The final point I would like to make is that the contractor who is responsible for the execution of that project I also have to commend because he showed a high degree of sensitivity today to the residents of that general Six Roads area who were affected by dust. Large amounts of water were used during the construction of that roundabout because it was done during a period that happened to be very dry. There had to be a few relocations and a number of residents of that area have had to put their lives on hold because the dust has affected their ability to enjoy their properties to a meaningful degree. So they all look forward to the completion of this project so they can get their lives back to normal. 3.30 p.m.

Obviously with there being a few asthmatics and so on around, it can be expected that there will be need for compensation of a few people but, I believe, that the same cordiality and the same good faith that have existed up to now will abide and will see the end of this project conceived many years ago which will solve a very serious problem at the only Six Cross Roads junction, as I understand it, anywhere in the Caribbean.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, ...

Aside.

Mr. F. J. STUART: The Honourable Member for St. John is reminding me that it was once described as a very busy four cross at Six Roads.

With those few words, I indicate to the House our support for this Resolution. I am obliged to you.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak on this Resolution because I am well aware of the progress that is being made in improving the access of Christ Church to St. Philip. I always knew that it was a secret ambition of the people of St. Philip that they get nearer to the people of Christ Church.

I well recall being one of the draftsmen of some of the Manifestos of the Barbados Labour Party and that we as early as the 70s had singled out that Six-Roads area for the development of one of the towns of Barbados. Of course, at that time a different dispensation was responsible for the policies of the Democratic Labour Party. I remember with a great degree of derision of our fundamentally sound idea the then leadership of the Democratic Labour Party characterising our plans as being a "Tale of Two Cities." Nevertheless, I am happy to see that it is a Labour Party Administration that will continue the work of identifying the infrastructure necessary to raise the status of Six Cross Roads into a true sub town in Barbados. That is a fact.

My second point, Sir, I would like to make is that I feel it is important that in addition to the social surveys and the town meetings that take place on the occasions when drastic changes in the physical conditions of residents created by the development of a road or something like that takes place, that the relevant Ministries remember that what is very important to the people are not the plans of the Government for them but the implementation of the plans. They just do not like to be hung out, so to speak, in limbo for a long period of time.

I know that there are facilities being provided for some of the people whose houses are affected by the widening of the road. I believe it is at Lead Vale. I passed there not so long ago. It is either Lead Vale or Lowlands. The two of them are very close to one another. A lot of roads and infrastructures are being established. What I would beg the Ministry to do is to be in constant contact with the people to make sure that there is no slippage of the dates that are promised for the removal.

What is more, and I find this is very important, people who live next to one another now in St. Patricks should be given the option to continue to live next to their neighbours. It is a very important point so that you do not disturb relationships that have been built up over the years. Of course, there will be some who would want to move from their next-door neighbour. That happens, but the Government has had a lot of experience with this.

The greatest difficulty that one could have envisaged was the difficulty of moving people when the Emmerton Lane site was vacated because of the Sewerage Scheme, but Barbadians are not foolish. They know it is the policy of the Labour Party that whenever people are moved that they are going to be put in better conditions than they were before, so that in itself is an inducement for them to move. I hope that the scheme continues. I know there are some bottlenecks, I understand, with acquisitions and things of that kind but that is inevitable when it comes to a major development like that.

I look forward very much to the day when the Government will be able, not necessarily in this Administration, but in the next one to follow, that the Labour Party Government will be able to fully implement its plans for the erection of St. Philip into a township. It is right.

In 1971 it was visionary but it is right today because one only has to go out on the Bottom Bay/ Sam Lord's Castle, and the whole of that area there by Well House back into Coles. All of that is a well-developed area now. That accounts for the fact that a look at the Electoral Register will show that there must be over 9 000 voters in each of the St. Philip constituencies. It is a fact. It is a phenomenon and it is not stopping because that is an area of land which can be developed without detriment to the utilisation of land for other purposes. That is ideally suited for housing.

Having got that amount of housing there, and the capacity of the people of St. Philip to persuade the employing authorities at the Airport - they are very good at it, they are exceedingly good at it, and at Newton Industrial Estate which is being extended, and at the St. Philip Industrial Estate which I well remember the origins. I think I heard a former Senator, he is not with us so I can speak his name - former Senator Ashby, defending why there should be no industrial estate at Six Roads, but it is growing. They have some very successful industries there.

