
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.25 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2001.

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

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, B.C.H. (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.) L.E.C., J.P. (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. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social Transformation)

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B.

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. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)

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, January 30, 2001.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minutes for our meeting of January 30, 2001 have been circulated. In perusing the Minutes, I have found what I think is an error between pages 4 and 5 of the Minutes. At the bottom of page 4 there is “Schedule II, Amendment To Explanatory Notes”, and the last thing at page 4 is “Gallery Project”. At the top of page 5 you will see these words “and moved, seconded by Hon. R. C. Eastmond that the Resolution do now pass”, so there is an introductory statement that is missing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Clerk has pointed out to me that it is not properly so called an error and that one has to go back to page 3 to appreciate the full context and tenor of what is at page 5.

In the circumstances, Sir, unless there is any other motion for amendment, I beg to move that these Minutes stand confirmed.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to welcome the delegation from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as well as the Speaker of the House of Connecticut in the United States of America.

PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: On the behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1999.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1996.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Report of the National Cultural Foundation for the year 1999.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to place before this Honourable Chamber the achievement of the Barbados Centennial Honour by both the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. It is only fitting, Sir, that this Chamber take notice of the great honour that was bestowed upon both of these Honourable Members and I would wish to congratulate them on that achievement.

In respect of the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, the Deputy Prime Minister, her career in public life has been one of great distinction and one that would serve as a guide and as an inspiration for any person, particularly any young woman wishing to give service to her country. Her career goes back, I believe, even before her

formal entry into politics. It is significant that when one wishes to describe the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, the word 'service' comes to mind first and foremost and, with that service, a commitment and a loyalty that really stand as a beacon for all of us.

We are speaking of a career in this Chamber which, I think, this year represents the twenty-fifth year since she would have been in the Parliament of Barbados. I fully anticipate that her Branch as well as the rest of us would participate fully in giving thanks for those 25 years of formal service to the Parliament of Barbados.

It is significant to note that the Honourable Member, being the first female member of a Cabinet in Barbados and the first female Deputy Prime Minister, has led the way for persons like myself and others who have entered public life. I do not think any of us could imagine what it would have been like to confront the arena that she would have entered knowing that she was the first of her type, or to use a phrase from a well-known television production 'going where no other woman had gone before', in the history of this country. Of course, those of us who are familiar with Star Trek would understand that phrase.

Quite seriously, Mr. Deputy Speaker, hers really is a career that stands out way above all others and were her service only to this country and only to this Parliament, it would still stand as one that would merit study and praise from all the rest of Barbados, but that is not the extent of her contribution.

The Deputy Prime Minister has given widely in areas not relating to governance itself, but in particular to family planning and to the International Planned Parenthood Federation in the western hemisphere, having stood, I believe, as the President for the western hemisphere for a period of time while in Opposition, thus ensuring that even when she was not in the corridors of Government, her wisdom, her experience, her judgment and her commitment to service were to benefit other persons across this globe.

Indeed, her achievement as President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is something of which all of us are proud, this Parliament being an integral member of that Association, and there are countless other achievements which the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has achieved.

My purpose here today is not to chronicle her curriculum vitae but simply to speak of the impact of her service on all of us. In a very real sense, as a young politician, I learnt early that if you are prepared to go into

public life you had to be prepared to serve at all levels. If I could quote from her advice in those early days, from scrubbing the toilets at Grantley Adams House, back up to offering policy advice, to canvassing every single house, to ensuring that your involvement in public life is not limited to the political party to which you belong, but that you become involved with other associations which are also designed to improve the lot of the average person in this country. 11.35 a.m.

Perhaps, I was unfair to her very recently when I asked her what she thought was her greatest contribution to public life. Her words to me suggested that to be able to know that you have made a difference to the environment which you have come and found and which you will leave to those who are to follow and, within that environment, to particular people – since people more than any other thing affect the environment, in terms of how they find it and how they will leave it.

I want to say that while she is in no way near the end of her public service career, and I expect to see her go on to add more achievements as well as to bring service to those around the region and beyond who have benefited to date from her involvement, I want to believe that the example she has set in terms of steadfast commitment and loyalty to the causes to which she has dedicated herself can forever inspire us, particularly in today's world where there is a seeming reluctance on the part of the younger generations to commit themselves to causes that very often do not carry any glory, but require substantial input and substantial hard work and discipline, sometimes without immediate results.

We, perhaps, live in a world today where persons do not appreciate that there is a process very often to achieving things in life, and that instant gratification cannot be the hallmark or the criterion which you use to determine whether you commit yourself to something or not. In those circumstances, my Ministry, as you know, has committed itself in the context of curriculum reform to bringing the story of those who have laboured hard in the fight for justice and the social, political and economic improvement of the people of this country, to the children of this country, for they must know that their inheritance is not one that came about overnight but one that was achieved at great sacrifice.

We forget very often, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the sacrifice that persons in public life make in terms of their families and their professional careers. Not that they are seeking special mention, but it is only fair when persons give substantially that we appreciate and recognise their effort, and recognise that there is no glory in martyrdom that is self-inflicted.

We need to step back sometimes and remove the political partisanship that affects how we treat those who have given of their time. What it does, is that people who look on and who might otherwise be considering entering

public life very often feel that it is not worth it, if this is what they have to go through, or what their families have to go through. If they have the skills, they then refrain from entering the arena largely because of the other negative things that have attached themselves to public service, not only in this country but in other parts of the world.

I believe that it is only fitting that this Chamber pay honour to the Deputy Prime Minister for her achievement and the conferment of the Barbados Centennial Honour (BCH) on 1st January, 2001 in respect of her contribution during the latter half of the twentieth century to public life, whether it be through her leadership in health, education, foreign affairs or foreign trade.

Within the last few years, there have been those who would like to make fun and complain that she is always all over the world. The reality is that Barbados' interest in the globe cannot be defended from this rock alone and if we want to make advancements in respect of our economic interests, whether it is within formal international trading arrangements or generally in terms of our foreign policy, we have to go to those places and we would have to change many of the mindsets that have in fact influenced our judgments on what is correct and what is not in respect of public service.

In respect of the Honourable Attorney General, his service predates by five years that of the Member for the City of Bridgetown in formal political life, having I believe, first faced the polls in 1971. I am told that it was good guidance and good discipline that he learnt on that occasion. I, too, can attest to the fact, having had a similar fate befall me on that first occasion, that there is nothing like losing the first time out in politics in terms of its teaching you how you have to relate to people and how you must remain rooted throughout your career of public service never losing sight of what your purpose is in respect of your formal entry into politics anywhere in the world.

I believe that the Attorney General has distinguished himself as one of the foremost legal brains anywhere in the English-speaking Caribbean. His entry into public service was therefore an additional benefit for the rest of us because very often those who have attained such heights, more so in today's world, do not find it possible to sacrifice their professional career and to be able to give public service.

I do not believe that Barbadians know how fortunate we are therefore to have as our Attorney General someone who could command a brief in any part of the English-speaking Caribbean and in any part of the English-speaking Commonwealth and who would bring distinction to any legal team in any case, civil or criminal, in any part of those regions.

It means therefore that when we came to meet with those who represented the interests of the OECD, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, a few weeks ago in Barbados, we were able to do so confident that the legal opinion which had been prepared almost singlehandedly by the Attorney General was one which allowed us to fight, knowing that we had proper recourse in respect of our legal options and knowing full well that his statement, coming on behalf of the Government of Barbados, would have been one that would have been respected and not simply listened to and ignored.

Equally, my colleagues are reminding me of his role in the Shiprider Agreement, one where we also had to take a lone passage when others in the region submitted themselves to the wish and authority of the United States of America. The Attorney General was able to advise this Government on how it should proceed in respect of defending the interest of the people of this country and the sovereignty of this nation.

I believe that it is of no small significance that his preparation in criminology, in terms of his own personal academic development, has served us well as a Government. And may I say to those who believe that there is an instant answer to crime, that we have first to recognise that crime is a multi-faceted problem requiring multi-faceted approaches. The one thing that this Attorney General has done has been to bring to the fore the recognition that a single approach to dealing with issues of crime will simply not solve the problem.

It is significant that we are dealing in a global situation where there is crime the world over. Having experienced a decline in crime rates all throughout the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, countries the world over have all experienced an increase in crime rates during the latter half of the twentieth century, and offences which were hitherto unknown to man have all of a sudden become the centre of attention in respect of reviewing criminal activity.

It is significant that a book which was written by a chap called Jonathan Sachs called "The Politics of Hope" speaks about the fact that 30 or 40 years ago, whether in the United Kingdom, whether in the United States or other parts of the world, people walked through parks without fear for themselves or their property. People would go about normal everyday activities which now, all of a sudden, they question before doing because of the general rise in crime which it is believed is linked to the absence of a social bond among populations. We have seen the replacement of how people relate to one another not by moral duties but by reason of the concept of legal rights, which removes the additional moral bond that is needed in social relationships.

We, as a country, will have to grapple with these

issues. I believe that the Attorney General's contribution has been to focus that debate and to focus the planning. The establishment of the Commission for Reform for Penal Matters has brought to the fore that we cannot treat the punishment of offenders in ways that are probably suited to the nineteenth century but that we must find new mechanisms that seek to be able to punish while at the same time rehabilitating offenders; recognising that if persons spend two or three years in prison they are still spending 50 or 60 years in the society and that they have a sphere of influence which will in fact affect the values of the people with whom they interact.
11.45 a.m.

I believe, therefore, Sir, that when the time passes us, and persons can look back at this era without the emotionalism that attaches itself to those who may be operating out of some hidden agenda, we would recognise that during this period of time under the surge of the Attorney General, we would have seen the nucleus of the types of action that seek to bring the criminal justice system, the administration of justice and the Royal Barbados Police Force out of the 19th Century and into the 21st Century.

The society has changed. People's behaviour has changed and we have therefore to recognise the systems which interface with them, we have of necessity to change.

Before 1970 there were no drug offences in Barbados. Now they constitute at least one third of the courts' work. We also have a dangerous development, which I know that the Attorney General has been addressing his mind to, that you can no longer solve crime without the participation of each and every Barbadian of goodwill. It is not the job of the Police Force alone, it is not the job of the Attorney General alone. It is the job of each and every Barbadian of good intention and sound mind. What is significant is that we are doing it in the context of a society that is almost beginning to see nothing wrong with any criminal activity other than robbery or murder. They accept that robbery and murder are crimes but all other forms of petty criminal activity, they have rejected as criminal.

I therefore support the Attorney General in his call for zero tolerance because unless you start to prove that minor behaviour is also a breach of the law, they will never respect the fact that there are other criminal activities, besides robbery and murder, that require their cooperation.

I believe also, that his action in passing and piloting the legislation to wipe the criminal records of persons in this country who forever were condemned not to secure employment, visas or a host of things for minor infractions committed earlier in life when their judgment was, perhaps

not the best. It is a piece of social legislation that, as we saw in yesterday's headline, has already made a substantial difference to hundreds of Barbadians. I fully anticipate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is only a matter of time before we fully recognise the importance of our being able to re-incorporate those citizens fully into the social and economic activity of this nation, in spite of those previous minor infractions that they may have committed when they were at an earlier age.

It is of significance, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to me, that when seeking to bring closure to the concept of a Caribbean Court of Appeal, that the CARICOM Heads of Government chose the Honourable Attorney General to lead the development work in this matter.

