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# THE

## House of Assembly Debates

### (OFFICIAL REPORT)

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FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

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#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, June 13, 2000*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2000.

#### PRESENT

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P., (Deputy Speaker)  
Hon. Sir Henry FORDE, K.A., Q.C., M.A., LL.M. (Cantab.)  
Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Q.C., LL.M. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)  
Hon. Sir Harold St. JOHN, K.A., Q.C., LL.B.  
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)  
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)  
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources)  
Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)  
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Housing and Lands)  
Hon. R. D. MARSHALL (Minister of Public Works and Transport)  
Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)  
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN  
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture)  
Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS  
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.  
Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)  
Mr. D. T. GILL, B.Sc.

Hon. A. P. WOOD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B. Sc. (Minister of Industry and International Business)

*Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

#### MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, May 30, 2000.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of Wednesday, May 31, 2000 have been circulated. To the best of my knowledge, there are no errors or corrections and subject to any motion that any Member might move, I beg to move that those Minutes stand confirmed.

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

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

#### PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay the following:

Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Tourism Investment Inc.) Order, 2000.

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Government for the repayment by the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTI), the sum of \$25 million borrowed by way of the issue of bonds, to be known as Special Development Bonds and the interest on the principal sum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also wish to give notice to withdraw the Bills circulated as the Fair Trading Commission Bill and the Utilities Regulation Bill and to substitute therefor, two Bills bearing the same titles but which are dated June 7, 2000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me explain. Those two Bills which I move to withdraw were laid and circulated on March 21, 2000. It was then explained that there would have been a period for public consultation to allow comments to be made on those Bills and for some public education to take place on the part of the Ministry in addition to that which has preceded the laying of those Bills.

Those consultations have been completed as a result of the consultations with the public and the public education programme, for example, the Issues and Answers programme. The Government has accepted a few proposals for amendment to the Bills so that the Bills being substituted now represents the final position of Government taking into account comments of the public. This was a deliberate process of consultation that the Government entered into to allow for wider participation of the public. Therefore, I beg to move that the Bills dated June 7, 2000 be substituted for those laid in March.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to advise the House that the debate on these two Bills will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2000. It is the Government's desire to have the debate televised and I am giving notice that in the usual way I will be writing the Leader of the Opposition and yourself for permission to have the debate televised.

I am obliged to you.

*The question that these two Bills be withdrawn and new Bills substituted therefor, was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.*

## FIRST READING OF BILLS

*On the motion of the Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, the following Bills were read a first time.*

- (1) The Fair Trading Commission Bill.
- (2) The Utilities Regulation Bill.

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

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE  
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND  
SITUATED AT TODDS, ST. GEORGE FOR  
THE PUBLIC PURPOSES OF THE  
PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES AND HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Resolution before the House seeks permission to acquire two parcels of land measuring approximately 1.61 hectares and 2.43 hectares at Todds, St. George South for recreational facilities and housing development respectively. Both of these parcels are owned by Todds Estates Ltd. The first parcel which is known as West Gully Field is contiguous with Lot 2, Belle Farm to the North. To the East, there are also other lands of Todds Estates Ltd. and there are a number of houses located near this field while to the West there is land that is owned by Belle Farm Ltd.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over ten years ago, this parcel of land was taken out of agriculture because of its unsuitability for the planting of sugar canes and Todds Community Centre has been utilising this part of Todds for a playing field. Mr. Deputy Speaker, although the land was very uneven, the residents of Todds and Macaroni Village used this particular field as a playing area. The residents of Woodland and Greens, St. George would also journey over there to use the area as their recreation facility.

In 1995, the parliamentary representative for the area asked the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture to donate a prefab building to be used as a pavilion for the residents of the area. This prefab building was removed from the Cherry Grove Primary School and was erected at Todds, St. George. It is then that the owners of Todds asked

the residents of Todds to dismantle the building. The Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Sports and Community Development since 1995 was trying to acquire this land for playing facilities for the residents. We tried to acquire through a Private Treaty arrangement but this did not work out because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the title for the land was not forthcoming since the owner could not find the proper title deeds and Plan for this particular area.

11.30 a.m.

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Therefore, I was saying that the title deeds for this particular land could not be found by the owners. Since 1995 we were trying to acquire this land by Private Treaty and it fell through. I must inform you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that one of the ways Government acquires land is by Private Treaty. When we acquire land by Private Treaty, it does not really come to the House first. It is where the owners agree to sell the land to Government and the price is bargained over between the owner and the Government's negotiating team. This fell through not merely because of the price but because the owners could not find the title deeds. Whenever owners cannot find the title deeds to the land, Government then comes to Parliament to give a proper title, that is the importance of the Acquisition Act where a proper title can be given to Government through the acquisition process. This is where we are today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, after three years, this matter has now reached Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are also taking a second parcel of land at Todds for housing as well. This community, as I said before, comprises people from Macaroni Village and there are a number of surrounding villages like the St. Judes and Woodland Villages. The housing development at Todds is important especially since the land that we are acquiring is marginal land. It has not been in cultivation for a number of years and it is in sight of a tenantry. It is currently being used by a number of the residents as a playing facility.

Therefore, the Ministry of Housing has decided that this parcel of land will be suitable for housing and the second parcel will be suitable for recreational facilities. It is also in keeping with Government's programme that villages such as Todds and Macaroni Villages should have playing facilities where the residents can find meaningful activities.

It is also important to note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we will be doing similar acquisitions before the House goes on recess. We have to look at development at Mount Steadfast for recreation. We were trying to look at this under a Private Treaty arrangement but this was not done. The residents have been asking for recreational facilities as well as housing. We were trying to do this by Private Treaty again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but persons could not find their

title deeds. There are many cases where people pay their land tax bill and believe that they are the owners. Paying a land tax bill does not really give you the right to own the land. Many people will say that they own the land because they pay the land tax bill but they do not have the proper title deeds to the land when this happens, then we have to come to Parliament.

We are also doing a Private Treaty arrangement at Rices, St. Philip. It will come to Parliament when we put the land in the National Housing Corporation. There is also land, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at Church Village where we are doing acquisitions through a Private Treaty arrangement.

We have to tidy, as I said before, land at Rock Hall Police Station where we will have to come to Parliament and give proper title to District 'D' Police Station which Government acquired several decades ago but it does not have the title to land at District 'D' Police Station.