As a matter of fact, one of the industries there in St. Philip is an industry that is competitive the world over in sale making. There is no doubt about that. It is fully computerised. So it just demonstrates that there are still niches in the industry. It is a good onion growing area. Of course, it is an oil bearing area so it is not a poor parish by any means. It was a very neglected parish under the Democratic Labour Party but that is the wont of the Democratic Labour Party and their favourite parishes. One only has to look at St. John and St. Philip, next to one another but I understand that if one continues to look there in St. Philip now one would be amazed at what has happened to Brereton, one time St. John and another time St. Philip. Maybe it will find its rightful place in the future. I understand there are brand new roads in Brereton. I understand it even has a pavilion. 3.40 p.m.

Sir, this continuation of the infrastructure as developed in these areas, it is not surprising that the Barbados Labour Party continued the policy because it is an obvious development that is needed for the good of Barbados. I would say, Sir, that I agree that some recognition should be given to the former Honourable Member for St. Philip. If there was one person who spoke in terms of what was good for rural communities and for Barbadians generally, it was the former Honourable Member for St. Philip. There cannot

be any doubt of the contribution that he made towards putting St. Philip on the map in Barbados.

I knew him as a local Government counsellor, as a friend and in all kinds of capacities the Honourable Member served in Barbados. I think that it is only right and fitting that some recognition should be given to his name.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Yes, everybody knew Reynold.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I would not be long but I want to say how happy we are on this Side that there is by-partisan support for the naming of that roundabout after the late Reynold Weekes and we look forward to the occasion when that roundabout is completed and when it bears the name of that great, outstanding parliamentary representative who was a member of the Democratic Labour Party and who gave yeoman service to the people of that constituency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has said, a lot of development has taken place in St. Philip in recent years. I live in St. Philip and I am familiar with the changes that have taken place in the last nine or so years that I have lived there.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not going to deal with the road leading to my house because there is no point even trying to drive on that road. But there are several roads leading to that road which are in a state of serious disrepair. The Lucas Street road in front of the shop of Mr. Hutson Linton is one of the worst stretches of roads in the entire area of St. Philip. That road is uneven and broken up in parts and there are a lot of new developments up in that area. There is Windward Gardens and just west of Linton's shop there is a whole brand new development taking place there for which roads have just been put in. There are developments off Padmore and a whole range of new developments taking place in St. Philip.

I believe that the Government has to mobilise major resources not just to complete the tenantry roads, and I think it is very important that those tenantry roads need to be completed, but also to undertake major road repairs throughout the entire constituency. The amount of traffic which travels now on that highway from Bussa to Six Roads and even beyond Six Roads is significant.

I am also interested to hear from the Honourable Member for St. Andrew as Minister of Public Works

whether there is in fact any real coordinated programme for what is happening at Six Roads in St. Philip. One gets the impression that one Ministry is going down one road, the concept of the Town Planner is going down one road and the concept of another Ministry is going down another road altogether hence the recent conclusion that the Six Roads roundabout with the curve leading into Chefette... An example of lack of coordination between the Town Planning Department, the private developers in that area and the Government. When one looks at the question of the use of the old Plantation Complex, a make shift arrangement has been made for the Post Office and it is important to know whether Government will be utilising that Complex and what proposals it has for the use of other buildings in the area.

I have heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip South speak in here time and time again about the number of floating forms at Princess Margaret Secondary School. It is about time that some of those buildings which are now disused like the Post Office and other buildings surrounding be incorporated into the Princess Margaret Complex and that that school be upgraded to accommodate a larger number of students from that particular zone. Meanwhile, you can move the Welfare Office and many of the other facilities other than the Polyclinic into the Plantations Complex in Six Roads and you can have the kind of development in that area which would see Government services by and large centralised in the complex. The extension and expansion of the Princess Margaret Secondary School, the relocation of that public market in its nonsensical position in which the Government spent hundreds of thousands of dollars from the site next to the MTW depot over into the Six Roads Complex where people using the Post Office and the Welfare office and other things could use those facilities.

One of the reasons why I believe that public market is under-utilised and a lot of the booths remain closed is because in a sense, although it is close to the roundabout, it is off the beaten track. If you are coming straight down you have to turn back and few people pass on that road. I stopped passing on that road since the days when those two young boys drowned, unfortunately, because to me it was quite a traumatic thing to remember and I stopped passing there altogether. There are other reasons why that area does not attract a lot of traffic and people prefer to go to Ruby Corner or continue down the highway. The relocation of that vendors mall or market, whatever it is called, the booth can easily be moved over into the Six Roads Complex, which to my mind would be a better use of Government's resources. I look forward to the total development of that area of St. Philip and to see vibrant business taking place there again in which residents of St. Philip and other small entrepreneurs can be involved in the distributive sector in which Government's operations can be centralised in the Six Roads Complex and in which we can see an improvement in the physical conditions of Princess Margaret School.