The quest for a Caribbean Court of Appeal almost reached the point of the quest for a West Indian Federation again, in that people for many years, thought that it was a romantic dream never to be attained. The work of this Honourable Attorney General, along with others in the region, has shown that it will very soon be a real probability and a reality, and that we will in a very real sense, complete a part of our process of Independence by ensuring that the judgment of those who live within our society is good enough to be a final judgment on matters pertaining to disputes in our social and economic life, and that we will have the confidence in ourselves as a people to make this step and that the work of the Honourable Attorney General, in doing so, would have contributed significantly to it, is something for which we can all be proud.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can speak at length this morning of both of these Honourable Members. Perhaps, I have done them an injustice by speaking about them together in this debate. I fully anticipate that their work is not at an end and that we would see more and better things coming from both of them.

They are the kind of people who represent all of the characteristics that explain why Barbados continues to be respected internationally, why we have had the distinction of achieving all that we have achieved as a small, developing country being ranked for most of the 1990's as the leading developing country in the world and were it not for a change in the equation, would still be; and certainly amongst black countries in the world, the leading black country in the world.

I believe, Sir, that they represent a golden age in Barbados' public life when persons, on or about the time of Independence, recognised that they had to give service in building this country rather than simply pursuing their individual professional efforts, however laudable those may be in their own right.

What worries me, Sir, is that the generation which has followed them, two generations, the one that I am in and the one that is following me, do not necessarily feel the same fervour to work in the cause of Barbados. We have many brilliant people and many people of integrity in this country and too few of them are offering themselves to public service. Lest we forget, Barbados has been made safe and we have achieved much, not simply because we wished it and it happened, but because people of integrity and ability have consistently given their time and energy to the cause of Barbados over particularly, the 20th century.

We would be doing ourselves a disservice if we could not attract to public life, and I mean political life, persons who can also bring the distinction and bring the commitment to hard work that the Honourable Member of the City of Bridgetown and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas have brought. I hope that by bringing their service to the attention of the nation through this Honour, that they would be able to inspire at least four or five more to come into public life and recognise that we will not simply maintain this legacy by hoping for it but only through the hard work, sweat, commitment and the integrity of the persons who actually enter public life.

With those words, Sir, I believe that I would like to register my strongest congratulations and to thank them personally for the influence and guidance that they have given me as a young politician, and to say that the road, even though still hard, has been made much easier knowing that you have wiser counsel to turn to when there are obstacles in the way and when you need to think how to wheel and come again.

I thank you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to lend my support and also to say that anytime that anyone can be in political life for 25 years in the same constituency, it might be a sign that they are doing something good.

Asides.
11.55 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I would like to acknowledge that we have a problem within the society and that politicians of twenty years and over must recognise that they have a significant role to play in redeveloping the society in which we now live. It is okay to criticise what is going on in the society, but one must recognise that this is a changing world and we cannot continue to expect that behavioural patterns will continue to be the same.

We must study what is happening, and I hope that the two Honourable Members will be role models to young

people, that they will be prepared to devote their time in correcting whatever ills and impressions might have been created previously and make sure that the young people of this country are better served.

Sir, there is no doubt that Barbados, like other countries in the world, is faced with certain challenges. I personally believe that if we were to study the causes and reasons, and not cloud our minds with the particular problem, that we would solve that problem.

Sir, I also want to say that it is one thing to look at behavioural patterns but we have to recognise that in the 70's there were types of lifestyles that we could associate with, but young people are not happy with the types of lifestyles that are now becoming the norm of our society. We have to recognise that a child at the age of three will see things quite differently from how we saw them when we were that particular age. If we are saying that young people are more developed than we were in the earlier years, we also must recognise that they are going to see things quite differently from how we saw them in our times.

Sir, I hope that the two Honourable Members will recognise that they have a major task in helping to refocus the society and acknowledge that we cannot continue to behave as if we are back in the twentieth century; that we are in the twenty-first century; and that we must pattern society in a different way. It is okay to say that youngsters might need a change in lifestyle but we also have to understand that sometimes people react to what they see.

I am calling on the two Honourable Members to devote their time to those young people, and I think that they cannot do anything better than to spend the balance of their active lives looking after the youngsters of this country.

Sir, I thank you.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Members who have spoken in recognition of the honour conferred on the two Honourable Members have spoken well and, as is done when outstanding judgments are given, I merely say that I concur. I believe that in itself will not only be a recognition of the outstanding service of the two Honourable Members, but I will also say on a personal level how much I have admired them.

Sir, I wish to depart from some of the statements, to take another path and recognise that both the Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas entered the Barbados Labour Party long before I became a member. They were then young persons still going to school when they, along with the Honourable

Member for St. George South, became members of the League of Young Socialists and from that early age they understood the concept of service and appreciated the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party and its dedication to assisting those who are the underprivileged in our society in particular, while at the same time building a cohesive society.

They understood the concept of freedom and democracy and the value which a political party, founded on the lofty ideals and principles of the Labour Party, could bring to transforming a country, as has been done by the Barbados Labour Party. They had those philosophies ingrained in them by their parents. Both on the sides of their mothers and fathers, but particularly on the side of their fathers, have given exceptional public service to this country and sometimes were not recognised for that public service. They had it ingrained in them and they followed those examples. I believe very firmly that public service is completely part of their psyche and their total upbringing and personality.

If there is one thing I would like to say, having had the honour and distinction of leading the Barbados Labour Party, it is that these two Honourable Members have played an outstanding role in building that Party, sustaining it in its bad days, helping to rebuild it when people had written us off as dead and not being able to come back to office for two hundred or three hundred years – I think that was the sentiment of one Honourable Member. They stood alongside us in our darkest hours, one in the Senate the other in the House of Assembly, at the time as one of a party of ‘three blind mice’, making in their own right an outstanding contribution to political and public life.

People believe that a democracy can be built without strong political parties. That is a myth, Sir, because unless political parties are strong and are maintained properly, then democracy, as we understand it in the western world, is not on the same level. I believe, and can state as a fact, that the contribution of both Honourable Members to their political parties is an example that should be followed by persons who are serious about giving the public their service. But it is not only through these political parties that they have made their contributions. Both Honourable Members have stamped their mark on a whole gamut of public life, both regionally and internationally.

12.05 p.m.

The Honourable Member has spoken about the outstanding legal brilliance of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, but both Honourable Members are outstanding

lawyers, and both of them can conduct themselves, not only as proper Members of the Bar in any court in the Commonwealth, but as good legal luminaries. In the case of the Honourable the Attorney General, I believe when the legal history of this period in Barbados is written and people are allowed, objectively, to analyse his contributions, not in the present political frame and climate that we have at the partisan level, but when the legal history of this period is written, and written objectively by scholars who will come later and even by persons like myself who might retire to academia in order to do this task, that it be recognized that his was a single contribution to the legal history of Barbados.

Barbados is fortunate to have an Attorney General who understands criminology, particularly at this time when worldwide, there are changes in the pattern of crime, and understandably so. I do not have time to go into that, but a person who is making substantial changes in penal laws, in the way we react to prisoners and also to punishment, but with a certain amount of humanity – people forget that these days. There are some people who would like to see penal laws go back to the Middle Ages: if you steal a cow your hands should be cut off.

There was a time in this country, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to remind the people of Barbados, that persons like us and all persons of colour, we were all seen as ‘things’. We did not exist as ‘persons’. That is in the history of this country; one did not have the right to go into a court of law and give evidence. People do not remember that and, therefore, the justice system was against you. One was also, in a vicious way beaten with the cat-o-nine-tails which was used on the slaves. People want to go back to methods that are outmoded, outdated, and to things that its legal history is autonomous to myself, and I am sure, also to persons like the Honourable Members for St. Thomas and the City of Bridgetown.

It does not mean that we are soft on crime, but the good person in public life who understands crime, penology and criminology, must understand that justice must be given to all, particularly to the victim, but also to the prisoner and we have to treat him as a human being.

That is why I am saying this is a very interesting time because I have seen the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, in all of the emotionalism of this period, being able to have a clear path in which he is correctly guiding the country to solutions of our serious problems whilst at the same time, positioning Barbados as a leader amongst those persons who believe in fundamental human rights.

In this regards he has the strongest support of the Honourable Member of the City because she has done an exceptional job in and out of Government in promoting Barbados as a human rights centre and as a leader. Her

contributions to the non-governmental organisations have been exceptional. As a matter of fact, I believe that there are other Barbadians, persons like the late Dame Nita Barrow, who have made some contribution in the non-governmental sphere that is recognized internationally in the way that the contribution of the Honourable Member for the City is recognized internationally.

Sir, both of these Honourable Members have done that, without sacrificing their honour and integrity in public life. Both Members are persons of strong character who are recognized as Members who do not hesitate when they have to state their point of view. They have come through 25-odd years in Parliamentary life, and longer in public life, without any sense or suggestion of corruption around them. That is a signal honour, Sir, and that is why I remain firmly convinced that, not only is this honour which has been conferred on them richly deserved, but I also believe their contributions will, in due course, attract further honours that are already well deserved.

From 1976 to 1981, I have had the privilege of serving in the Barbados Labour Party’s Cabinet along with the Honourable Member for the City and I think she was the youngest Member of the Cabinet and, certainly was the most attractive, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: That never escaped my eyes. Unfortunately, Sir, I could have only seen within those walls at the time. But one of the things that I recall very much about her was that within a Barbados Labour Party Government dedicated to redressing the imbalance between males and females in our society, the Honourable Member not only supported the redressing of that imbalance, but asked no special favours. Therefore, when she presented her case, it was presented on merit, rather than on gender. That to me is another outstanding characteristic.

She made an outstanding contribution as Minister of Health, following in the footsteps of her father, the late Honourable Mr. Freddie Miller who, let me say, Sir, has never been properly recognized for the sterling and outstanding job that he has done in this country. The Honourable Member for the City then came back and made an equally outstanding contribution as Minister of Education.

Sir, when I hear from colleagues overseas, Sir, both in the political realm and those who advise Governments, I am always pleased to recognize the outstanding contribution which she is doing in projecting Barbados in the international sphere at the Governmental level as she has done so well at the non-governmental level.

Sir, if I may end on a very personal note in relation to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I joined the Barbados Labour Party on February 16, 1971, long after the Honourable Member was a Member ...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: No, Sir, I had not just returned from London. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South and myself, along with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, were appearing in a famous case in St. Vincent that went on for twenty-one days. On the other side was Mr. Tajmool Hussein, Q.C., who is in my view, the most outstanding Civil Lawyer in the Caribbean. Every day when we came out of court, one would think that we would be concentrating on our cases. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would spend the time working on me, Sir, and getting me to commit myself to joining the Barbados Labour Party and running in the 1971 election.

Let me say, Sir, that I owe him, as I owe the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, a debt of gratitude for pointing me into the way of the light, and removing the scales from my eyes and leading me into the path of righteousness because I have had a very satisfactory relationship with the Barbados Labour Party, have benefitted very much and have become a better person from being associated with my colleagues and with such a great Party and through that, with the people of Christ Church West and through them, the people of Barbados. Therefore, I have been able to give service to our country. So, I am grateful to him, Sir.
12.15 p.m.

He is a younger man than myself. We have worked in Chambers together. I can testify that he became the youngest Queen's Council in Barbados in a very, very short time and was well-deserving, Sir, because his work was outstanding. He has appeared with me in many cases and appeared against me in many cases and together we have fought, and won and lost, but his standard of presentation, his preparation and his understanding of the law is as good as any that I have seen anywhere in the Commonwealth.