Sir, there are a number of acquisitions in the pipeline that were started sometime ago under the Private Treaty arrangement that have fallen through and we will have to do them by Private Treaty. Sometimes Members feel that the acquisition process takes a long time. It takes a long time when persons cannot find their title or when owners do not agree to the purchase of their property. When that is so, then we have to come through the parliamentary process of compulsory acquisition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we therefore want to notify Members that the survey plans are attached. The plans were done by Franklin and Franklin and were certified by the Lands and Survey Department since March of this year and copies are available for Honourable Members. The Attorney General has also certified that a Resolution is in order for introduction in the House.

With these remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is rather interesting that the Honourable Member for St. George North did not mention the property owner's name. If this Resolution was brought by the Democratic Labour Party, we would have been accused of taking good agricultural land and allowing certain companies to subdivide good agricultural land. One wonders, Sir, what is the agenda behind this particular Resolution.

I am told that some Honourable Ministers are now seen frequenting the premises and officially opening certain projects belonging to the owners of this particular property. I welcome that and I hope that I do not hear anybody accusing the Democratic Labour Party of allowing people to buy large parcels of land to subdivide them for housing purposes.

I also want to say, Sir, as I have said in other debates before, St. George is an area in Barbados which happens to be an agricultural belt. In any development for housing or otherwise, I would like this particular point to be recognized. I have also said to this Parliament that there are developers in this country who have always used the strategy of the “small, black man and housing for the poor” to bring projects as the excuse to subdivide larger portions of land.  
11.40 a.m.

I hope that I will not hear in this Parliament that because we have houses at Todds and we are expanding the housing stock at Todds that there would be a request of this Parliament to allow further agricultural land to be subdivided because somebody wants to protect the housing that will be placed on this particular land. A good example of that particular policy can be seen in the Warrens and Welches in St. Thomas area where people have been able to use that excuse to subdivide large portions of land. I also want to say that it is time that this Government recognises that housing for the poor must be a priority and I want to repeat the housing policy that I have given this Government for years and they have not done anything about it.

I also believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if we are a Parliament and there are supposed to be 28 of us of the same complexion although some might not think so.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I stated a fact that there are 28 of us and some of us may not think that we are alike and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is offended by that. I never knew that he had a problem with his colour. Am I to believe that I am wrong in believing that we are all in here of one complexion? I am not aware that we were different. I did not realise that that was a problem in this Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we have to be serious about the housing problem in Barbados and we must recognise that if the masses of this country are to have ‘a piece of the Rock’ as we call it in Barbados, that the Government must be prepared to acquire compulsorily large parcels of land, and that is not agricultural land, and that they must be prepared to allow MPT to put in the necessary amenities and charge the people only at the cost of the land.

I will tell you why they cannot now tell me that I do not have a point. In urban Barbados the Government is now implementing a policy where they subsidise the cost of land for people who already have land and I am saying that the same way Government could subsidise the cost for people in urban Barbados they also have a right and a commitment to make sure that those people in Barbados who do not have a right to land now have a right at a reasonable cost.

No more can they tell me in this Parliament that that proposal does not make sense, for the simple reason that if we do not as a Parliament put those types of policies in place there are going to be large numbers of Barbadians who will never see the right to a land tax bill or a conveyance. If we are serious about the people we represent, any enlightened and progressive Parliament would implement that particular policy.

If we are not progressive and are regressive as they might be, then that particular policy will not be implemented. So the challenge to the Barbados Labour Party and the Honourable Members on the Other Side is to show the Barbadian public whether they are really serious about owning land in this country or whether they are prepared to allow every single piece of land in Barbados to be subdivided and to be sold to people who have the largesse.

We cannot now only see beach land anymore as having value because the development that is going on in Barbados is not development only on the coast but there are smart rich people who have decided to take this development right through the heart of Barbados and from one end of Barbados to the other.

We must recognise that the only people who can change the price of land will be the Government of the day. If we do not take a stand now, what will happen is that people will fly into Barbados, buy up all the estates at high prices and whenever Government decides to purchase a property they will then have to pay a higher price than what the purchasers would have purchased previously.

A good example of that, Sir, would have been what happened at Bennetts in St. Thomas where there is a possibility of instead of Government buying land from Bennetts plantation, as it was at the time, as Barbados Farms, there is a possibility that they might have paid the Sandy Lane Estate for land that should have been purchased from Bennetts at a lower price.

I am also saying that they cannot tell Barbadians that they were not privileged to get 52 acres in the Bennetts area, they refused to buy 52 acres of land right on the highway and allowed Bennetts to continue to own the land when, in truth and in fact, they did not have a real purpose for owning that particular land.

I am saying, Sir, that if we are serious politicians we will take these particular points into consideration and that we will do the necessary thing to make sure that Barbadians have hope. What is happening in this country is that we have tokenised everything and we feel that once we try to impress certain people that is important. Cosmetology seems to be the profession now of every Government Minister in Parliament, just present a pretty picture and that is the important thing. That cannot continue to happen. As Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure you will support me on this particular matter and somehow I feel I have the eye of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East on this particular matter. I would like to believe also that the Honourable Member for St. James North being a good country boy will support me on this matter.

I would also like to find out from the Minister of Housing why we have toured the rural parish of St. Lucy and he has visited and I can say that he appreciated the land I offered him in rural Barbados was not agricultural land that could be used otherwise and that it was suitable and is some of the best land that can be used for housing in Barbados for the simple reason that ...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ... Mount Gay Hill, Colleton, Lamberts Hill, Harmony, not River Bay. That is a special area and it should not be interfered with Jordans in St. Lucy, Bishops and also Lowland.

*Aside.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ... Because of the nearness of the sea it cannot be regarded as agricultural land. You can hardly grow a proper sugar cane there.  
11.50 a.m.

There is a demand for house lots in St. Lucy. I am saying that the same way that St. George can get house lots that I feel that places like St. Lucy and St. Philip should be entitled for some too, especially the people at Rock Hall in St. Philip.

Sir, I hope that the Honourable Member for St. George North would recognise that seeing that I already offered the land at Colleton to resite the people at Six Men's and it was not accepted that I am quite prepared to take all the lots at Colleton for my people in St. Lucy because they have the cash and they are ready to buy the land – and Cottage too.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I called Cottage every since. When I talk about Cottage, I am talking about Cottage in St. Lucy.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Did you say that Cottage was beautiful? Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James North is telling me that Cottage is a beautiful spot. It is obvious because it is where I was born.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we have to recognise that housing in Barbados cannot be only for those constituencies represented by the Barbados Labour Party and they cannot continue to have housing lots in only certain constituencies and then come to this Parliament and behave as if...