I am also making a call on the Minister of Public Works to pay attention to many of those roads on the northern side of the highway in St. Philip North particularly I stress again, the road from Beulah right across Bushy Park out to Oughterson. The road across Lucas Street in front of Linton's shop which is in a terrible state. The road in front of the St. Philip District Hospital which has deteriorated so much so that nobody wants to use it at all. All the roads that lead to Sunbury Road which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South might be unaware was built by the Democratic Labour Party in 1997 when it was still in the constituency of St. John.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am glad that you remember that because that was a major project which we undertook along with Pool in St. John, Glenburnie, Cliff Land, Lemon Arbor, Wakefield and Colleton. All those tenantry roads were built by the Democratic Labour Party between 1987 and January 1991, in that short period of time 7 major tenantry roads servicing the needs of rural Barbados. 3.50p.m.

I would like to take the Honourable Member for Christ Church South to see those roads so that he would understand the extent to which the charge of neglect made against the Democratic Labour Party in either St. Philip or those areas of St. John where those tenantry roads were done is nonsensical.

In any event, for the record, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would also know that despite doing all those roads and as the Honourable Member for St. George South would probably say, despite doing all those roads the number of votes that one received in those boxes remained the same. Honourable Members on that Side can gloat but I believe most Barbadians believe they are entitled to the roads and they do not associate the construction of tenantry roads or a pavilion put on lands which the Democratic Labour Party in 1991 had acquired from Edgumbe Plantation. These are natural developments that should take place in the natural order of things. There is nothing super human about putting roads in a constituency. Those things are things that rural Barbados is entitled to have and more and more resources need to be fairly distributed in Barbados so that as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South said, all of the taxpayers in this country can enjoy those benefits.

It must hurt the heart of people in St. Philip South and St. John that you can pass in St. Philip North and see 2 major road projects done by the Rural Development Commission and not a single road...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Do not talk about St. George South. They are not even getting up there. But those are only temporary. They spent about 10 days in Woodland and they stopped. Why, one would never know but all of that is election spending. All of that is a smoke screen, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to start as many projects as possible, Dash Valley Sports centre, this, that and the other and give people the impression that you are doing something for them. I have been watching that carefully. But I would be very glad for the people of St. George South if they were to get all of those things, particularly because I know who asked for them and I have documented when they were asked for. But I am not dealing with that now, Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with St. Philip South.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You know I always watch you carefully making sure that you are well taken care of. St. Philip South and St. John are 2 areas in Barbados in which the Rural Development Commission, to the best of my knowledge, has not undertaken one single capital project and yet there are other constituencies in which you may have 2 or 3 tenantry roads being done right now. I think there must be a fairer way to distribute the resources which are made available under these commissions.

If Government is going to boast that it is truly interested and sincerely interested as the Honourable Member for St. Peter always likes to say, we are sincerely committed to the alleviation of poverty and to increase the living standards of all Barbadians then it could hardly be fair that there are sections of rural Barbados which, and I will quote the Honourable Member for St. Peter again, "are untouched by the hand of development for the past 40 years". I see that in St. Philip South. I see that in St. John.

I have just listed the tenantry roads in St. John which were done between 1987 and 1991 and the Honourable Member for St. James South does not seem to understand that. People are now building one play park in a constituency. The Democratic Labour Party built about 15 play parks between 1987 and 1991, 4 alone in St. John, and it now takes a Prime Minister to go in a constituency and open a play park. We were opening play parks in Colleton, Bath. We opened 4 in St. John alone. No Prime Minister had to go to open them. These are things that communities are entitled to under any administration. They do not need the kind of hoopla and excitement which Honourable Members on that Side...

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am very glad for the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. The Government's arithmetic skills may be back on course. They were not

counting for a while. They have now started to count. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I will not be sidetracked by any of that.

I am making the point very carefully, Mr. Speaker, that to my mind I will give the Honourable Member for St. Andrew an example of a good way I think that a tenantry road could be built. For example in Kendal in St. John that property has just been acquired by a construction magnate with whom the Honourable Member for St. Andrew must have a very active relationship because of the large number of projects he is doing for Government. There is a lot of land around Kendal on the fringe of the tenantry, Mr. Speaker, Sir, which would be good for housing because it has been rab land for a very long time and it is unlikely that mechanical harvesters could travel on that land and therefore sugar cane is out of the question and there are not many other crops that could grow with a top soil as shallow as that.