One of the reasons why you will see the deep conviction which he has about justice, about the law courts, about handling our own appeals, is that if you fit him against any lawyer anywhere in Britain, whether it is on the House of Lords, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, not to mention the Lesser Courts, he can stand up as good as any of them and in many cases better than a lot that are on those courts.

That is why, Sir, I have the very deep conviction when I see service of the level that has been performed and given by these two Honourable Members. I am convinced that we are as good as people in any other country in the world and in many cases, better. I have no difficulty in believing that this country, if we continue to produce men and women of the calibre of the two Honourable Members, as I know we are producing, and if we can get them to move into public life and make their contributions in the way these two Honourable Members have made their contributions without looking for reward...

Aside.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: ...and let me say that again. I have to sometimes remind the public that both of those Honourable Members could go out on their own and do as well as some of the outstanding business people in this country are doing elsewhere – 'make a lot of money for themselves then', is the Barbadian expression – but they have not chosen that. They have done the sacrifice and they have taken the praise at times but more often than not, they take the calumny. Sir, they have done it and done it well and I believe that when times like these arise, we must remind the country that we have people of this calibre who have contributed so much and who can continue to contribute more, Sir.

Sir, like the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, I would like to wish them many more years in the House of Assembly of Barbados, representing their two constituencies as they have done so well. I myself am in my thirtieth year in this House.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy says that the Honourable Member for the City and Honourable Member for St. Thomas cannot save me. No, Sir, I was saved by the Lord.

Asides.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Sir, so I do not expect them to save me, but what I can say is that I am absolutely sure that they are both capable of continuing to win their seats and to serve the people whom they now represent in this House.

Sir, I join in the statements that have been made by both Honourable Members who preceded me, and I am glad that this House would recognise the outstanding contributions which these two Honourable Members have made and also recognise the Honour which has been so rightly conferred on them.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the last Honourable Member who spoke was about to conclude, he indicated that the careers of the two Honourable Members who recently received high awards have been characterised by self-sacrifice. I would also say that they have been characterised by loyalty and commitment to whatever cause they have championed, whether it has been the cause of the greatest political movement in the Caribbean, the Barbados Labour Party, or whether it has been the cause of their constituents, whether it has been the cause of Parliament, whatever, and in addition, the two have been able to demonstrate an enormous amount of endurance in the face of enormous odds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I first met the Honourable Member for the City in or about 1970-1971 when, though not yet a candidate in elections, she appeared on the platform of the Barbados Labour Party at a public meeting in Fitts Village. She impressed me with the manner in which she was able to articulate the Party's cause while at the same time she showed clearly what the issues were.

In time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I followed her progress at the Bar of Barbados and I feel sure, I am not even going to say subject to any defects of my memory, I feel sure that there was a criminal case, before the days of Legal Aid had become established, where a poor and indigent client was in grave peril and without a cent. The Honourable Member for the City took the matter to final consummation at the highest appellate court to save the person. I am not speaking subject to correction, I am sure about that.

In time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I learnt that the Honourable Member for the City, realizing that Barbados has been for years deemed an overpopulated country, spent enormous amounts of time and energy championing the cause of family planning and she did so at a stage early in her life. Picture a Barbados, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where there had been no family planning for 40 years. Picture, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a Barbados where the pressures of excess population would have been so enormous if her efforts in the Barbados Family Planning Association had failed.

I was personally deeply gratified, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when a short time ago, she was selected as President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and she performed her function there with enthusiasm, competence and with due discharge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I concur with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that a career in politics, spanning 25 years, would not only be a career met with a lot of challenges but a career with the potential for causing an amount of wear and tear on the persons involved.

12.25 p.m.

The challenge is so enormous that only truly emboldened spirits would be able to carry on in the face of enormous demands, in the face of very long hours, in the face of having to work for individuals, one by one, scores and scores, hundreds and hundreds, and in the face of having to do acts proprietary to parliamentary function.

I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this House does, in fact, owe a duty to the Honourable Member for the City to take into account all that she has striven for. She has associated herself with a number of international non-governmental organizations and has gone far and wide in this world representing Barbados in such a way that those of us who have had the opportunity to follow her are often reminded, when we ourselves go, of the contributions she has made.

In recent times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, she has taken on the mantle of leading this country not just in foreign affairs policy but in a relatively new era, that of foreign trade, and has approached such a task with the type of ability and the type of energy that would only redound to the benefit of this country.

I recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a testimony to her endurance and strength, that there have been elections in which she has been involved in her constituency where nail-biting finishes were the norm up until relatively recent times, and a weaker spirit would have either succumbed under that pressure or would have packed it in after a while.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree that she, like the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, still has an enormous contribution to make. God has been good to her and to him as well. I take exception to an implied hint coming from somewhere over there that this occasion might be some special occasion where we might be paying some form of honour to them at an interesting time.

In the case of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, while in England and having got his degrees, he may have agonized over whether he should become an advocate and a legal practitioner or whether to become an academic lawyer. I believe he would have taken a decision only after careful thought. Those of us who love law for the sake of loving law are always inclined to the academic side of things. I owe it to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to say to this Honourable House that his stint in England as a lecturer was not only an outstanding stint but that the institutions which he served have grown very much as a result of his contributions.

I met him for the first time in the Chambers of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, in the company of a former Honourable Member of this House, Mr. Keith Simmons, many years ago. I followed his political career, and as indicated in the context of my contribution as

regards the Honourable Member for the City, he too is brave. If you can recall the level of abuse which was heaped on the Honourable Member for St. Thomas when he ran in St. Philip, you will recall that simply because his father had headed a penal institution in St. Philip, people in the most irrational way claimed that because his father was head of a penal institution then, logically, he was known, Sir. I do not understand that rationale. That did not make sense. I am deliberately putting it in the record that both in 1971 and in 1976, people in this country made an issue against him because of the fact that his deceased father was principal of a penal institution. How irrational can we get? He was possessed of enough valour not to be daunted.

In time, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has said, he became the youngest Queen's Counsel. He has always been a person who has not only been described as affable and personable but he is a most astute person. I wonder where he gets the energy from to perform his ordinary duties as Minister in addition to his constituency duties while still reading voluminous amounts of law, of finance, of literature and such like. Truly, like the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, he is an outstanding Barbadian.

I would say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we would have to measure the careers of both these persons in terms of the outstanding contributions they have made. I very well recall that before the Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development (OECD) started to become very, very aggressive against these countries, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made it his business up front to assess where this world has been in the context of the consequences of drugs and money laundering.

I remember his contribution on the Floor of this Honourable House when he brought the Money Laundering Bill. I would urge Honourable Members in here to go to Hansard and look both at the purpose as explained in his contribution when he introduced the Money Laundering Bill and to the content of the legislation because we are back to this in this era where only yesterday we received reports in this country that those who have been agitating in the OECD, those who had initially been suspicious that we in this part of the world were involved in corrupt money laundering, are themselves now turning within their own shores, the Americans, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to look to prove that there is money laundering and, in my respectful submission, Mr. Deputy Speaker, enormous money laundering of a quantity and a quantum greater than anything that the combined faults of Caribbean countries would have permitted because no Caribbean country, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would have deliberately encouraged money laundering. It would have been either that the checks and balances were not in place, the legislation was not in place, or that smart men from

abroad were able to ease in.

I would like for the record's sake, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to indicate that when he brought that piece of legislation, and also when he brought the legislation relevant to Shiprider by letting Barbados assert its sovereignty, these were two fine moments in his political career.

I am in the process of looking to see all the legislation that he has brought in his term since 1994 as Attorney General. He would have brought some in an earlier Parliament, way back in time. I am very much of the opinion that in a short space of time, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have brought over 200 – I am talking *in futuro* – pieces of legislation and his work is continuing. If I say that his work is complete for the term, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy might get it wrong.

I cannot fail, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to mention that like the average Barbadian, he has walked the walk of Barbadians and talked the talk of Barbadians. He was a fine cricketer. Perhaps, the current West Indies cricket team, based on current performance, if he were a younger man at 20 or 21, would have benefited from his skills. He was also a sprinter – a quick boy – representing one of the greatest schools of that era and up to now his interest in sports continues. He still follows cricket avidly. He still follows athletics avidly and I rather suspect that he has been steward of the Barbados Turf Club for some considerable time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would conclude by saying this. I was a little bit caught by surprise when the last general election was announced in Barbados. I was somewhere and somebody brought the news. It was a Christmas bank holiday at the time. I was tempted at that time to ask both the Honourable Members for the City and St. Thomas for their résumés/CV's with the aim of going round Barbados speaking on their behalf. I abandoned the attempt because their résumés and CV's would have been so voluminous as to put pressure on them to prepare them at that time. Even if they had succeeded, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in putting together their résumés to speak on their behalf, I would have found it very hard to be able to find time to complete the truly outstanding achievements that these two fine and distinguished loyal Barbadians have been able to chalk up. 12.35 p.m.

Sir, they would have been brought up in an era where love of country was tremendous, and to take exception to the Standing Orders, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where there would have been a saying, "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*" This means that you would have laid down your life for your country. That loyalty, patriotism and commitment

have informed their every behaviour and impelled them into politics and have seen them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, shine and bring accomplishments that are a tremendous example to the younger generation. We are left with no other option than to seek to emulate the very fine examples that they both set.

With these few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am deeply obliged to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to add some remarks to the congratulations already showered on the two distinguished Members of this Parliament, the Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, concerning the conferment on them of the Barbados Centennial Honour. It is fitting that their work over a quarter of a century each has been recognized as being of such outstanding quality as should merit their recognition by way of a Centennial Honour, recognizing that they have contributed in no small measure through their public service and particularly through their work as politicians to the development of our country.

Sir, we have a love-hate relationship with politicians in this country which sometimes would have us believe that politicians are not worthy of honour in the profession that they have chosen. Yet, Sir, if we look at the development of our country, we would have to agree that what has set us apart from many other countries in the developing world, particularly during the period since the 1930s when we had that great social transformation in the post-riots era, has been the quality, honesty, vision and courage of our politicians.

Sir, we have had in each era since those 1930s, every 10 years or so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a corps of leaders, yet we were lucky also to have outstanding single individuals to lead our country. We have also had a corps of capable politicians and other single leaders who have been able to take this country forward.

Sir, it is for me therefore a privilege to have had the honour to be able to share with these two distinguished Honourable Members a great political party, the Barbados Labour Party, but also to have had the privilege of sharing this Parliament of Barbados with them as we move from the century from which the honour was bestowed into the new century. Indeed, this Parliament is much the richer for having an excellent blend of persons who are young and vigorous and who are new to Parliament and politics, and persons such as the distinguished Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who have considerably more experience.

They have been outstanding as parliamentary representatives for their respective constituencies. Under their stewardship, one can recognize a substantial improvement in the social and economic situations in their respective constituencies. They have also had impeccable records as Ministers of the Government in which they have held several portfolios between them. They have always been recognized as being amongst the most capable and outstanding in their particular fields.

Sir, they have also received significant international acclaim. There are few persons in any position of prominence around the Commonwealth and indeed in the wider world who would not be aware of the Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, both in their respective capacities as more recently as Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Honourable Attorney General, but also in their private professional fields and in their work with non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over all of this time in a profession which many persons in the public look on with such suspicion and even in some cases, to be quite frank, with disdain, they have been able to maintain a reputation of honesty and integrity. They have been able to provide public service over such a long period, and to walk out, Sir, with head held high is no small achievement. It speaks to the individual character and quality of my two honourable comrades.