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The problem with you is that you do not have land but I can lend you some.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Oh, you have land and they are treating you badly too? Well, do not worry, a couple of months from now you will be able to reshuffle him and put the right Minister there so do not worry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that the people of St. Lucy have been requesting house spots for too long. Sir, I have done my part. I have taken the Minister there, I have requested National Housing Corporation to do the necessary work, I have spoken to the Government already on this matter, I have even given them what I consider to be the proper policy to make sure that every single poor person in Barbados stands the opportunity of owing a house lot.

Sir, I am sure that the particular housing policy, as stated by myself, if there were a Referendum tomorrow on that particular housing policy that every single poor person in Barbados would agree that it is the particular proposal that would better their lives when it comes to housing.

I would like to know how come, Sir, that something as important as this that the Barbados Labour Party Government cannot see it fit to implement it and to make sure that the masses in Barbados have that opportunity.

Sir, I am also sure that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and even the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would agree with me on this particular matter because any discussion on housing lots must be always regarded as an important discussion. I was in Arch Hall when the people from Arch Hall were promised that the landfill would be removed and that they would have

been given housing units. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas can bear me out on this. The people of Arch Hall said, no, we do not want housing units, we want land lots. The MP said to them, if you want land lots, you will get land lots.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. There is a Standing Order against repetition. Every time the Honourable Member speaks in here on these acquisitions he refers to the desires of the people of Arch Hall for individual house lots rather than terrace units. Sir, I have been hearing him repeat that now for at least four years.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas for saying that. Can you imagine, Sir, that I am supposed to be representing St. Lucy and I have now to come and put a case for the people of St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas refuses to accept house lots for his people.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The people of Arch Hall would certainly not want the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to put a case for them. The one occasion when he appeared in Arch Hall, in the presence of the people of Arch Hall at a Town Meeting with myself, Sir, the people of Arch Hall 'wiped the floor' with him, Sir. I say one thing for him. He has the hide of a rhinoceros or the back of a duck.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is quite correct but what he did not tell you is that it was in a church that they promised the people that they would move the landfill within one year. Imagine it was in a church and the landfill is still there six years after.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, housing in this country must be the number one priority and people must recognise that even though the Constitution of Barbados gives it a glance, it does not recognise it as a right. I honestly believe that the right of ownership of land should be a right for every citizen in this country. Nobody should feel that because somebody has money that they could come to Barbados and they could decide the price of land in this country. Sir, when that happens I feel that it should be the moral right of the Government to make sure that the amount of land is acquired to make sure that Barbadians have a right to a piece of land.

I want to repeat something that I have said before, lest they forget. Sir, I am saying that Government should compulsorily acquire large parcels of rab land. I will repeat this, they should sell back land to the people at a price which equals to the same price or at least 10% greater and the amenities that are put in by the Ministry of Public Works

should not be charged to poor people. I am going to use that argument because if you are living in a tenantry and you have houses there, Sir, and the Ministry of Public Works put in the amenities they cannot charge you so for new persons looking for properties they should not charge those persons either.

I am saying that if they do that, Sir, that the poor people in Barbados would recognise that at least somebody in this country has a heart and that is why I am requesting the Members of Cabinet and the back bench to support this matter. I also expect to get some support on this particular matter from the Honourable Member for St. George South because the Honourable Member represents a particular group of people that would welcome a decision like this in this Parliament. This is what he would call social justice so I want to hear the Honourable Member on this particular matter.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, I want you to put it in Hansard. I do not want you telling me downstairs that you agree with me. I want you to get up in this Parliament and tell Parliament that you agree with any policy that is going to benefit the masses of people in this country and to give them ownership in their own country and that you support it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: In the last minute, Sir, I will say that I welcome the opportunity to speak on this particular matter. I do not expect, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said earlier, to have to repeat this matter again. He said that I said this about four times already so if I have to say it the fifth time, Sir, I can only come to the conclusion that the Government on the Other Side happens to be a Government only interested in selling land to those who have the money to pay for it.

Sir, I thank you very much.  
12 noon.

Mr. L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to speak very briefly on this Resolution. It has been long in coming principally because of the difficulty that we got from the owners of Todds and their attorney, the Honourable Member for St. John.

If I may give a brief history of this, Sir. There was a part of Todds Plantation adjacent to a housing tenantry that was used by the young people of the area as a playing field. The plantation had taken this parcel of land out of

agriculture and it was just lying there. I raised the question of the acquisition of that for a permanent playing field with the owners of Todds Plantation, CLICO. I had meetings with them and their lawyers and they agreed that they would not sell the land but they gave a 99 year lease at \$100.00 a year. Their lawyer was asked to finalise this arrangement.

I, at the time, asked the Ministry of Education if they would let us have a prefabricated school unit that was at Cherry Grove School and which was no longer in use since the Government had built a new school at Mount Tabor. I asked them if they would transfer this prefabricated school unit to the pasture where the boys played cricket in Todds, both the people at CLICO and their lawyer agreed. It was duly transferred and as soon as it was transferred, I received word in writing, that the CLICO reneged. They were no longer going through with it and said that the people of Todds were not to use this land as any playing field. The prefabricated building that was placed on the land went to ruin, the material was then used as firewood by one of the people up there.

I raised this again with the people and asked them if they did not have a social conscience. They did not believe that all the people at Todds Tenantry and Macaroni Village who worked principally on their plantations were entitled to have some consideration from them. Todds, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is an oasis on the eastern part of St. George adjacent to St. John. It is there by itself with canes around it and it is a self-contained community and it deserve this kind of consideration, but we did not get the support from the people at CLICO – Mr. Parris and his lawyer, the Honourable Member for St. John as they promised.

I am, therefore very glad that the Minister of Housing, who knows the area very well and has taught many of the young people who live in that area, I am very glad that he has come to their rescue. It is not only about recreation as I see in the Resolution, acquisition of land for a playing field but also for housing. This is an area that is ripe for development. I do not mean development, Sir, by a number of outsiders coming in and getting spots, changing the character of the community. The children of those people who live in Todds have been asking whether they could not get house spots in the same area so that they could extend the housing stock for themselves. In other words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they want to keep the integrity of the village and I too want to keep the integrity of the village.

I am just saying emphatically, Sir, that I welcome the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I am glad that after about three decades, on my part, putting a case for the socially and economically disadvantaged in this country that the Honourable Member has now, in recent times, because of his age, Sir, got on board. I welcome company on the train of the good society. I welcome you and I am glad to

have you.