I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew very seriously that consideration be given by the Government to allow the owner of that land to subdivide some of the additional rab land and sell it on condition that he puts in development for the entire tenantry because it is a very convoluted tenantry. There are some areas that may have 4 houses and then another road with 6 and then another road with 4 but if there was a planned development which gave the owner of that land the opportunity to sell lots and to recover part of the capital outlay of putting in the infrastructure then I believe you could have a viable development.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Andrew talk about Deane Town earlier today, an area which was abandoned but which you are bringing back into use. But there are areas which have existing tenancies where, with some further development, both the offspring of the persons living on those tenancies as well as the potential for new people to come into the area by purchasing house spots or whatever and the owner could recover much of that capital outlay by being able to sell that land particularly in an environment where land prices are rising.

Now, I believe that creative programmes like that identifying various settlements in Barbados where that is possible, could provide an opportunity for Government to avoid having to put in those facilities even in areas where they may not want to put them in because I can imagine why the Labour Party would not want to put a road in Kendal. 4.00 p.m.

I think that is an area that had a cricket team but as you said, the top soil washed away, they cannot play cricket, the field is too small. It is surrounded by a high yield sugar plantation. It is a very secluded area but there is an opportunity for further development.

There are other areas in rural Barbados and quite a few of them in St. Philip, settlements which stand alone, where the Government could permit the owners of the land to create more house spots and in return have them put in the infrastructure. We have a very unfair system in this country where essentially the Government has to put in the infrastructure in tenantry roads. I have never liked the arrangement which obtained under the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act that you allow the tenants to buy the lots for 10 cents per square foot on the understanding that Government be allowed to put in the infrastructure.

My view is that the owners of that land had a moral responsibility to make a greater contribution to providing that infrastructure and we always end up paying twice. And with the sugar industry, I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church South has to agree with me, we have failed twice and three and four times over to maintain and develop infrastructure, to maintain the life styles of certain people, to maintain the sugar industry itself and also to ensure that that sector contributes to the economic development of Barbados

It is particularly unfair that the burden of putting in an infrastructure in tenancies in Barbados fell exclusively to the Government. That is unfair and I heard the Honourable Member for St. George South extolling the virtues of the Freehold Purchase Act. If you only see it from the point of view of the rights of the tenants to purchase the land, then you have a right to do that and I have no problem with that. But, when I look at the impact of that legislation in a whole range of other areas, the fact is that it created a problem where people did not want to rent new house spots, one major problem. Therefore, the National Housing Corporation is now over burdened.

The second problem it created is that the Government had to look for in excess of \$300 million to put in infrastructure in tenancies to bring facilities to Barbadians who, right now in many cases, are living on small plots of land in which in some of those tenancies they cannot even keep a few sheep or a few ducks or whatever in the backyard. Some of the lots are so closely and tightly drawn. And all around them is the major economic resource, productive land in sugar cane and the owner of that land has nothing to do with the development in the tenantry. The Government has to do everything for the descendants of the people who kept this investment going for 300 years or more.

There has to be something wrong when one looks at the way in which rural Barbados is developing particularly as a result of the way in which the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act was designed.

I say, let the Democratic Labour Party's position be clear. We believe very strongly that the lots should have

been sold and in some cases even given to the tenants on those tenancies. Let me make that clear. But I am saying that the way in which that Act is administered, it has caused major problems for the development of rural Barbados and it has also created greater hardships particularly in relation to black small holders in St. Michael and in St. George. There are some in St. John too, in areas like Edgecliff, who had additional house spots, but who did not want to rent out those house spots because they felt that they would have been caught by the provisions of the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act.

So the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act has in a sense created a series of down the road downstream problems that we are now trying to grapple with even though its intent in delivering those lots to the tenants may have been good. My attitude was at the end of the day you did not even need to purchase the Act. A good land acquisition of all of those lots, because of all the problems we now have, a good land acquisition, pay out the owners at a fair valuation for those areas. It would not have been a lot of money. It certainly would not have been as much as it has now cost Government trying to clean up the problems which have been created as a result of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act.

I know that the Honourable Member for St. George, I say, has difficulty when I make this point. But I think that at the end of the day, the lots could have been given to the persons who are residing on them. The land could have been acquired, the infrastructure could have been put in and Government would have had a lot less problems than the problems which it now has as a result of the passage of this legislation.

And that is the story of St. Philip too, because there are tenancies in St. Philip, Mr. Speaker, Sir, like Lynches, which are still, I believe, in a state of uncertainty. Because, it is not a scheduled tenancy under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, so the tenants cannot come under the provisions of that and purchase at 10 cents. They have to purchase at an agreed price with the landlord. I am not sure that it has been agreed, but the Government would still feel compelled. I know the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would feel compelled as the parliamentary representative to put in the infrastructure, the road, the water facilities and so on even though the situation has not yet been resolved.