More specifically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for the City is one who is able to walk with kings and princesses but yet not lose the common touch. As our distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs, she has been able to achieve recognition for Barbados, recognition for herself and for the work of the administration which she serves in several international fora, whether it is in the United Nations championing the causes of Barbados and the Caribbean in expressing her concerns. Particularly, many will not remember but in some of her earlier public international interventions she addressed issues relating to the environment and to women's causes.

On the matter of the environment, even before it was a fashionable thing to be addressed internationally, she expressed concerns. But the Honourable Member for the City has been a voice crying in the wilderness concerning issues such as the transshipment of hazardous waste through the Caribbean region. Her concerns were also for the need to ensure that Small Island Developing States issues were at the forefront of international attention and that the special status because of our vulnerability as a result of our environmental situation must be at the forefront of the international agenda. That has been some of the pioneering work of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honourable Member for the City.

Across the Commonwealth, she was the distinguished first female Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We could go on and on about her other work in the Commonwealth as other Members have done. Also, her particular approach to championing women's causes was one which showed a great degree of enlightenment. She was able not just to articulate the positions as an advocate, but also, by her very example, asking no quarter or giving any.

12.45 p.m.

She was able to enter fields which were traditionally dominated by men, and not ask for any special favours as a woman. She, in many instances, would have rejected any special or differential treatment meted out to her because of her status as a woman. I must tell you, Sir, that she is one of the most warm, loving and charming women that I know and I consider it a privilege to have been able to work so closely with her as to have been able to get past the public veneer of the tough speaker of Minister of Foreign Affairs, the fiery advocate on the political platform, to get to know the real Billie. I consider it really a great personal honour and privilege to have been able to do just that.

She is really one of the warmest and sweetest women I know, gentle and kind as well, but that should not allow you, Sir, to drop your guard because when she is advocating an issue you can rest assured that she will pull no punches. She will mince no matters. In her approach to women's issues, she was one of the pioneers in Barbados and has been an inspiration for many women over the many years in Barbados and she continues to be so. She is one of the most readily recognised women in Barbados, the Caribbean and in the wider world. Her work in this area has earned her the honour of being invited by the President of the Inter-American Development Bank to head the Women's Group within the IDB, a group which does some very important work in the countries that are served by the IDB, but which does not always get the recognition which it deserves.

Of course, Sir, much of our economic fortune turns on our special relationship with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and particularly as a group, in terms of the way we relate to the European Union. The Honourable Member for the City has been at the forefront of many battles over the years of her public service with and against the European Union as she sought to achieve a better deal for the Caribbean, be it in the area of sugar for Barbados or bananas for our friends and cousins in the OECS. If you would think that she would have earned a rest from her long labours battling with the EU we now have anything but – arms and other proposals, in terms of what the trade relationship should be between the European Union and the ACP countries, which are still engaging the attention of the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I want to say, Sir, that notwithstanding the very rigorous schedule which she has as our principal spokesman on international affairs, the Honourable Member continues to be a leading weapon in the arsenal of the Barbados Labour Party. The Honourable Member for the City, notwithstanding the test of time, has continued to be a most eloquent, even a fiery speaker on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party. She is one of the most fierce competitors as a politician that I know. In fact, if she were wearing her red dress today, we would know that we would be in trouble. She always lets you know that when she is in red, that is her battle dress. If you see the Honourable Member for the City stepping out in red, you know that it is political fire, that she is in the throes of battle.

The Honourable Member has a love for the City, her constituency, that I believe comes close to the love she has for the Barbados Labour Party. It runs a very close second or might even be neck and neck. Her commitment to the City as a viable unit within the social fabric of Barbados continues to be as strong as ever. She will not allow anyone either by deliberate effort or misadventure to marginalise the City. She has spearheaded efforts in a previous Barbados Labour Party administration for the re-development of the City and, even after they were ignored by the Other Side when they had their term in office, on resumption of office in 1994, the Honourable Member for the City dusted off her plans and in consultation with stakeholders in the City, revised these plans to meet modern day requirements, and is now successfully introducing some improvements in the City which will make Bridgetown, Barbados the leading capital within the Eastern Caribbean region.

Sir, it is really her love for constituency and for her constituents, and that ability to walk with kings and princes but not lose the common touch that have made the Honourable Member such a special person.

The distinguished Attorney General, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, is himself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one in whom this Honourable Chamber and, indeed the entire Barbados can be proud. A distinguished Attorney General having followed a distinguished career at the private bar, he has been as vigorous and courageous in his defence of the interests of Barbados as he was when he was noted and adequately reported in the newspapers of Barbados for his vigorous defence of individuals at the private bar.

We are fortunate to have that. There are many countries in this region and, indeed, many countries in the world, who sometimes for want of a keen legal eye to vet international agreements and to review international strategies pursued by other nations from a legal perspective, find themselves being party to international arrangements which are not necessarily in their best interests.

The vigorous defender, both at the private bar and of the country of Barbados, our Attorney General, has rightly been recognised as being the leading voice in the Caribbean in matters ranging from the fight against the Shiprider arrangement, the fight against money laundering and other crimes and, indeed, Sir, here in Barbados, as the previous speaker mentioned, to the fight against the OECD and other international entities.

The Attorney General, who is also Minister of Home Affairs, must receive great commendation and when the history of this era is finally written, his work in the fight against crime will be adequately noted. He has done an outstanding job and continues to do so. Indeed, Sir, his many efforts in leading the fight against crime have begun to bear fruit and we in this Chamber stand solidly behind this distinguished honourable gentleman, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, in his efforts to fight crime.

I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to learn at the feet of such distinguished persons. There is sometimes an unfortunate tendency in the society which we in this Chamber, and certainly we in this Barbados Labour Party, do not and will never condone, and that is the matter of discarding older persons, casting them away, not allowing them to make a contribution.

Both within the Party as well as within the Government, there are terms of the Government's discharge of its policy objectives as articulated by the Honourable Minister of Social Transformation, in terms of its consideration for older persons. We see the older persons of Barbados as having a most valuable contribution to make, because we cannot know where we are going unless we know where we are coming from. We need a mixture of wisdom, which one can garner only through time, as well as the exuberance of youth in order to take us forward, and we are very pleased on this Side and, certainly, I, speaking from a personal perspective, am very fortunate to have been able to seek advice from the Attorney General and the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member for the City on several occasions, both in terms of the discharge of ministerial function as well as the discharge of my function as a politician and member of the Party.

For over a quarter of a century of service, they have put country before self. They are truly persons of whom this Honourable Chamber can be proud. They are truly persons that all citizens of Barbados can be proud of. They are truly persons that those of us in the wider Caribbean region can be proud of. It is therefore a pleasure for me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to support the Resolution offering congratulations to the Honourable Member for the City and to the Honourable Member for St. Thomas on the conferment of this most fitting award outlining their contribution through politics to the development of our great country, Barbados, during the twentieth century.
12.55 p.m.

SUSPENSION

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

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

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Deputy Speaker suspended the House accordingly.
12.56 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF LAND AT THYME BOTTOM, WILCOX AND FAIRY VALLEY, CHRIST CHURCH, FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution before this House seeks permission to acquire 17 631 hectares of land at Thyme Bottom, Fairy Valley and Wilcox, Christ Church for the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is pursuant to the Cabinet's decision made on February 29, 1996 on the basis of a recommendation submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Transport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is necessary for us to briefly give the background to the acquisition. Since 1995, the Planning and Priorities Committee approved a feasibility study for the improvement of the Grantley Adams International Airport. The Committee also approved the

removal and relocation of a number of houses located in the vicinity of the airport. As part of the feasibility study, an Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted. It stated among other things that the runway approach had housing development within the area and that it should be kept clear for the safety of aircraft.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is necessary to look at this study which revealed that the runway which is 11 000 feet long by 1 050 wide is the biggest in the Caribbean, and can accommodate any size aircraft.

The study looked at the effect of noise around the airport and said that it was important that the area be kept clear so that aircrafts coming into the Grantley Adams International Airport would not be affected by noise, objects, radar or instruments used for domestic use.

The study also revealed that persons were in the direct flight path of aircrafts coming into the airport, and Government decided to acquire the lands around the airport to improve visibility so that the airport will be kept within international standards.

This Resolution, therefore, seeks to implement the consultant's recommendations by acquiring land in the following areas:

Thyme Bottom	9 478 hectares
Wilcox	3 819 hectares
Fairy Valley	4 064 hectares
Total	17 361 hectares

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the acquisition will affect 68 households. Government has acquired two sites in Christ Church, one at Lead Vale and the other at Fairy Valley. We have already developed these two sites to accommodate the persons to be relocated. In total, 94 lots have been created at these two sites. The lots vary from 3 000 to 10 000 square feet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will explain why the lots vary in size. In 1998 Cabinet approved a policy framework for relocating persons at Thyme Bottom to allocate lots of 3 000 square feet to persons who do agriculture and to those persons who had livestock. We also agreed that those persons who are currently renting lots with chattel houses would be able to purchase one of the houses built at Thyme Bottom. The Government has taken the initiative to provide permanent wall structures for all those householders living at these three sites.

At present, out of 68 households living at the area, 35 of these households have timber houses but no land, and they will be getting wall houses. We have started to construct 35 wall structures for these persons. The remaining 33 households are persons who own land, and we have agreed to use a different method of compensation for these persons. They will receive compensation for their land, and they can either decide that Government will build a house for them or build the house themselves. We have agreed that they will get the full reinstatement value.

When we look at the Land Acquisition Act, it speaks to the value of the property, provided that there is a market. The Government has decided that there is no market as such for those residents at Thyme Bottom since many people would not want to acquire land near an airport within the noise zone. Therefore, Government has used Section 11(5) of the Land Acquisition Act to provide the reinstatement value. To this end, we have looked at the valuation of the Commissioner of Land Tax and we are now currently getting the valuation from a prominent engineer because we believe that it might be the best way to go in the present circumstances.
2.15 p.m.

What will it cost to rebuild a home? The Commissioner of Land Tax and Valuation will give us the value of the property as it is now, whereas an engineer of valuation will tell us what will be the replacement value.

The key point to this whole scenario is that Government intends to make the people at Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley better off. I want to make the point that Government intends to provide opportunity to make the people at Fairy Valley better off and that they should have no fear. I want to assure the Honourable Representative for Christ Church East that he must not fear because we intend to honour our commitment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also want to say that those persons who have decided that they do not want Government's spots or houses will be given the full reinstatement value of the house and they are free to buy a property elsewhere. That is the position that we have agreed to.

I want to make the point that we have also agreed with the representative to set up another Town Hall meeting. So far we have had about three meetings with the residents and we will have another meeting with them to finalise the details to look at the model houses. We have built three model town houses at Fairy Valley. At that time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, based on the recommendation, the model houses are built of timber, but Government has decided that though the model houses are of timber they will be replaced by wall.

It is important to note that when these houses are built, they will be built according to the building code and I must stress this. The Deputy Prime Minister has insisted that we adopt the strategy to make these truly model houses by adopting the building code and have the houses fitted with shutters with a view to disaster mitigation because of the type of area that we are in.

The expansion of the airport is necessary for a number of reasons. We agreed with the extension, not only because of the distance between the runway and the houses, but because of the noise level and the roads that exist around the airport. With this new design, it means that road now west of the runway will be shifted and will go through Parish Land. It will turn through Parish Land and go in a southerly direction and make a right angle turn up to Chancery Lane, or what is called Wilcox Hill.