*Asides.*

Mr. L. R. TULL : In respect of the playing area, the land slopes considerably and therefore it is going to require a lot of work to level it out for a proper playing field. I hope that the Minister of Housing has talked to his colleague, the Minister of Sports. The children could join with me as we form a triumvirate that would make sure that the work that is to be done would be done expeditiously.

Passing a Resolution in the House is one step, to translate the passage of the Resolution into an effective functioning utility in a community is another thing. I will certainly be working with the Minister of Housing, I keep having to say my Parliamentary Representative and he has to work for my vote, so I would be working with him to make sure that this thing is made functional in a very short period of time.

I came in late so I do not know if the Minister has mentioned it. One of the reasons why we have been a little tardy in bringing this thing to fruition is because the owners of Todds, after about two years discovered that they did not have title deeds to the land. Although they were promising the Government, Ministry of Housing and Lands, to deliver the title deeds so that the land could be acquired because they were doing it by Private Treaty, after more than two years they informed the Government that they could not put their hands on the title deeds and, therefore, it had to take other action. It is for this reason that the Government had to come to Parliament for the acquisition of this land by law under the Land Acquisition Act.

The people of Todds will be excited that this Parliament has today passed this Resolution. They have waited a long time and they have been leaning on their Parliamentary Representative for a long time because he is the one who must deliver. In a sense he is the one but he has to rely on other persons in other organs, in other areas of Government to help with the delivery.

I want to thank the Government for now giving very favourable look at the community needs of the constituency of St. George South. God knows that constituency has suffered over the years. One of the things that I always find very interesting about politics in this country, is too often people's eyes are put on Elections and votes, and within the period between one Election and the other it is often difficult to pull your eyes away from last Election and the next Election and deal with things that vitally affect people.

One of the difficulties therefore, in respect of St. George South and the lack of facilities is, 'you want to beat

somebody by a million'; in other words if you win big you are not to get anything, only the people who scrape home are to get something for their constituency because they are looking towards the next Election rather than looking at the genuine needs of the people.

I have a different view, Sir. My view is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those who support you in large numbers and give you massive majorities are those who should have first call on the resources of Government.

*Asides.*  
12.10 p.m.

Mr. L. R. TULL: That is Shakespeare.

*Asides.*

Mr. L. R. TULL: The Democratic Labour Party treated the constituency of St. George South as if it never existed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. George South is misleading the House because he knows quite well, Sir, that when the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South that used to sit on this Side was the Prime Minister, he used to look after him well.

Mr. L. R. TULL: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South in the last Government was under a massacre.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member must withdraw those remarks because I did not massacre anybody, Sir, and he is reflecting on me something that is not honourable.

Mr. L. R. TULL: The former Honourable Member of whom he speaks was my friend who did things for me personally but not for my constituency. My constituency got nothing when the Democratic Labour Party was in Government at any period, no utilities, no roads, no houses, no playing fields, nothing.

Sir, I am sorry to disappoint the Honourable Member, but all the developments of any significance in my constituency have been done by the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, again I am grateful to the Minister for bringing this Resolution at this time and I look forward to the actual work on the ground to bring these badly needed resources to the people of the constituency of St. George South.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. George South for his remarks and also the Honourable Member for St.

Lucy for his remarks on providing land for every Barbadian.

It is indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the wish of this Government that we should provide enough land that most Barbadians, I cannot say for every Barbadian will own land because it may not be possible, but we have acquired large tracts of land across and we continue to acquire land so that we would put at the disposal of most Barbadians to own land. We believe that in the final analysis when Barbadians own land it is helpful to them, their families and the country.

The Honourable Member spoke about selling land at concessionary rates. Already this Party has gone on the records as selling land at ten cents per square foot to most of the tenancies in Barbados and the records have shown...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am not aware of any Government who owns plantations and to say that plantations who sell land at ten cents per square foot that it is the Government, something is wrong and he has to be misleading the House, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was an act of this Government, between 1976-1986, had the vision and a policy where plantation owners sold the land at ten cents per square foot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) put in the roads during those years, but it is not possible at this time to ask MTW to put in the roads in tenancies because MTW must also find contractors to put in the roads. They do not have the equipment to develop all of these tenancies across Barbados so MTW would always have to go out to tender for the developers to put in the roads, so it is not really feasible for MTW to do this.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House because I have never seen a policy of Government where they have stated that MTW has sold all the equipment they had. I would like to know what has happened to the equipment that was owned by MTW up to one year ago, Sir.

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, the cost of land for the poor is also sold at concessionary rates, because, as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, land is bought by central Government, passed on to the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and the tenants get the land at concessionary rates.

The NHC will bill in a price for the development cost, that is it, but generally speaking, the land that is sold by the NHC is usually at very concessionary rates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are looking at the cost of land. We have looked at the cost of land over the last two or three years and we have kept the price to a low. It is true that other developers are selling land at higher prices but we have kept the price of land very reasonable and we will continue to do so.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. George North is misleading the House, Sir, by giving the House the impression that the cheapest land you can get is from the NHC and that is not true.

Sir, NHC does not have the cheapest land and I do not think that the Honourable Member should mislead the House by giving that impression.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, I am not saying that the NHC has the cheapest land. I am saying that we sell our land at concessionary rates. We are still selling land, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at \$2.50 per square foot and less than \$2.50. We are also selling land across Barbados for \$4.00, \$5.00...

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: ...because there are certain developments that are commercial in nature.

Hon. Sir Henry FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is within my knowledge that the NHC today is selling land more cheaply than the other real estate agents who are selling land in Barbados, that is a fact and furthermore, this Government has caused all the plantations in Barbados listed to be selling land at ten cents per square foot. I do not know where else in Barbados you can get ten cents per square foot land from anybody. It is a misrepresentation to give the House and the public the impression that the Government has not taken positive measures to enfranchise people by land ownership.

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is also important for us not to send a message out there to poor people to say to them that because they are poor, they must get land free. I think the records have shown that the majority of poor people are those people who pay the land taxes first.

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: The majority of poor people are those people who are willing to pay for their land. We will want to encourage all of them to own the land, but I do not think it is fair to encourage people not to pay for the land.