We need to look at all of these issues in relation to rural Barbados. And the Rural Development Commission really needs to carry out an analysis about how we are going to solve some of these major problems. They have the resources. The Commissioner has the flexibility to bring on board persons of substance who can carry out the necessary work to ensure that things that were left undone as a result of

the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act are now corrected. And that would be a major boom to the development of rural Barbados, and would be giving comfort and peace of mind to people who live in plantation tenancies in St. Philip, St. John, St. Andrew and St. Joseph and so on. 4.10p.m.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am glad that there is a strong bi-partisan support for the naming of the roundabout at Six Roads after the late Reynold Weekes. I hope that there will be some further development in Six Roads in accordance with some of the suggestions that I have made on similar developments like that and I call on Government to carry out a major review of the impact of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to deal with some of the major problems which it has brought in terms of administration.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I will just be a couple of minutes. First of all, I want to inform the Honourable Member for St. John, the last speaker, that the infrastructure that he referred to at Lynches is presently taking place. Roads are being put in and the people at Lynches are very grateful for what is being done.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saying that I personally would like to thank the contractor for the very efficient manner with which he carried out the road works at Six Roads and also for all the measures which he took to make life more comfortable for the residents in that area.

The Six Roads roundabout really and truly is not in my constituency but I would make the point that it really is the gateway to St. Philip North. It is the actual hub as you would know, Mr. Speaker, of St. Philip. I believe that every working person, I would say about 90% of the people who work, the St. Philip people at some time during the week pass through Six Roads. You would know, Sir.

It has become very busy even more busy than previously over the past three years or so. I do believe that the fact that we have so many housing developments in St. Philip where many of the residents have their own vehicular transport accounts for this and I can think of the cars having to come and go from Ruby, from Union, Mangrove, Harmony Hall and Castle Heights and the many developments which we have in that area. Therefore I feel that even after midnight any night you had to sit by the gas station in Six Roads until 6 o'clock on mornings you would still count dozens of cars passing through Six Roads. It is that busy even after...

Asides.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: There has been tremendous growth, Mr. Speaker, in that area. I believe, too, Sir, that

even during the day in an area where you have hundreds of school children, particularly the ones who go to Princess Margaret School but then even further across we have schools like St. Martin's Mangrove, St. Martin's Four Roads and so on. A lot of school children pass through that area. You have your old age pensioners going to the post office. You have sick people going to the doctors in the area. I do feel that that sends a message to us that we just have to approach Six Roads now with a lot more caution than previously.

There were numerous accidents along the Six Roads area, some of them as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South has said proved to be very fatal. Some of them resulted in serious and severe personal injuries to occupants of vehicles. With the coming of the roundabout it means that the traffic is going to be travelling that much slowly as it has to go around the roundabout. I believe that this will now minimise those frequent accidents that I have spoken about.

The stretch of road that runs from Beulah almost to Carrington is an area that a lot of motorists thought just lent itself to speeding, a long stretch of straight road coming from Beulah on to Carrington. The break that you have now in Six Roads will tend to curb that amount of speeding.

You used to get cases where people coming from the other four side roads had to wait for ten minutes at the junction before they could get access onto the main straight road. You had to be there just waiting and very often when you were waiting somebody else came close to you, somebody else came on the other road and you did not know who actually had the right of way to come out first. That sometimes resulted in the accidents that I spoke about. So this will be now a definite improvement where traffic in that area is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into the whole matter of what happens with the two businesses in Six Roads but I do believe that when the decision was taken to block out the entrances of the two businesses that that decision was taken as a precaution. In other words, you were saying it is quite possible for someone to exit from those two businesses onto the main road and to run across the path of oncoming traffic; but I do share the concerns of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and, indeed, the proprietor of the gas station after he spoke to me about it and I too would ask for some reconsideration as to the decision to block the entry to the gas station.

The truth of the matter is that the road that you have blocked off and the road that you can exit and enter on is no more than a distance from where I am, Sir, to where you are. In other words, you have blocked this one and say you

cannot use it, but just a few feet away is one that you are saying you can use and it is a bit baffling because what is being asked is that you can enter only the one which is blocked and that you are not going to be coming back through the same one that you entered but you will through the gas station. I too am a bit concerned and would ask that the decision be reconsidered.

My basic point, Mr. Speaker, is that I welcome the decision to acquire these lands so as to make the roundabout at Six Roads a reality. The people of St. Philip are already saying how nice the roundabout looks and they are already saying how good it is working because use is being made of it even though the actual paving of the road is not finished as yet. You can see, Mr. Speaker, that when it is finished it will go a long way to solving the many problems of traffic which we used to have at Six Roads.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to make a few comments on this Resolution that is before us and yet once again this hardworking Minister of the Government is demonstrating that if he were not acting there would have been precious little for Parliament to debate or discuss over the past months because when we look at our record it is the Minister of Public Works followed closely by the Minister of Sports who have been very active at different levels.