A number of parcels of land will be affected. I know that a number of persons have complained. There was one person who complained, Mr. Brathwaite, and we have agreed that we will exclude his land from this Resolution. We will not acquire any of his land at this present time, but we will look at how we can restructure the ring road around the airport not to affect this person.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have contacted a number of residents and there are many people who have volunteered and we have not encountered very much resistance from the residents. I believe that all those residents who have agreed to be relocated have done so with the knowledge that they are helping to improve the standard of our airport, and will be doing themselves a favour by going out of what we call the "unsafe zone".

I believe that this Resolution is a good Resolution. The Honourable Attorney General has certified this Resolution to be introduced in Parliament and with those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on this particular Resolution. It is clear to me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that things have changed since three weeks ago when we debated another Bill in this House. Three weeks ago I had to convince the Honourable Member for St. George North that it was important, when acquiring land from people, that the option of offering alternative land to the landlord was important. It is clear to me that today I do not have to convince the Honourable Member for St. George North that he needs to do that. It is clear that once you are the Chairman of the Party everything said by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy applies, and if you are a Member on the Back-bench or anywhere in urban Barbados that the same law does not apply.

Let me give you an example of what I am referring to. In this particular land acquisition, anybody who is living in Thyme Bottom, Wilcox or Fairy Valley in Christ Church has

the option of telling the Minister whether they want an alternative piece of land or whether they want money. I congratulate the Minister on this particular issue. What is hurtful about it, Sir, is that when I was making the same point three weeks ago, the Minister pretended that he did not understand what I was saying. What is also interesting, listening to the Minister, Sir, is that he is now telling the House that he has no confusion in this particular land acquisition and that everybody has agreed to take part in this land acquisition, except one man.

It is clear to this House, if they were only to reflect on what I said on many occasions in this House, that once the Minister has adopted the particular policy that I spoke about, then there will be no confusion when it comes to land acquisition in Barbados. You allow the landlord to have a choice of having an alternative piece of land or having money for his property.

I am saying to the Minister that for all the confusion that you have created previously in this Parliament, you need to apologise to this Parliament, and for pretending that you did not understand what was said by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. You need to acknowledge that you have failed this House and that you have created total confusion in this House. It is also clear to me, Sir, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East seems to have some clout which is different from that of his comrades, especially on the Back-bench.
2.25 p.m.

It is clear there was a dictate by the Honourable Member of Christ Church East. He sent a memo to the Honourable Member for St. George North, telling him the type of land policy to be put in place, which, in this particular case, is the policy announced by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Today Sir, what we are now seeing is the implementation of the land policy which was announced by the DLP's spokesman for St. Lucy. And what one is now hearing is that there is no confusion, that all the landlords are prepared to accept this particular measure.

One wonders, Sir, how the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central feels today, to hear this matter being discussed in this way. I want to know if the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central should tell his comrade, his friends, and even himself, whether this is a good policy, or whether the one voted three weeks ago, is the better. Therefore, it is clear to me, Sir, that someone within the Barbados Labour Party has made an about-turn since the last major Amendment to the Constitution in this House, and that immediately after the Constitutional Amendment, the Barbados Labour Party has recognized the importance of the landlord. I have been repeating this in this

House; you cannot only look at the tenants, but also the rights of the landlord. I am happy to recognize, and I compliment the Minister on this point. He has been able to convince himself that he had been wrong all along.

On the subject of land acquisition in this House, Sir, I have been telling this House that persons cannot just take up another person's land and offer them money for it because land is a very important resource in this country and the rights of the landlord must be recognized.

I am also glad that this Government has decided to change their policy. What I would like to find out from them now – and I now have the support of the Honourable Member for St. George South – is what will the Honourable Member tell his landlords from whom he has compulsorily acquired lands and has been able to give them money in return?

You see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are supposed to create a fair and just society and are to convince Barbadians that land is important, we cannot only accept that certain people can come to Barbados ... and we have to understand the importance of land when those persons who have developed themselves into a land-owning society and have delivered this country from being a country of slave labour will now see a Government that is prepared to take from them the land, or piece of rock, as it is described in rural Barbados, that they have fought and worked so hard to own.

I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government has a lot to answer for, because they do not understand the importance or, at least up until today before this Resolution was brought to the House, they did not understand the importance of land to the small man. This shows a lack on the part of Government and also shows that this Government has always looked at the wrong interests. I am glad it took the Chairman of the Party to convince the Minister of Housing his landlords must be treated differently from the others.

I want to tell the Honourable Member for St. George North that whenever he intends to acquire land from any small holding person in St. Lucy, he cannot offer them money alone. Those persons must be able to choose.

Mr. Speaker, both St. Lucy and St. Philip have a history when it comes to land. If the Honourable Member wants to protect his interest, then those persons will protect theirs too. The same policy the Honourable Member for Christ Church East understands so well by listening to the Opposition, I would like both him and the Honourable Member for St. George North to know that is the policy that will have to be practised in those two constituencies.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I do not want the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to mislead himself, or the House and cause any confusion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have made it clear that this particular acquisition has a special condition. I have said to him that this is not the general rule. I have said to the House that the Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 will still be followed in all acquisitions, but I specifically made mention of Section 11(5) which states:

“Where land is, and but for the compulsory acquisition would continue to be, devoted to a purpose of such a nature that there is no general demand or market for land for that purpose, the compensation may, if the Judge is satisfied that reinstatement in some other place is *bona fide*, intended, be assessed on the basis of a reasonable cost of equivalent reinstatement.”

We made that point, then the Cabinet agreed that the policy for this particular acquisition was that there must be a reinstatement value. It does not mean that, hereinafter, all other acquisitions will be used as reinstatement values. Therefore, I want to assure the Honourable Member we will do acquisition as normal because that is the policy of the Government.

Asides.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy were ordered expunged from the Records by Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the facts are that when we went to St. Michael East and acquired land we never had that rider, Sir. The first time, Sir, that we are now getting this rider is now that we are in the constituency of the Honourable Member of Christ Church East ...

Asides.

2.35 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No, Sir, the facts are there. We had acquisitions in this House in many constituencies and we never had that special rider. I want to know, Sir, how many people had to give up land because the Government was doing something important. The acquisition by the airport is the same as when the Government wanted land to be used for the Cement Plant, and there was no special rider when they acquired the land for the Cement Plant in St. Lucy. Now, because the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has land in his constituency, there is going to be a special rider.

I am saying, Sir, and I hope that all other 25 Members of this House would understand what was said by the Honourable Member for St. George North. They are not to expect when there is a land acquisition in their constituency for work to be done by the Government that they would get a special privilege. Sir, that is what the Honourable Member for St. George North said in this House and I want it to be entered in Hansard again. No other Member, Sir, different from the Christ Church East Member would get this particular rider.

I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church East because it is obvious that the Honourable Member knows what to do to represent the interest of his constituents. It is clear to me, Sir, that the other members who heard me speaking about this Clause, that the Land Acquisition Act should have been amended to accommodate this, did not look after the interest of their constituents in the way that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has done, and he has been successful and that is the important thing. He has been able to achieve something that other Members have not been able to achieve and I congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church East on it. I hope, Sir, that for any further acquisitions in this Parliament, I will hear that the Back-benchers and some of the Cabinet Ministers who have acquisitions in their constituencies recognise that land is becoming very important. For example, Sir, how can you go to St. James North and acquire land in Mount Standfast which is on the West Coast and put money in those people's hands and tell them that they can find better land elsewhere?

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as far as I am aware, the Government has never compulsorily acquired any land in St. James or in the Mount Standfast area to disenfranchise poor people. There has been no such Resolution ever brought here. What the Honourable Member means is that poor people occupying prime lands in St. James North should not be pushed off their lands, but the Government is not part of that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I cannot make rulings for you but the Honourable Member knows quite well that I never said the Government has acquired land in that area. I said, Sir ...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: No. No. No. No. I said, I hope when they acquire land in the St. James North, Mount Standfast area that the same rule will be applied because, as you know, Sir, there can only be one gold coast. If the Honourable Member wants land in Mount Standfast for a playing field, which is owned by a small landlord, I hope the Honourable Member for St. James North will tell the Honourable Minister that he has to find comparable land somewhere else to give that particular landlord.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You know I will support you to get a playing field because St. James North is very close to my heart, but I also want you to know that I care about the interests of the landlord in the St. James North area.

I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is clear to me that this must be used as a test case by all other politicians to put pressure on the Minister of Housing for equal treatment. No wonder, Sir, you can hear people on the Back-bench talking about outside children.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It is only one so all the others ...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sorry, Sir. No wonder, Sir, you can hear a Member on the Back-bench speaking about being an outside child. I am now convinced that that particular description suits the Honourable Member for St. George South very well when you compare the treatment given to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. He is on the Front Bench. He is a Cabinet Minister and he has authority but the Honourable Member on the Back-bench, a Back-bencher has no authority within this particular organisation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one thought, Sir, that this particular Resolution would have been a test case and this would have been a case that would have been followed, we are now being told that this is only an *ad hoc* situation and we cannot expect this to recur.

I am now going to say to the Honourable Members ...

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Again the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying that this is an *ad hoc* situation. The Government has timed this particular acquisition very, very carefully and has made the policy. They have also used the section 11(5) and have recognised that there is no market existing for the land at Fairy Valley. We have pointed out a thousand times to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that it is the Government's belief that nobody would really want to live on an airport and that is why we have used 11(5).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I would now do, Sir, and I hope I can do this with the help of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, is to acknowledge that there must be fair treatment and ask that,

as soon as possible, we move an amendment to the Land Acquisition Act to state that instead of cash being given, the landlord will have a choice between cash and land. I think, Sir, that particular amendment will go far in testing the will of the Honourable Member for St. George North and it will also test the will of the Back-bench to find out whether they are outside children or whether they are prepared to support a party for the sake of supporting a party, without recognising that they have a right to support the interests of their constituents.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate which concerns an acquisition in the constituency of Christ Church East on whose behalf and by whose permission I happen to stand here today.

I am very pleased, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this matter has progressed to this stage. As we heard in the introduction of the Honourable Minister of Housing, this matter has been on the road for several years. Indeed, Sir, I must say that the constituents of Christ Church East have been very concerned about the delays.

The reality, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that whilst the residents are accustomed to having to be relocated as a result of the airport expansion, they, like everyone else, would want to know with some degree of certainty when, where, and how, and the fact that the matter has stretched over a period of time was of some concern to them. I can say, though, Sir, that they are ready to be moved and they have been ready for sometime, and they are simply waiting for further instructions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to give an example of the approach of the residents of Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley to this matter of the relocation. I spoke to an elderly lady living next to the airport fence about the relocation and she said to me, "Son, I am accustomed to having to move from around this airport." She said, "Back when it was Seawell and the runway was dirt, I helped my father work at the airport, picking up rocks off the airfield and our house used to be right over there." She pointed to an area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is now right smack, almost in the middle of the runway where it exists today. She said that was the first move. In the expansion of the 1970s, she moved to the location where she is today and her approach was very philosophical. She said that this is part of progress. She was able to point to the fact that her children obtained employment at the airport, several other persons within the community obtained employment at the airport, and several others obtained employment in the hotel industry. That they all recognise, appreciate and support any effort by the Government which is required in order to make sure that the Grantley Adams International Airport remains the Airport of

choice and a hub for airlines in the southern Caribbean region.

2.45 p.m.

All that lady said to me is that she would want to know some reasonable date as to when the move would occur and what the arrangements would be. Basically, that has been the approach of the residents of Christ Church East. We, therefore, set about to ensure that the Minister of Housing, the Airport Authority, the National Housing Corporation and any other entities involved in this relocation, keep in contact with the people.