Of course, our development cost is rising. Sometimes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it costs approximately \$4.00 and \$5.00 per square foot to develop, to put in roads, water, electricity, and if it is natural gas, it is even more expensive, to develop land for housing cost a lot. The surveying costs and the costs of the various utilities are quite high. Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course we have tried to lower the price but it is very difficult, but we will continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to reassure the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that we have visited all the constituencies in St. Lucy with the Honourable Member and we are looking at acquiring land at the Cottage and Lamberts in St. Lucy. I think a lot of Lamberts land is still owned by the Government and we will also be looking at land at Cottage.

As I said to the Honourable Member, the acquisition process takes some time where you have to get the agricultural personnel to move the land out of agriculture if it has to be transferred from agriculture to housing. If we have to attain the ownership, we have to look at the size of the land and a number of things. The Barbados Water Authority has to say to us if the water can be acquired in that particular area and if it is a Zone 1, Zone 2 or Zone 3 so these are things that we must take into consideration.

With those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to beg that this Resolution do now pass.

*The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*  
12.15 p.m.

#### RE-COMMITTAL OF MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would wish with your indulgence and with the commission of the House to recommit the item 'Minutes' on the Order Paper.

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

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

#### MINUTES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier today the Leader of the House moved the passage of one set of Minutes. I think it may have slipped our memories that we met on a second day during the week and I would beg to

move that the Minutes of the meeting of the Honourable House of Assembly of its meeting of May 31, 2000 be taken as read.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE  
GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BARBADOS FOR THE REPAYMENT BY THE  
BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC.  
(BTI) OF \$25,000,000.00 BORROWED BY  
THE WAY OF THE ISSUE OF BONDS  
TO BE KNOWN AS SPECIAL  
DEVELOPMENT BONDS AND  
THE INTEREST ON THE  
PRINCIPAL SUM

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very important Resolution, I would say historic Resolution, coming before this Honourable House and I consider that I am privileged to be the mover of it.

The Resolution is seeking the approval of this Parliament of a guarantee by the Government of Barbados for the repayment by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI) of some \$25 million borrowed by the way of the issue of bonds to be known as Special Development Bonds and the interest on the principal sum. The proceeds of the loan are to be used to facilitate the implementation of certain infrastructural improvements in Bridgetown and Speightstown. The rate of interest will be 8¼ per cent and will be paid twice yearly, at the end of December and the end of June of each year. The maturity date will be December 31, 2015.

Perhaps, I should start off first by speaking to the identity of the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated now familiarly known as the BTII. The Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated started life from what used to be known as the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation (BTIC) which later became the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTI). This is a company which is solely owned by the Government of Barbados.

The Guarantee of Loans (Companies) Act, 1998 allows the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTII) to issue bonds on the local market. This Act – meaning the Guarantee of Loans (Companies) Act – provides for the guarantee by the Government of Barbados of loans granted by Lending Agencies to companies in which the Government holds at least fifty per cent of the ordinary share capital.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the guarantee. If I may speak a little fulsomely to the guarantee, the Cabinet of Barbados in November of last year had agreed on terms and conditions of

what is now being described in this Resolution as First Special Development Bonds issued under the Guarantee of Loans (Companies) Act.

We know that the loan will be \$25 million and I have just spoken to the matter of the rate of interest and the maturity date of the bond issue. The payment of the principal is to be effective by a bullet payment at the maturity of the bonds. The payment of the principal and the interest is to be made on the due date by the Central Bank of Barbados from funds provided by the Government of Barbados.

A sinking fund is to be established by the Government at the rate of 2½ per cent to assist with the retirement of the bond issue. The bonds are to be eligible – and I consider this to be of prime importance – for listing on the Securities Exchange of Barbados. The bonds are to qualify as an investment for the statutory fund of life insurance companies to the extent required and the bonds are to be zero-rated and to qualify as fully allowable reserves for commercial banks in Barbados.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West has a smile on his face. I am pleased to see that he is saying that it will be oversubscribed and I have no doubt about that whatsoever these last three points made are important because Barbadians both as individuals and as shareholders in companies, holders of stocks and bonds, need to understand that they will have a stake in the development of this country now in a way that is not unprecedented but relatively new.

This bond issue is for, as I have pointed out, the infrastructural improvements in Speightstown and in Bridgetown. There are going to be infrastructural improvements coming in due course in the St. Lawrence Gap area and other bond issues will speak to that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have made this point *ad nauseam* in this House, and I hope that possibly I am making it for the last time, to say that our capital city Bridgetown and our second capital city, Speightstown, which used to be the first capital city – but our two major cities, have in the 20th Century become shadows of their former glory.

There was a time, I barely can remember as a child, when Speightstown was a beautiful place. It was, I supposed, described as a quaint and beautiful second town in Barbados. There were beautiful overhanging galleries. You could buy produce along the sidewalks of Speightstown. There was Arlington House which had begun

to deteriorate in my earliest memory. Speightstown was a wonderful place and it was at a sufficient distance in a small island like Barbados that one could feel that they were definitely going to another town when they went to Speightstown.

I remember a Bridgetown, again barely on the very edge of my earliest memories, because I lived the very first years of my life in Bridgetown and Baxters Road ... but I remember Bridgetown as a child. Again, along Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Milk Market and Roebuck Street, that was a wonderful area. Tudor Street especially was a wonderful place. We had those wonderful overhanging galleries. People lived upstairs and businesses were carried on downstairs. I remember as a child every Saturday morning one had to go to the Public Library. Yes, we had to go to the Public Library and sometimes we could get to walk about in Bridgetown. We did not have any money but there were wonderful things we could enjoy in Bridgetown.

12.30 p.m.

Sir, you would walk along Roebuck Street and all the wholesale agents would be there and you would see barrels and crocus bags. You would smell molasses and sugar and you would see feed for the livestock of all kinds, things like pollard. You would go down into Suttle Street and you would see people in doorways selling charcoal, palm tree brooms, clove, nutmeg and garlic. A lot of these things are still sold there.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, I have not got to fancy baskets yet. You are in the wrong place. You did not have them in Suttle Street. You could go up Milk Market, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and see the tin merchants. A lot of the young people on the frontbench and backbench here do not remember because they never saw the tin merchants, they were people who worked in tin along Milk Market.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy will give me a break because he does not know anything about this town. He is a country man.

Along Milk Market, there were tin merchants, that was where you bought your graters and cake pans, that was where you bought your strainers which were handmade by tin merchants along Milk Market. You went into Swan Street and onto Broad Street and the Nicey Belgraves at that time and others had the big fancy baskets with ribbons of every kind and colour. There were satin and taffeta ribbons of all colours. You had thimbles and buttons in these wonderful fancy baskets and those ladies would be located at the corner of the alleys off Bridgetown. They would be selling artificial

flowers.