I hope you will permit me, Sir. I was absent from the Chamber when this House recognised the passing of the Honourable Member for St. James North father and I would merely wish to add my comments to the sentiments expressed by Honourable Members without encroaching too much on the proceedings of the House but his father was very well known to me. I knew him for a very long time and we were close neighbours and friends and I know that he made a very good contribution at the community level and it is appropriate that the tribute should have been paid to him and I merely wish for the record to make those comments.

I, myself, in my peregrinations through St. Philip and elsewhere have walked...

Asides.

4.20 p.m.

Sir, I have walked on the roads in the housing area itself near what is called the MarkCL I have walked on the roads leading to Marchfield and Sunbury. This is not canvassing, Sir. I am aware of the developments that are taking place around that area and I would wish to join in support of the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip South in welcoming the development, in noting the continuation of the project started by the Democratic Labour Party Administration, and also calling

for the naming of the roundabout after a distinguished member from that parish, Mr. Reynold Weekes, a former Member of this Honourable Chamber.

All of those things are well, Sir, but if we are talking about development, it must be integrated and it must be balanced. We all wish to see more development in our respective constituencies. I do not think, however, Sir, that there are many Honourable Members who would claim that their own constituencies, whether urban or rural, are getting what may be called a fair share of the resources available for distribution. I think, Sir, that as a Parliament, we must devise a better way of ensuring that there is an equitable distribution of the resources of the country in terms of bringing improvements in the infrastructure and improvements in community life across Barbados. I think that we cannot be passive and sit back and assume that it will happen because patently, at the present time, and in past times too, some are getting more than others, significantly more, and that is not equitable.

We have been encouraged by the example of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to get up, and speak up, and speak out, and apparently those who get up, and speak up, and speak out get some notice and some attention, so it is said. Those words were addressed to a special audience and were for the occasion. I do not think they had any general application but I think those words were an attempt to pacify those who were thought to be dissatisfied about how resources were being distributed.

Let me say, Sir, that I am shouting and I am angry from the Floor of this House that in St. Michael South there is patent and blatant neglect of the infrastructure and the facilities for community life and development in that constituency. I do not know what it is that the people of St. Michael South have done that they should be neglected in that way.

Sir, I wish to make my views loudly. I wish to make my views known from the Floor of this Honourable Chamber that speaking on behalf of the people of St. Michael South the infrastructure and facilities for community development have, over the past months and a couple of years, been severely neglected. Anyone driving through that constituency will find the roads in a complete state of disrepair.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: ...after 1994, and something should be done about it, Sir.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not have to have any shame to speak up on behalf of the people of St. Michael South. It is the Minister who should have shame in not doing the things that should be done. After all, Sir, he represents all of us and he has to ensure that those roads are reinstated and that they are reinstated promptly. He must write it down. He must make the note, Sir.

I will continue to do the things I need to do but the people of St. Michael South have supported its member over all of these years and however much they neglect them, they will continue to support the Member for St. Michael South. 4.30p.m.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: No Arthur runs you and no Thompson runs me. It is the people of the constituency.

Sir, we are talking about St. Philip and I will get back there. I am concerned about that road that leads pass the Home Agricultural Station. I am wondering, Sir, not so much about the road but about the station and what is going on there because it used to be one of the better agricultural stations in Barbados and I really hope that some attention would be paid to that.

Sir, before you consult any further your notes on the particular Resolution...

Mr. SPEAKER: Not really, I realise that you were only mentioning that in passing and that you were about to get back to the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. L.E. SANDIFORD: I am about to sit down, Sir, because I have made the point that I really wish to make on this and I do not really wish to detain the House any longer on this. I was merely claiming your forbearance in making my contribution on a previous matter.

Thank you.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, in listening to Honourable Members on that Side, a stranger to this debate would tend to believe that the Barbados Labour Party administration has been in Government for the past fifty years. It is strange because before the Honourable Member for St. Michael South got up, I was reflecting on a question that he asked the month after we came into Government. He was asking the Minister of Public Works to send a team to remove rubbish and bush from Clarkes Avenue, Bayville in St. Michael, in his constituency. That was within a month of our coming to office. That was the nature of the question that he asked in this House a month after we came in. He

was stating that the area was overgrown with bush and he was talking about the Christmas season coming in.