I must say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I was concerned about the tone and tenor of the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He should know better. I suspect, Sir, it is because he is wearing his hat as acting Leader of the Opposition, and his mandate as acting Leader of the Opposition is not to depart too far from the course taken by his leader. His leader is a man who believes in the politics of secret deals: if there is none, invent one.

In a matter as straightforward as the expansion of the airport, and he regrets it is not in St. Lucy, I know that he still wants to have the other airport in St. Lucy; I thought he was quarrelling about that, which would have been more relevant – he sought to embarrass himself by not displaying what he should know. That is, that the Land Acquisition Act, a 1949 Act of this Parliament, which was amended on several occasions, the last of which was amendment No. 23 of 1994, speaks in section 11 on the rules for assessment.

As the Honourable Member for St. George North has indicated, that basic section speaks about open market value and situations in which there is no market value for peculiar circumstances. I am not here to get into the substance of the section, because that has been articulated very well by the Minister of Housing, but to make the point that for the Honourable Member to suggest that the Ministry of Housing may be in breach of some rule or that they might have taken some turn for the worse is about one of the most unfortunate constructions.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is deliberately misleading the House, Sir, because at no point have I ever said that the Honourable Member for St. George North is in breach of any rule. All I have accused the Honourable Member of St. George North of doing is ...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was saying, the only thing I have accused the Honourable

Member for St. George North of doing is accepting a suggestion that I made previously to this House and applying it to the constituency of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who happens to be the Chairman of the Party. I did not at any time interfere with the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the folks in Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley are ready. As the Honourable Minister of Housing has indicated, a Town Hall meeting will be held shortly to discuss the final details with the residents of the area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we support this initiative. Indeed, as I said, the residents were concerned about the delays because, in our last meeting in February last year, some dates were given as the dates at which the project would have been executed and those dates were not met. It is, therefore, important for the officers who are executing the project to ensure that they are able to keep the new dates which they will propose in order to maintain or regain the confidence of the residents on the projected implementation dates. That really is all that we ask.

I want to assure this Honourable Chamber that the residents who are being relocated will in no way be disadvantaged either by way of the deals which they are getting with respect to the compensation for their properties, or of the location to which they are going.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a number of issues which the residents would have faced in those areas from where they are being relocated. I remember being on a visit to a resident on the Thyme Bottom side of the airfield, the area known as Cow Pasture, and in that location the wing of the aircraft – it was a British Airways Jumbo Jet – was literally flying over the house. You felt as if the aeroplane was about to land on you but, thanks to the Lord, none actually have so far. The reality is that for the safety of the residents there, there is a need to relocate them; and in order to ensure that our airport continues to have good international rating, there is a need to relocate and that is agreed.

Sir, the areas to which they are being relocated are prime areas: The area in Fairy Valley which is just on a lower level of the cliff... I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you know the area very well but for those Honourable Members who are not familiar with it, Chancery Lane and Long Beach are on the coastal levels of that area and there are two levels of cliffs rising to the airport. The folks that are

being relocated from the airport level next to the airport fence are being located to the next ridge. From that location they have an excellent view of Long Beach and the Atlantic Ocean with fresh ocean breezes and reduced noises because of the cliff that now separates them and the airport, so they are not being disadvantaged in that regard.

Those persons, Sir, who have chosen to be relocated to Lead Vale and Coverley are really part of the former plantation of Coverley. Those persons, particularly those from Thyme Bottom who are into small farming, growing vegetables and keeping small-scale domestic animals, are going to an area where they will be able to continue some of what they do now in their current location.

I can report that the Government has recognised that not only do we have a responsibility to ensure that persons are adequately compensated for the housing which they are losing, but also that the amenities are provided in the new location, so that the road which has just been completely rebuilt and repaved in Lead Vale is the main access road to those persons being relocated to the Lead Vale/Coverley location.

Over the past year as well, as a member of Parliament, I had discussions with the Barbados Transport Board and the Honourable Minister of Public Works and Transport to ensure that there was adequate bus transportation going into that area. Those areas, Lead Vale, Lowlands and Fairview, are already areas which have a substantial population and with the addition of approximately 50 or so houses into the area, then there is a need to ensure additional transportation.

I want, Sir, on their behalf to also state that the residents of that area continue to push their request for a roundabout at the ABC Highway and the Lowlands junction. This is even of a more pressing concern with this relocation because those persons who are leaving the southern side of the ABC Highway, travelling to Wilcox Hill, to Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley to go on the northern side of the highway just north of Lowlands, will want to maintain some ease of contact with their cousins, friends and relatives whom they have left behind.

2.55 p.m.

Therefore, in recognition of that, we continue to urge the Ministry of Public Works, as we have over the last several years, to include as quickly as they can in their work programme a roundabout at that location, in the absence of which residents of that northern part of my constituency are forced to journey westward to Newton in order to join the roundabout to come east toward the Airport via Charnocks to come down on the Pilgrim Road Junction. One cannot drive straight across the Lowland Road by Slumberfoam over the top of Wilcox Hill. That is an adjustment which we would certainly encourage.

I want to say, Sir, that there is in that area as well no shortage of land for further development and the infrastructure which the Government has put in by way of the new road at Lead Vale, the housing lots of these individuals who are being relocated, can be further leveraged by housing development on other lands of Coverley which are owned by the Crown. I would certainly want to take this opportunity on behalf of the residents of Christ Church East who are still hoping to purchase land or otherwise acquire some property for building to urge the Ministry of Housing to recognise that we have no shortage of land there. All that is needed is for the Ministry of Housing, if it cannot pursue the options on its own, to embrace some joint venture with the private sector in order to deliver housing solutions based on the land which we have available in the area.

I have certain proposals already before the Minister of Housing which I obviously will not disclose at this time, but I urge him to give swift consideration to those proposals. There is no shortage of land. It just requires the will of the National Housing Corporation to joint venture with the private sector to deliver solutions in that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to make the point that this particular matter that we are bringing to closure by way of relocating these particular residents does not end the issues which face other residents surrounding the Airport. This merely speaks to those residents who, because of international regulations, are no longer able to physically live on those particular parcels of land. There are several residents in wider areas – Pilgrim Road, Pilgrim Place, Charnocks going as far as Gibbons – who, because they are in the area which affects the operation of the radar based up the hill from Charnocks northeast of Hopefield Development, are not able to obtain Town Planning permission to fully utilise their properties.

Sir, this is a matter where they are not close enough to the Airport to demand inclusion in this project. These are persons who would have owned land in these areas for many years. As is traditional in the part of Barbados in which I grew up, which is where my constituents have grown up, if your parents or grandparents had an acre of land and you reached adulthood and you got married and had a family, you would add another house onto the lot, and another person later adds another house onto the lot. The situation that they face now is that with the change in technology, and with the expansion of the Airport which came along long after they had had this land in their possession for many years, they now find that notwithstanding that they are not close enough to have to be acquired in this particular project, they are still within the radar affected area and cannot obtain permission to develop the land, not to do elaborate projects but even to do simple housing construction.

I believe, Sir, that on successful completion of the project which is the subject of this debate, that the relevant Government agencies, the Town Planning Department, the Ministry of Housing, the Airport, have to get together and I certainly will share with you what they have proposed, and I would be happy as a friend of all parties to bring some resolution to the matter.

They are suggesting that, if as a result of the requirement of the Airport, they cannot develop their properties for normal use in terms of building a simple dwelling house or expanding on an existing dwelling-house, the Government has to give some consideration to acquire those properties as well so that they will be able to carry on their normal development in another location. That is not the subject of this particular issue but it is certainly an issue which this Honourable Parliament needs to be aware of, as it affects the wider area affected by the Airport.

Sir, I want to commend the Minister of International Transport and the management of the Airport for their public spiritedness in terms of the approach which they have taken to this expansion project. I want to note particularly that with the proposed expansion there will be the loss of the playing field that currently exists on the Airport compound, which is a popular playing field. It is one of the few playing fields in Barbados where one can simultaneously play cricket and football. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know the area very well. It is the home of the Christ Church Football League and the award ceremony of its annual tournament will be on tomorrow night and I am sure that we will be there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Airport has recognised the importance of continuing the provision of recreational facilities in the area and therefore on the northern side of the road, work is already in progress, not just on a replacement facility but one with an enhancement. Where previously there was a football and cricket field and no hard courts or pavilion with changing facilities, these will be provided on the area north of the roundabout between Charnocks Road No. 1 and the ABC Highway. Certainly, Sir, at the southern end of the Airport the residents of Fairy Valley are also pleased that the airport expansion does not require an acquisition of the playing field which they have made their home for several years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, residents of Christ Church East support this acquisition. They are pleased, based on the discussions I have had with them, including up to this morning when I visited that area before coming to this Parliament, that the Government has not only pursued this as a matter of relocation of houses, but has chosen two prime locations for the residents to continue their lives. It has recognised that proper public amenities have to be provided at those locations. The roads are already in place, the

electrical services are in the process of being installed, the actual houses which are being provided are about to be constructed and will be done to a national building code.

I want to say that Government in this case is leading by example. There is very little difference in cost between houses constructed to the national building code and those that are not.

3.05 p.m.

The Government recognises that, in the event of a disaster, it is to the Government that people will turn for help to rebuild their lives. Therefore, it makes more sense for us to invest a few dollars more to ensure that houses are able to withstand the test of hurricane and other expected disasters in this area and, therefore, to prevent rather than seek to correct in the event of disaster. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the residents have said they are pleased that the Government has recognised the need to provide these amenities. I can say that in the areas surrounding these two developments, the Government, through its concrete road programme and its asphalt road programme, will be improving the remaining residential roads in Christ Church East which have yet to be completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe I have said enough to let you and this Parliament know that the residents are in support of the proposals which are before this Honourable House. There has been substantial correspondence and communication both on an individual basis and a group basis. Also Town Hall meetings were held thus far and we will continue to hold these meetings.

Notwithstanding the concerns I mentioned which residents have about the delays in the project thus far, I want to commend the Minister of Housing and the Minister of International Transport for their very positive and enlightened approach in dealing with the genuine concerns of the residents of Thyme Bottom and Fairy Valley in Christ Church East.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to support this Resolution and I thank you.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me begin by giving my support to the Resolution to compulsorily acquire the land at Thyme Bottom, Wilcox and Fairy Valley for the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.

I have had the opportunity already to speak at some length on the expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport. This Resolution offers an opportunity to bring Members of the House up to date on what has happened so far in terms of the airport expansion project. It is also an opportunity to remind them of what has been done so far at the airport in that this project has created some level of

debate nationally about the expansion of the airport.

I would want to associate myself with the social side of this matter and the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the Honourable Member for St. George North in terms of what we are doing to relocate the people who live in the flight path, with as little disruption as possible.

Sir, these residents are directly in the flight path. In addition to the danger of being in the flight path, there is the issue of noise pollution, and of compromising any future expansion of the airport as it relates to the runway and the extension of the runway.

Sir, I have already in a previous debate spoken to the issue of the \$32.4 million being borrowed from the European Investment Bank for the expansion of the airport, relating directly to the terminal works of the Grantley Adams International Airport, and we have already gone through a number of issues relating to the project.

I want to remind Honourable Members that this project was approved in 1998 and that it was divided into three phases: the design phase, the pavement work phase and the terminal work phase which will begin in June.