In those days the shops were opened until 4 o'clock on a Saturday. It was still a six-day week and every Friday and Saturday the potters would come down from Chalky Mount. At the foot of the Swing Bridge just across what is now National Heroes Square, they would display their pottery. The pottery was not glazed in those days. You could buy vases, ash trays, coal pots and in those days this pottery would have red, white and black markings on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was only after I grew to be a woman that I understood that those colours red, black and white were the colours used by the Caribs and that possibly they were Carib markings. It needs to be investigated because the Caribs did not inhabit Barbados in the way say that the Arawaks did. Eventually, the Caribs drove them out as they did in other islands.

Bridgetown was a place of wonder. You could spend a whole day in Bridgetown and go home with a feeling of great satisfaction. You could go into what was the Ideal Store then, we call it Cave Shepherd now but it was a wooden store with wooden floors with cash boys. You would go and you would buy your material, ribbon, socks or whatever it was just like in Fogarty and DaCosta. The clerk would sing out "cash boy" and you would hear "boy coming". Sometimes this boy would be 18 or 19 years old in short pants, of course, he had to wear a tie and the cashier would be in a little cage.

The floor walker would have to sign off on the bill. In the store about 2 o'clock a fellow would come around with a watering can and wet the floor to hold down the dust. They had Brentwood chairs and ladies would come and sit down because they had to look at all the different bolts of cloth. In those days you could get Liberty cottons that you cannot even get in Barbados now. That was a wonderful Barbados that was the shopping centre of the Caribbean. You had a wonderful market in Fairchild and another great market in Cheapside and all kinds of Barbadians from High Court Judges back down could be found in one of those markets on a Saturday buying fresh meat and vegetables.

When I first came back here as an attorney even before I could afford a motor car, I had to get the bus every morning and go to Cheapside. You would go and buy your fresh meat and vegetables and your ground provisions and so on, but Bridgetown today is a filthy place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not only are we in a mode now to completely restore our capital city and our second capital city, but we have important implications for the tourist industry to do this. Tourists are to be found in and around Bridgetown and Speightstown. They come right into the

precinct of this Parliament, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are many places of interest that are of importance to our heritage and tourism industry which are hiding beneath dirt and grime, hiding beneath our disinterest. Our own pride in our capital city must drive the restoration of Bridgetown and Speightstown.

Now for me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a dream of over 20 years. I say to younger Members of Parliament, do not be disheartened. Other priorities overtake from time to time but you have to keep at it relentlessly. The infrastructural work that has to be done in Bridgetown is considerable. We already see the beginning of it in the Boardwalk, a beauty. I believe that the Honourable Minister of Public Works is going to have an official opening of that on the 28th of June. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know there is no way that I cannot be a part of it.

Now let me make this point. The importance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the Government showing an earnest – some folks will need to go to the dictionary to understand that that word has more than one meaning – The Government, in showing an earnest, has now been able, leading by example, to satisfy the private sector because the private sector must drive this development as well, but the Government, by putting the infrastructure in place, will persuade the private sector of its commitment to this, so they will be pleased to invest.

12.40 p.m.

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: This is not a policy statement. This is a speech I have made time and time again in this House. I hope I am making it now for the last time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Boardwalk is only the beginning that people can see, as we like to say in Barbados, with the naked eye by way of infrastructural work. Infrastructural work is going on even now as we speak in Broad Street, our main street.

Infrastructural work was undertaken along High Street into Swan Street. The paving of Swan Street has started. I believe that when we have completed the ugly work that people are not interested in, but which has to be done – because remember, Sir, two-thirds of Bridgetown is below sea level. We have never got the drainage right. In all the over 360 years of the settlement of Barbados we never got drainage right, nowhere in Barbados, neither in Bridgetown, Speightstown or anywhere else.

Mother Nature has provided what we call gullies or water courses which take the water off the cap and bring it down to the sea, but often bringing a lot of eroded material as well with it. We have to deal with the whole question of drainage in this country.

It is not by any chance or happenstance that this Administration has put in place a Draining Unit within the Ministry of Public Works. Some of the most important work that Unit has to do is in Bridgetown and Speightstown. What we see going on is only a part of what has to be done. We have all the utilities in place. We have water, electricity, natural gas, fibre optic cable. We have, of course, the sewerage of Bridgetown which is over 20 years old now.

The Swing Bridge, which I think everybody would know by now, I have made the point enough times, is virtually rusted into place. That bridge is going to be corrected, not with a bridge that swings out as we knew the old Swing Bridge, but by what is known nowadays as a lift bridge which will lift up to allow water traffic into what we call the Inner Careenage.

I cannot remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last time we had a dredging of the Careenage either inner or outer in Barbados. All of that work has to be done. Other infrastructural work that has to be done is going to go way back up to the Globe, or what is known as the James Tudor Roundabout, so there is a lot of infrastructural work that has to be done.

There is road surfacing work that has to be done. The entire traffic relocation and realignment within Bridgetown have to be done. The Bridgetown road development has started. It is running some two years late but it is underway. That has started at Eagle Hall and is coming in two big circles, an outer ring road and an inner ring road because we have to look now to traffic management in Bridgetown and in Speightstown as well.

In Speightstown you have the salt pond. That is part of the drainage of that town. Other infrastructural work has to do with revetment and roads in Speightstown as well and, of course, the drainage of storm water. There is a lot of infrastructural work which has to be done.

The Barbados Government, and by definition the people of Barbados, own considerable acreage on what is known as the Pierhead, that land which starts at the arch on the southern side of the Swing Bridge and goes out to what we used to call the mole head.

Barbados Shipping and Trading is a major landowner there as well. They have a magnificent project which is now called the Pierhead Development Project.

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, it does not include the Marina but it could, in the future. We do not know,

but if I could say a few words about that. Just within the last two weeks the Minister of Finance, who is also the Minister of Town Planning and the Prime Minister of Barbados, put a committee in place. He invited me to chair this committee. This committee is monitoring what is going to be massive development on the Pierhead.

Part of the lands owned by the Government of Barbados includes what we know as the Screw Dock. It is proposed that that Screw Dock will be restored. It is the only one of its kind left in the world. This is a piece of the heritage of the patrimony of Barbados. It goes back to the days when the Careenage was a port and Barbados made a lot of money out of the careening of vessels in our Careenage and the repair of them in that screw dock. It is proposed to restore that as part of a maritime museum.