I did not, Mr. Speaker, make any secret of the fact when I spoke to this Resolution that this forms part of a World Bank loan which we got in 1992. You do not have to be a Democratic Labour Party supporter or a Barbados Labour Party supporter to know in 1992 which party was in power. Therefore, I was not putting any political slant to this debate. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South got up and gave a political speech with respect to what the Democratic Labour Party did prior to 1994, reminding us in no uncertain terms that this is a Democratic Labour Party project. This is not a Democratic Labour Party project and you know why, Mr. Speaker, project after project which was funded by those international institutions that were responsible for lending money for our capital works programmes were halted in their progress by the Minister of Finance who had indicated on all the files that no further works was to be done on the project until funds were available.

Asides.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is making some very sweeping accusation without presenting evidence to support what he is saying. I happened to be the Minister of Public Works for a short period during 1994 and at no time was any project halted. All of the projects that are listed in the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto on page 43, and if you will permit me to read them into the record, I will do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member please, there is no need for that.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I just want to make my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member please, your point of order is very clear. A point of order is not an opportunity to make a speech. You have made your point of order.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: You understand clearly that no project was stopped. Projects were going on and it has taken the Government four years and they have not completed the Democratic Labour Party projects as yet. They have not started on their own.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another point now.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: I should have risen on points of order.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L.E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew has stated, quite erroneously, that a Minister of Finance and he was referring to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. He is referring to me, Sir, and what he is saying is blatantly untrue.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said blatantly, Sir. The Minister is very 'touchous' today. That is a good Bajan expression. I wish to make it absolutely clear that during the years of recession in Barbados as Minister of Finance I indicated that those projects which were funded by the Barbados Government and which we could not continue because they were cutting expenditure as one of the means for turning around the economy that those had to be suspended until improvements came about. That was the point, Sir, but he is putting it in a different context.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has confirmed what I was saying. It is just that he has used different words. This is one of those projects funded by the international agencies, according to him, which was suspended.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This is a question of straight and crooked thinking. The thinking of the Minister is obviously crooked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what did you say?

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said the thinking, Sir. I can withdraw that, Sir. I mean it is not straight, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those words will be withdrawn.

Rt. Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: That is the title of a leading book in logic of which the Minister is very familiar with. I was not referring to him or his actions, that would be far from me to think so. I wanted to clear that up. I made no mention of internationally funded projects because the funds for those projects were secured. We were not talking about those projects, Sir.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I really do not want to dwell on this matter because the Honourable Member knows....

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I was hoping that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew would have clarified his erroneous statement. I wish to add that as Minister of Finance I never put a halt to any World Bank project, least of all this one because this particular project

included the paving of a large number of roads in St. John. Society, Stuart Hill, Church View and Massiah Street right through into St. George. Therefore, it would have been foolhardy of me to stop any of those projects. Those roads were in fact paved within months of the Democratic Labour Party losing office in accordance with the funds made available by the World Bank. 4.40 p.m.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would still repeat what I was saying. The Honourable Members on that Side are obviously ashamed of the performance of the Democratic Labour Party during the period leading up to 6th September 1994. This particular project is one of the projects that was suspended at the time when we came into Government and it is one of the projects that we picked up.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, there are certain parts of this project...

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member in his preliminary address indicated that work in advance of progressing the project in terms of acquisition had to be done before certain physical work could be completed. At no stage was the project suspended. Work preparatory had to be done in terms of researching the land that is being acquired today so it is not fair for the Minister to keep suggesting that anything was suspended. We went out of office and we did not complete it.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying this is one of the projects that we had to restart or rather go through. Nothing was done on this particular project and it has been so even with the remainder of the other aspects of the packages under the World Bank Programme. As a result of the delays in providing the counterpart funds we will, by the end of the year, lose the funding which would have been available if we had accessed the project at that time.

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member indicated that this is a project he had to restart. All of the drawings, designs, everything had been completed and what the Honourable Member should indicate is that the new administration in fact shortened the project because we had it to go from Newton to Six Roads and they have shortened it and made it from Searles to Six Roads. So he should explain to the House that he has diminished the project. He has not expanded on it therefore he should explain it in full detail.

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, that all of the development, the road works which you are seeing all over the country, Honourable Members on that side, like their supporters are somewhat surprised that we have been able to get done what they have been unable to do

during the period 1986 to 1994 when they were the Government.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip South alluded to some problems with respect to access at two business locations in the area near the roundabout and even though he did say that the matter is *sub judice* he was very clever in saying that the Minister visited the area shortly before the particular area was blocked. And while I do not think, knowing the Honourable Member, that he would want to suggest that the Minister had anything to do with the blocking of the area I would certainly, for the clarification of this House, like to state that those two areas should be treated separately. One particular area with respect to the Chefette Restaurant relates to a judicial review which is being called for as a result of a decision by the Chief Town Planner.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not think I will be going too much into the matter to say that there are certain assurances which were given at the time when that facility was being constructed and the conditions are fairly well-known.