In terms of the pavement works, this budget began in 1998 and was substantially completed on September 13, 2000. The cost at the start of this project was \$44 million. The revised cost to date is \$47.4 million. The Government of Barbados and the Caribbean Development Bank have been the financiers of this project.

The project is divided into seven packages:

Package 1

Remedial work to the runway and the taxiways at an estimated cost of \$16.5 million.
These have already been completed.

Package 2

Remedial works to the existing taxiways at a cost of \$4.3 million.
These have been already completed.

Package 3

Remedial work and expansion to the equipment parking area at a cost of \$1.5 million.

These have already been completed.

Package 4

Remedial works to the road that runs in front of the runway and taxiways at a cost of \$1.2 million. These have already been completed.

Package 5

Remedial work and extension to the main car park at the airport was completed in September at a cost of \$2.2 million.

Package 6

Construction of new aircraft parking aprons – there were supposed to be four but we could only complete three of the new parking aprons. The cargo facility to the west could not be completed because there was another cargo facility right in the path.

Package 7

Remedial works to the existing parking aprons A1 and A2 at a cost of \$3 million were completed as well in September.

Sir, all of these works were completed satisfactorily and all that is left to be done is for the contractor to clean up, demobilise and liaise continuously with the maintenance and development unit at the airport for continued works with the project.

Sir, one of the reasons that we entered into this expansion project in the first place is that we have literally become the victims of our own success. When this project was conceived in 1997 we were speaking to the issue of 1.4 million passengers – departures and arrivals – coming through the airport. This was supposed to be expanded to accommodate in the region of 3 million passengers into the year 2015.

Sir, at peak time the airport is unable to hold the number of passengers coming and going. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you visit the airport on Monday afternoon, particularly when all the chartered flights are on the ground, you will realise that it is difficult to get through the airport. All the charter flights, particularly those from Europe, arrive on Monday afternoon and the airport terminal which was built to accommodate 400 passengers at peak time, is now actually seeking to accommodate as many as 1 200 passengers during the same period.

Sir, this has put not only created an awful strain in the sense of the management of people through the airport but is sending a very bad message abroad about Barbados and its airport. Even though our airport has won many accolades for

being the best airport in the Caribbean, it obviously has problems and this is not helping us in our major markets.

Sir, the airport will continue to get even more congested until we actually start the new terminal works in June. Last year, with increasing pressure and with two of our major hotels out of commission, the Hilton Hotel and Sandy Lane Hotel, we saw increasing numbers of long-stay visitors coming into Barbados.
3.15 p.m.

Sandy Lane Hotel is, supposedly, coming back on stream for the next winter season. As a matter of fact, the developers believe that it may even come back as soon as the summer of this year. If that is the case, even with those two properties out and losing as many as 300-plus rooms out of our major markets, we were able to record some 545 000 visitors to Barbados last year. Apart from that, this is the first time in our history that we have had so many long-stay passengers, Mr. Deputy Speaker: in terms of cruise ship passengers, 533 278, making a total of 1 078 305 passengers – the most Barbados has ever recorded in its history, in terms of visitors to the island.

If you take into account that the airport not only accommodates people who are coming simply as long-staying passengers, but that the development in the cruise industry has now placed Barbados in a position where we are accommodating cruise and stay passengers, we now have the concept of people coming to Barbados on an aircraft, staying overnight and going onto a cruise ship the next day, then doing the same thing in reverse when the cruise ship arrives in Barbados.

There is much more apart from the long staying passengers that come through the airport. There is even more pressure to develop this airport because we are also seeing cruise passengers as well coming and going through the airport. This, Sir, has created its own set of problems. There are problems in terms of the management even at the level of handling Immigration and Customs. The point is, Sir, that unless we are able in the short term to deal with the number of passengers that are moving through our airport, we are going to put ourselves in more problems and create a worse situation for us in our major markets.

In terms of the actual renewed terminal work at the airport, the existing departure and arrival terminal will become one departure terminal. To the West of the existing arrival hall, we are going to construct a new arrival terminal. Tender notices have been sent out, the pre-qualification has been finalised and tenders are supposed to be in by February 19, 2001, with a proposed mobilisation and start of construction by June 30, 2001.

Sir, this is significant because we have already started some level of expansion in the existing departure lounge at the terminal. There is another storey that is being used to accommodate the numerous passengers that pass through the airport at peak hours. We have been engaged in construction of that new departure facility as well as been able to start looking at additional works around the airport.

We were supposed to build four parking aprons but only three were built. The existing cargo facility was in the path and we have now been able to resolve that issue with construction of a new cargo facility which will commence this year. In addition to that, a number of other items and issues at the airport, which were talked about for a long time, have been resolved.

The radar at the airport, that people spoke about at the end of last year, is now once again up and running. As I have said here in this House, many people chastised us for the reason why the radar was not working. The radar at the Grantley Adams International Airport is a radar that is over 20 years old. A radar is not a shelf item. It has to be constructed specifically to fit a specific airspace and specific air traffic. The Government, back in 1999, started the process of acquiring a new radar at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

The existing radar, because of its age would obviously give problems, and it is prone to break down at times. For a long period of time it was out of operation and the component parts that were needed to get it up and running had to be ordered from the manufacturers in Great Britain. In addition to that, one of their engineers had to come to Barbados to refit the existing radar. It took a very long time for them to get permission to actually bring the radar parts out of Great Britain, even though they were coming to another sovereign state, but the radar is now up and running.

In addition to that, the new radar, which is supposed to replace that, the actual structure and the housing on which the radar has to sit, have already been constructed. That radar has arrived in Barbados and is supposed to be constructed and will be in use, we expect, by the middle of this year.

During the time that the radar was out of order, many people sought to imply that the airspace above us was not safe. I want to dispel that notion. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are manual procedures in terms of landing aircraft when there is no radar functioning and those procedures were put in place at the airport. There were numerous delays but the manual procedures obviously caused delays. In terms of anyone implying that the airspace was not safe, I want to dispel any rumours that the airspace was not safe during that time.

I want to add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there are jurisdictions around us in which there is more air traffic than we have and where there is no radar, and manual procedures are used. These manual procedures are 100 per cent safe if

followed to the letter.

The other issue, Sir, in respect of the work at the airport on the land side. The main car park at the Grantley Adams Airport has been congested for a long time. There were problems with the drainage which we were able to fix. It is now more than adequate in terms of accommodating the traffic. We are putting new parking collection booths at the airport and we are in the process of going through a system of paying as you park with a ticket – in other words, walking to a machine and paying so that you do not have to delay getting out of the airport. We are aware that causes a heavy level of congestion in the airport car park.

There has been the problem of the waste water facility at the airport and the perimeter fencing which constantly leans out, and there are many gaps in that perimeter fence. We now have teams working to keep that fence upright.

Sir, construction of the cargo facility on the land side will begin in June, 2001. We believe that at the end of the day we are going to have a state-of-the-art airport that can more than accommodate the traffic that is expected to come to Barbados up to the year 2015. This project means a lot, and not only for Barbadians. Any effort to do anything further in tourism is dependent upon how we treat the Grantley Adams International Airport and how we treat the expansion of this airport.

Tourism is too important for us to speak to issues of not having a good functional airport. I want to say that legislation is pending, and will be coming, in relation to the transfer of the operating rights and transferring the assets and liabilities of the Grantley Adams International Airport from the Crown to the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc., the private sector company that has been set up to run the airport.
3.25 p.m.

In July 2000 this Government put in place the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc. with Mr. Colin Brewer as Chairman, and a number of other directors, and that particular legislation, which is with the Chief Parliamentary Council and should be available for Cabinet shortly, is going to move Barbados forward.

One of the conditionalities of the European Investment Bank (EIB) loan is to have an airport company on a commercial basis. In addition, on that Airport Board, there are a number of persons who are well-versed in financial and other administrative matters and what we are seeking to do is to create the best possible airport for Barbados, and the best possible commercial private entity, with the least bit of dislocation to those persons already employed at the Grantley Adams International Airport. That Bill, as I said before, is with the Chief Parliamentary Council.

Once again, I want to commend the Honourable Member for St. George North, and all those persons associated with the Project, who have worked alongside the administrators at the Grantley Adams International Airport in bringing this issue to its closure. This means a lot to the people of Fairy Valley.

I also want to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Parliamentary Representative of that area, when he speaks of being able to construct concrete houses for these persons. Obviously, many persons living in the flight path cannot depend upon fair market value for their houses because, ultimately, they will not get a fair market value because of the fact that they are living in the flight path, and this is a very serious social issue which we have always been associated with – the issue of giving them a house which is comparable in price to the one in which they now live, or an even better one if it is going to be relocated in another part of Barbados. I want to commend those persons who have thought that this is the right way to proceed.

Sir, with those words, I want to add my support to this Resolution. I thank you.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to give my support to the Resolution before this House. As has been adverted to by other Speakers, this Project, if you will call it that, arose at a time when I had the portfolio for International Transport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am she who insisted that these persons should have enhanced wall houses, better than what they had before, and that we should observe the building code, particularly bearing in mind we were relocating persons to a place out of Christ Church where in the event of a storm – not even a hurricane – you would expect to have high winds.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is all borne out of the wellspring of my experiences in the City of Bridgetown. One of the very first things, indeed if not the very first thing, I had to do as a new Member of Parliament and as a Minister of Health in September, 1976 was to face the fact that Mr. Erskine Sandiford, now, Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, just days before the September 1976 Election, had signed an Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in respect of the sewerage of Bridgetown which would require the relocation of a large number of persons from the Chapman Lane area to a place which had been appointed to them at Clapham, another part of St. Michael, in order for the Sewerage Treatment Plant to be built at Chapman Lane. All kinds of motives were ascribed at the time, but the reality was, there I was with the Minister of Health portfolio and having fought two Elections within three months, with a decision to make. It was made clear to

me by my Cabinet colleagues and advisors that, at that stage, there was no way that Barbados could have gone back on the Agreement with the IADB, and that I had to swallow it. And swallow it I did, Sir. Therefore, other Members of this front bench and any others who will come will understand that sometimes one has to look at the greater national good and, when one comes to the Cabinet, one's constituency comes above the national good. The first thing I did was go to Clapham and, to my horror, wells were already dug for dry pit toilets. I was appalled. I said, "In 1976 you are building houses and digging dry pits? No, it will not do..." And although I did not believe that I had the authority then, I gave instructions that the work had to be stopped immediately, well knowing that I was going to get the support of my Cabinet colleagues, which in fact, I did, though being the youngest and greenest of them all. Sir, I gave credit to the late Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams, who was then Minister of Finance, because he took the point immediately.

Today, Sir, we have a wonderful community in Clapham. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who is not here, speaks glowingly of them whenever he has to make reference to Clapham: beautiful houses, people have enhanced them over the years, and wonderful community at a time when persons were saying that nothing good can come out of the persons living at Chapman Lane.

Yet again, I am involved with the Ministry of Housing in the relocation of persons from the Church Village to Lower Burney and that is why I gave my congratulations to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, who is looking at every small detail that will redound to the benefit of his constituents.

In the Barbados Labour Party, we have always had the policy that where persons were to be relocated on account of, as the Resolution itself puts it, "a public purpose", and there is no better public purpose than this, those persons must be better off in the end. It pleases me greatly, Sir, that this is the case with the persons who have to be moved from the precincts of the Grantley Adams International Airport to a now better and more enhanced location and environment.

I want to say congratulations to the Minister of Housing, who has taken the point and did not need to be persuaded. He is a new Minister of Housing, so to speak, because this goes back a number of years, and I am glad that it is coming to fruition and in an amicable way and that persons are going to be better off, generally.