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I believe the Admiral Lord Nelson would be happy in the Screw Dock. Where else would an Admiral be happier?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Pierhead project will have implications too for a marina which has virtually grown in the past 10 to 15 years in the Outer Careenage where you see the vessels. It is entirely possible that there is a lot more that we can do with the Inner Careenage as well.

Two weeks ago I think it was, the Prime Minister of Barbados, opening the new headquarters of the Barbados National Bank, committed that Bank and other financial institutions to something which is dear to my heart as well, that we have to be very careful in the development of Barbados that we do not fall into a trap or a well which we see bringing very poor social repercussions in some of our sister countries.

We have, in other words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to be careful that in building these wonderful edifices, monuments and so on, that we do not overlook the little pockets of poverty, never mind how small they are, existing in the shadow of them.

It has taken me the best part of 20 years to get to a place where the Central Bank of Barbados, towering over Church Village, easily one of the poorest villages in Barbados, and certainly in the City of Bridgetown...

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I wrote a letter to the then Governor of the Central Bank, but that was not on their agenda, that they should look now to adopt the village, but I have great patience in these matters.

I have lived now to see the day when the Bank has earmarked funds for the relocation of what is left of Church Village because it is shrinking. Those people are going to be well and comfortably relocated, just as we had to relocate people from Chapman Lane many years ago. That land will now be available for further development.

By the same token, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, which has built itself another huge monument on Roebuck Street, and the National Housing Corporation, which is also building a multi-storey monument on Country Road just across the street from the ICB's new edifice, cannot overlook the existence of a little village known as Greenfield, which has perhaps the most substandard housing in all of Barbados. So the Minister of Finance, and I am pleased that I have been able to influence his thinking on this issue, has decreed that financial institutions must always look now to patronise, and not just to patronise in a small way but in a significant way, their environs.

12.50 p.m.

In opening the Barbados National Bank, the Prime Minister made the point that across the street from the new headquarters of the National Bank of Barbados is our Independence Square, a disgrace. I have always felt it was a disgrace. From the day I came back to Barbados to work and I saw that we had chosen to make our Independence Square into a nasty car park I understood that we were short on nationalism in this country. It could not happen anywhere else. It would not happen anywhere else.

The National Bank has now been charged with the responsibility for making our Independence Square into a truly beautiful civic space for the enjoyment of all of us for the first time since independence.

The Redevelopment Plan for Bridgetown calls for a number of high-rise car parks and obviously alternative parking arrangements will be made to accommodate those cars which now are to be found on Independence Square. All of that will change in our time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Bridgetown will be a beautiful place again that Barbadians will be proud to say this is our capital city, that Barbadians will wish to come to, in a way that they used to before. This business now when you see half past four, quarter to five, five o'clock Bridgetown is a dead place.... Nothing happens here.

Sometimes on a Saturday evening or a Friday night you may get Archbishop Granville Williams doing a service in Bridgetown and you may get the odd opportunity but Bridgetown is not a place to which people wish to come to be entertained or to come to relax. You only have to begin to make it nicer and you will see the instant response.

On the Boardwalk along the north side of the outer Careenage I insisted that they had to put a few seats and they did not like that idea at the beginning. You drive past there at six o'clock, or seven o'clock in the evening and you will see some old gentlemen sitting down and taking the breeze and old-talking. A little later – I gather it is becoming a bit of a lovers' lane. Nothing is wrong with that. It is the most photographed part of Bridgetown today.

When I was a child, the policeman in a white cork hat under a little gazebo directing traffic right there in what is Trafalgar Square and further down Broad Street used to be the tourist attraction. In fact, people used to make for tourists to buy, little miniature five or six inch high replicas of it, with the little policeman and so on. Today, by my own observation for the number of tourists, returned nationals and even ordinary Barbadians living in Barbados the most photographed location in Bridgetown is the Boardwalk. I would not even say after Nelson now. He is not in so much favour right now. He needs a new home. Like the old raven he is looking for a home and he will get one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister also gave over to the patronage of the Barbados National Bank a building immediately at the back of it and that is the Empire Theatre. I keep making the point that there are only two of that kind in the Caribbean, the Wall Theatre in Kingston in Jamaica and the Empire Theatre in Barbados. The design is famous.

When we were children, it was used both as a cinema and a theatre as well. Even I, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, have tap-danced on that stage. The late Mrs. Joyce Stewart had a dancing school. The late Madame Ifill had a dancing school and every now and again they would put on a revue. I think that is what they used to call it then. The likes of the late Joe Tudor, Alfred Pragnell, all kinds of people, would get an opportunity to perform. As a child, it was a duet, I recall, called Bibbity-bobbity-boo – I should not be admitting to these things – but I did tap-dance on the Empire stage. Joe Tudor was a comedian of the highest order. Some of the young people I see on the CNN posing as comedians cannot have anything on Joe Tudor. He was good at what he did.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from time to time I hope that the lead taken by the Prime Minister will encourage more of the business houses in Bridgetown to take a certain...

*Aside.*

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: ... No. I remember of my late father's performances in the 'Man Born To Be King' at Kensington Oval with a set built like a Hollywood set. Gilmour Roachford was Pontius Pilate and his late wife was Claudia, the wife of Pilate. Sir Frank Blackman, former Cabinet Secretary, was the high priest, Annas, and Mr.

Edward Powlett of St. George was high priest, Caiphas. Sir Clyde Gollop was one of the two malefactors on the cross – Jeftus and Didymus. I remember it well. Mr. Tony Hinds, late of the Barbados Advocate was John the beloved disciple. A young woman from St. George was Mary of Magdala. My cousin, Betsy Cools, was Mary, mother of Christ. That is a long story. One day we may reproduce it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that I believe and I see the evidence of it already that business houses in Bridgetown and in Speightstown will begin to look to see how best they can help to sponsor restoration efforts. In Speightstown, the Barbados National Bank already gave sponsorship to Arlington House which will keep it in a good state of restoration.

The Pierhead Project will have in it many components. It is expected to have a housing component in it where condominiums looking out to Carlisle Bay will be built. I am envisaging a boardwalk which could move from the Pierhead to the Hilton. This boardwalk will have different features along the way. For instance, the boardwalk where you see the Esplanade at Bay Street will always be open window and esplanade but you have a project going up now where the Bridge and Harbour Police Station used to be. Next door to that is the Boatyard. When the boardwalks gets to them it will naturally reflect what is going on in those enterprises so that along the boardwalk from time to time you will have accommodation for vendors, you will have accommodation for little café type arrangements so that to stroll the Boardwalk would be an experience in itself.  
1.00 p.m.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is saying to bring it up to Hastings Rocks but there is a proposal for a revetment, meaning a sea wall, that would move from the Hilton to Oistins so all of that is coming, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is major infrastructural development that has to be done. The revetment is important for the protection of the shoreline of Barbados but we can exploit it and make great use of it.