With respect to the Shell Service Station where there has been no such activity the owners of that particular gas station actually agreed with the development which took place during the past few days in the form of the blockage of that particular area, the access on to the Shell Service Station. What had happened is that because of the inactivity and the delay in constructing the roundabout it was agreed that until the Division of Public Works had sorted out the roundabout that they would have been able to utilise that area as an interim measure. That was agreed. The gas station even provided land to the back for an access road leading to both Chefette and Shell. So it was an agreement which was reached with the owners of Shell gas station and they sought, after seeing the use to which the access was put, to make what was supposed to be a temporary arrangement permanent. That is all that happened, Mr. Speaker, so I just thought I would set the record straight where that was concerned.

With respect, Mr. Speaker, to the naming of the roundabout I do not want any dishonesty and I use that word deliberately. I do not want any dishonesty to be associated with the naming of this roundabout. I have heard the Honourable Member for St. John get in here and speak about how dishonest and criminal an administration could be if we, as a matter of policy, could refuse to repair, and those were his words, the road at Foster Hall. So I do not want it to be felt in here that someone has agreed to the naming of Six Roads roundabout to any particular person. There has been no agreement or no discussion. The first time I have ever heard about the naming of a roundabout at Six Roads is

today and I have never heard about an Opposition naming, officially, a particular road or a particular building. So it is strange to me that the Democratic Labour Party could come in here because of the season that we are in, as if to force Government to name a roundabout after a particular person. When the appropriate time comes that roundabout will be named and I would like to say, so far as if to show the disunity in the Democratic Labour Party camp, we have had about 4 suggestions on the naming of that roundabout, from members of the Democratic Labour Party and they have come up with four different names of members from the Democratic Labour Party. That is how disunited they are. Reynold Weekes did not feature in any of those recommendations. That shows how disunited they are, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. F. J. STUART: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am not aware, Mr. Speaker, that any Member on this Side of the House has proposed any other name for the Six Roads roundabout than that of the late Reynold Weekes. To suggest that any other Member sitting on this Side of the House has suggested any other name is patently untrue.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please. At this point, could you continue. The Chair is not going to entertain any further discussion on the naming of a roundabout which is not part of the Resolution. Could we proceed?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. During the contribution of the Honourable Member, the Honourable Member...

Mr. SPEAKER: Does your point of order in any way relate to the naming of a roundabout?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: No, Sir. I am not getting involved in that. I am seeking to explain to the House on a point of order that the Honourable Member in his address said that up until today he had heard no talk about the naming of a roundabout and within seconds he said that he had received four from them. 4.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe the Honourable Member was stating clearly to you that there is a difference between oral and written.

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

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that we revert to question time.

Mr. SPEAKER: If such be the will of the House, so be it. Question 59. The Honourable Member for St. John.

QUESTION NO. 59

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister state whether Government proposes to repair the Foster Hall/Newcastle Main Road in the parish of Saint John which has been out of use since October 1994 and, if so, will the Minister state the date on which such repairs will commence?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 59 asked by the Honourable D. J. H. Thompson, M.P., Honourable Member for St. John on the 2nd of June 1998. Yes, the Government proposes to repair the Foster Hall/Newcastle Main Road in the parish of St. John. The work will commence as soon as funds become available.

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementary question. Question No. 61. The Honourable Member for St. John.

QUESTION NO. 61

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: To ask the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing: Will the Minister state whether the National Housing Corporation proposes to undertake the Housing Project at Clifton Hall, St. John during 1998/99 fiscal year?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 61 asked by the Honourable Member for St. John on the 2nd of June 1998. The answer, Mr. Speaker, the contract for the completion of road works at Clifton Hall, St. John has been awarded and all documents relating thereto have been signed by all parties.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Supplementary question, Sir. When is construction of the Housing Project proposed to start?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Construction of the contract will begin as soon as the Contractor has mobilized.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Can you tell me who is the contractor who has been appointed?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Rayside Concrete Works.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Can the Minister say whether the houses will be allocated in accordance with the letters which the National Housing Corporation issued to the persons who had applied for the lots?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: The houses will be allocated in accordance with the usual policy of the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the end of your Supplementary Questions. Any other supplementary questions?

Mr. J. O. TUDOR: Supplementary question. Could the Minister please indicate when and the specific date on which the contract was signed?

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: I am not in possession of that information at this time.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any other Supplementaries?

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could we proceed please?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday 7th July, 1998 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 4.56p.m.

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