Hastings Rocks, obviously, will continue to be an open window for entertainment purposes. Then, there are other places where you will have hotels and restaurants like at Dover where you have an outlet for vendors and so on and so forth. Again, all of the various aspects of tourism and other industries in Barbados which are so important to our economy will be reflected along its length.

There is very much an economic component to all of what I am saying, a restored and a rehabilitated Bridgetown

and Speightstown will attract business back into the town centres, already that is happening. For instance, as part of the Bridgetown Redevelopment Project the Town Hall, which is owned by the Government and people of Barbados, is to be restored and more than one group of people is already showing interest in that property. Part of that redevelopment speaks to a larger redevelopment of that end of Bridgetown. The Cheapside Market is to start – the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, I hope, could give us a date by now – the Cheapside Market is to start its refurbishment during this year of our Lord 2000, and that is important.

The St. Mary's Church Council has already agreed that we can take down the wall and put up railings and landscape the churchyard, St. Mary's has a beautiful churchyard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but people do not recognise it. It has some beautiful trees in it, black willows, a pride of India, some beautiful trees in it so that it should be a natural extension of the Lower Green, once those buses are relocated. The bus stand north of the Post Office will be extended to take the buses which are now at what used to be the Lower Green.

I was very pleased to see that the Caribbean Commercial Bank has undertaken the responsibility for restoring and upkeeping the Jubilee Gardens and I see people sitting out there now and relaxing. Bridgetown is one of the most naked cities, naked of trees and naked of greenery, but the Bridgetown Redevelopment Plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has a plan for greening of this City moving from the south gate of the Port up to the Hilton. I could talk about this for hours but I feel that we are passed the hour for lunch but I would just like to say a little more.

What I want to do actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to make a motion for the postponement of further consideration of this Resolution because I would not like to foreclose myself at this point since there is more that I would wish to say.

The Ministry of Finance, I know, wishes to speak to this. Certainly, the Minister of Tourism, into whose portfolio properly speaking the BTII resides, would wish to speak to this and I know that other Honourable Members will wish to speak to it too. This will give us, in my judgement, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a Bridgetown and a Speightstown that will carry Barbados well through the 21st Century as a Barbados which will say to the world that in this little country we are proud of our talents and our City. It will also generate a great deal of economic activity, not only in Bridgetown but in Speightstown as well. Already some of the cruise liners coming to Barbados are interested in movement between Bridgetown and the jetty at Speightstown. There is a great deal going on there as well, Sir, in that connection because the Redevelopment Plan for Bridgetown shows locations for water taxis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, where the Boardwalk presently ends, Barbados Shipping and Trading, which owns Carlisle House, which is the building where Bartel has its operation at the end of the Wharf, has already approached the Government to say that they want to refurbish that building. They want to pave the street just outside of it in the curve, bring more retail businesses to the ground floor and, at their expense, Barbados Shipping and Trading is suggesting that they would like to extend the Boardwalk down to the very edge where Bajan Helicopters operates.

The Bridgetown Redevelopment Plan shows at that location a water taxi berth. Barbados Shipping and Trading's plan, on the other side of the outer Careenage where the steps to the old Baggage Warehouse used to be – these young whippersnappers in here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would not know about the old Baggage Warehouse – there were steps leading up there where the Coast Guard operates now, and Barbados Shipping and Trading in its project proposal is suggesting that that too would be a water taxi berth.

I believe that in our time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that we will go back to a place where some of the traffic moving between Bridgetown and Speightstown and Oistins and Bridgetown will be by water. When we were children, schooners used to move between Speightstown and Bridgetown and come right into the Careenage. Fishermen come now from Oistins into Bridgetown but there are people who work in Bridgetown and who do not want to move further than their feet can take them within Bridgetown who would be pleased to park at Speightstown, Holetown, or Oistins and take the ferry and come into Bridgetown and take that load off the road especially people with bulky material they want to vend – people with boxes and baskets and so on can come in on the ferry.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: It is no problem at all. We do not begin to understand how we can exploit the sea around in an environmentally sustainable manner, it can be done because in other countries they do it. When you go across Lake Geneva you get on a hydrofoil and you move across the lake and that is how people are moved. The ferry moves between St. Kitts and Nevis on a regular basis. Right here in the Caribbean between Martinique and Guadeloupe, which are two islands, there is a ferry service.

What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the possibilities are without horizons and particularly, that the economic possibilities will revitalize our economy in the early 21st Century in a way that some of us can hardly imagine but the basic infrastructural work has to go in first. It is like anything else that you build. If you are going to build a house, you have to get the foundation right first.

If you do not get the foundation right the house is never going to stand. Even the Bible is an authority on that. If you build it on sand, it is going to crumble. You have to build it on rock and so the basic infrastructural work has to go in.  
1.10 p.m.

It is like anything you do in life. If you want to go out looking presentable the first thing you have to do is to bathe yourself. You have to do basic foundation work and this is what the infrastructural work is. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is perfectly correct that this \$25 million is going to be oversubscribed in a very short space of time, and another bond issue will be required in a very short time.

*Asides.*

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: This is money being raised on the local market that I am talking about. Another bond issue, I am sure, is going to be required in a very short time because so much Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, depends on this work.

I have seen, and I will not call names but there are places in the world where, for economic reasons, the tourist plant is running down. What happens is that tourists just do not go there anymore. There are certain basics that tourists require when they come to your country, and you have to put them in place.

What we are doing now, the South Africans did in Cape Town and it made all the difference to Cape Town. It made all the difference to poor people, to rich people, to all kinds of people, to any kind of people and that is why it is important and always has been, in my judgement, that we invest money in this. It must be available to all Barbadians, to any Barbadian, so that they can feel that they have a stake in it. It is a project and a proposal which cannot fail.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at this point, the hour being past one o'clock, I would like to formally move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss. B. A. MILLER: I beg to move that this Honourable House be adjourned until Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: I beg to second that.

*The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*  
1.20 p.m.

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**SIMMONS, Hon. D. A. C. (St. Thomas)**  
**TULL, Mr. L. R. (St. George South)**