It is important, and I want to use this opportunity Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to make my point about the importance of a building code. Barbados has been spared, and we should get down on our knees and be thankful for it, that in the 20th Century just passed, we only had one major hurricane and

that was Hurricane Janet in 1955. There are some of us, like myself, who can barely remember it. What I do remember is a terrible experience which I would never like to see again. I did not see much of it because when we wanted to be taken around to see it my father said, "No, we are not to look and gloat over other persons' misfortunes; it would be better to find ways of helping them."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Professor Gray in the United States of America, time and time again, has pointed out that in the first fifteen years of this 21st Century we are going to see more intense storms in the Caribbean. We are going to see them earlier in the season, and they are going to be many more than we normally would expect.

Our neighbours in the Caribbean have suffered greatly in recent years. Antigua has gotten hit six times within five years.
3.35 p.m.

The Bahamas was hit twice last year by hurricanes. I happened to be in St. Croix in October of 1999 and there had been a hurricane passing over St. Croix just two days before I arrived. When I was being driven to the hotel, I said, "But I am not seeing any hurricane damage." It was explained to me: there is a building code in St. Croix. It now also applies to Antigua and The Bahamas, and is even more stringent than the Florida Building Code.

We think that we can get by in Barbados. I know that there is a Building Code in draft and I cannot wait for the day when it gets here. We should not want to be in a situation of 'where is it?' rather than 'here it is' in the event of a storm that could do damage to Barbados. The reality is, and I have to say that the present Prime Minister and Minister of Finance recognised that in those countries, having suffered a first time and learning the hard way, they then put building codes in place. When the second blow came there was very little damage to property.

In Antigua and The Bahamas when the hurricanes hit for a second time, after the building code was put in place and people were made to adhere to it, tying on their roofs and building their foundations in the way that they should, designing their houses in certain ways and using certain materials and so on...

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: ...In a place like Trinidad, for instance, where they do not get hurricanes but earthquakes, every house that is built has to have a steel frame and the people adhere to that because they know it is to their benefit.

If that had happened in India, we would not have seen the loss of lives and the loss of properties that we saw just a few days ago, and the same thing in El Salvador. We need to

put that building code in place because what has happened is that where it was put in place, when the storm came, what we saw in Antigua, in The Bahamas and in St. Croix, was more damage to utilities than damage to buildings. Buildings withstood, even buildings on the seashore taking the brunt withstood, and that is why in the last Budget, Prime Minister Arthur was disposed to give relief by way of incentives for people to attach shutters and find other ways of mitigating disaster to their properties.

One of the reasons why the cost of housing insurance is so high in our part of the world is entirely because of the number of hurricanes outside of Barbados. All of the insurance companies reinsure to a large extent, outside of Barbados and so we have to help to pay for that even though not many claims, or no claims at all in respect of hurricane damage, come from us. And so it is in the interest of us all to make sure that we protect our properties, following a building code that will allow us to do so at minimum cost so that at least we can hold insurance premiums down, and we can then expect to have a minimum of damage in the event there should be a storm.

Sir, I make no apology whatsoever, for the fact that it was I, and whoever wants to quarrel with me for that, they are entitled to do so. But this is my position and that should be the case in every home that is going to be built in Barbados. We should be looking now to follow a building code even though one is not properly in place yet. I know that the Ministry of Housing intends doing that and I hope they intend to put it in place in this year of our Lord. This is a new century now so, from that point of view, I am very pleased to support this Resolution.

I want to say, too, a little word about the airport expansion, but not along the lines that the Minister who now holds the portfolio for International Transport did. I want to make a different point and it has to do with land, which is what this Resolution is about – the acquisition of land. I held the view in the past, and I continue to hold it and I do not see anything which will change my view, that we have to recognise that we are going to require more and more land around the Grantley Adams International Airport for future expansion.

There is no sense in allowing building to go on willy-nilly and then 10, 20, 25 or 40 years from now, when most of us will have passed from this scene, you have then to be acquiring properties and knocking down properties in order to accommodate an expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport. It is my view that both roundabouts, the one near to the church and the other one when you turn to go into the airport, ought by now to have been within the curtilage of the airport itself. Clearly, the Highway will have to be relocated to accommodate that. We can go no further to the south than we are going now because part of the airport expansion includes a new cargo facility, as we have heard,

which is going to be a private sector/public sector arrangement, and that is to start in this year as well. There is not a great deal further that we can go to the east into Gemswick, so clearly we have to go across the road and go further north. I would like to suggest that the Minister of Housing should perhaps have consultations with the Chief Town Planner and all of the other officials with whom he would have to have consultation, in order to look at a long-term acquisition of lands planned against the future expansion of the Grantley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the early twenty-first century, in fact we saw it beginning already toward the end of the twentieth century – airports now are not exclusively about airlifts, and now Barbadians may begin to appreciate a little more of Tom Adams's dream for an industrial highway, because that is what the ABC Highway really is, and people have forgotten that that is what it is called. It is an industrial highway linking the two major ports, the airport and the seaport, and it was his dream that sub-towns would grow up along that industrial highway, whisking exports to one port and the other port and moving tourists from one to the other, especially those who are fly/cruise tourists, those who fly in here to pick up a cruise ship.

Sir, an airport is now a place for hubbing and the Grantley Adams International Airport has always been hub airport for the southern Caribbean and, as far as I can see it, will continue to be so in the future, and also for cargo. Then, there are businesses which some people now carry on within an airport and there are many other ancillary businesses and services which will grow up around the Airport and you see it happening already. We should in the future avoid having to go not only to the financial costing of relocating people, but the social dislocation that is associated with it. It is better that we should define, earmark and acquire or begin a process over time of acquiring these lands with a view to the future expansion of the airport.

With those few comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said in the beginning, I am pleased to lend my support to the Resolution before the House and I am much obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in winding up this debate, I would like to thank all Honourable Members who have spoken in this debate. I just want to make sure that the Clerks of Parliament have the correct figures: Thyme Bottom is really 9.74 hectares and the total area of land being acquired is 17.631 hectares.

Sir, Honourable Members were asking the question, "What was the total land area of the Airport?" From information just reaching me, the total land occupied by the Grantley Adams International Airport is 587 acres.
3.45 p.m.

That is the total area of land that is occupied by the Airport plus the 17.63 hectares. To convert that to acres, you will multiply that by 10, so that the total area now at the airport after this acquisition will definitely be a very considerable amount. Of course, we will come back to Parliament later this year when we have to vest all this land in the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc.

I also want to underscore a few other points:

2. That the tenants would be able to purchase their new houses. Those persons who are tenants now at the airport will be able to purchase the new houses so that they will be landlords in their own right and will now become property owners. This relates to all those persons who are now tenants.
3. Householders will sign an agreement relinquishing all rights to their existing structures once Government has taken over and has paid the compensation based on the ...

Asides.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I was told that 1 hectare is equalled to 2.47 acres. So this means 17.63 hectares would be approximately 47 acres. When you add the 587 acres to the 47 acres, the airport will definitely be occupying over 600 acres of land, so that will answer that question.

I am also heartened that the building code will be used. I must say thanks to the Deputy Prime Minister; she has insisted that we use the building code and, of course, the compensation package.

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

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

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

ORDER NO. 7 – THE VICARIATE IN BARBADOS
OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER
OF PREACHERS (INCORPORATION)
BILL, 2001

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Roman Catholic Church has requested that this body be incorporated. The Bill before the House is to provide for the

incorporation of new Trustees of the Vicariate in Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (otherwise known as the Dominican Order), which is a religious Order of the Roman Catholic Church, affiliated to the English Province of the Order. The Trustee of the Order is the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown.

The Bill, therefore, makes provision for the Trustees now appointed or appointed under the authority of this Bill to hold property of any kind because members of the Order cannot, under their vow of poverty, own anything in their personal name.

The Bill is a very short one and you will see at Clause 3 that:

“There shall be a body of Trustees of the Order which is hereby established as a body corporate to be known as the Trustees of the Vicariate in Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.”

4. The body of Trustees shall consist of:
4. the holder of the office of the Superior of the Order...;
5. the holder of the office of Bursar of the Order...; and
6. such other persons as may be appointed by the holder of the office of Superior of the Order...

All the assets and liabilities which may be vested in anyone's name on behalf of the Order will hereafter vest in the Trustees. The Trustees will continue to act in the normal way of Trustees.

It is a very simple Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 7, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill

in Committee without amendment and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Vicariate In Barbados of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (Incorporation) Act, 2001.
3.55 p.m.

ORDER NO. 5 – SECOND READING OF THE BILL TO AMEND THE POLICE ACT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this amendment to the Police Act is to remove certain anomalies or archaic provisions in the existing Police Act. It is to provide a more realistic delineation of functions as between the Governor-General and the Minister responsible for Police Administration and the Police Association. It is also to provide a more modern framework for the Police Association in which that Association can pursue its legitimate interests.

Sir, last year 21st August, the Commissioner of Police, Sergeant Reid and members of the Police Association and a draftsman from the Chief Parliamentary Counsel Department met to consider proposals for amending the Police Act. Broadly, we agreed on four policy objectives that would inform this Bill which is currently before the House.

The first one was to vest the legal authority for the Police in the Governor-General but, secondly, we wanted to make provision for the *de facto* situation. The *de facto* situation is that under Section 72 of the Constitution, the Prime Minister appoints various persons to ministerial office with responsibility for certain departments. There is a Minister who is appointed for Police Administration. In fact, the Commissioner of Police interacts on a regular basis with the Minister responsible for Police Administration. Sir, that is the factual situation. Next month when we come to Estimates you will find, Sir, that I have to answer under Head 30 for various aspects of the Police Administration so that, in reality, there is a Minister who has responsibility for the Police Force in our Constitutional arrangements. In Section 8 of the existing Police Act, it states this:

“The Commissioner of Police shall have the command and superintendence of the Force and shall be responsible to the Governor-General for the efficient administration and government of the Force and for the proper expenditure of all public monies appropriated for the service thereof.”

So that the present law requires the Commissioner of Police to be responsible to the Governor-General even for the proper expenditure of public monies, but the Governor-General cannot come in here and answer about that expenditure when the Honourable Member for St. Lucy asks me questions about it. What we have in Section 8 is a hangover from our colonial past which does not properly recognize the change brought about by the Constitution in 1966. Indeed, I want to specially pause on this.

There is a lot of misunderstanding and misperception about the role of the Attorney General *vis-à-vis* the Police. I am going to take this opportunity to say this again because I have said it in here before. Regarding the common-law, whenever there is crime the people want the Attorney General to go and deal with it as if I am a policeman. But the common-law regulates the position, functioning and authority of the Attorney General *vis-à-vis* the Commissioner of Police.

Lord Denning said, and it is still the law in the case called "Ex Parte Blackburn", the Queen vs. Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Ex Parte Blackburn, 1968, that no politician, no Secretary of State, that is, no Minister, can give any instructions to a Commissioner of Police about operational matters. The Commissioner of Police is free. The Home Secretary of England cannot tell the Metropolitan Police Commissioner where he is to go, who he is to arrest, or anything like that. I do not do it and no previous Attorney General has ever attempted to do it because we are guided by the law especially in operational matters. In fact, Denning went so far as to say:

"The Commissioner is answerable to the law and the law alone."

Sir, where you have a situation that, in truth and in fact, on a daily basis the Commissioner of Police will discuss with me all kinds of matters affecting the Force, then the law in the Police Act ought to be amended to reflect the reality of our present Constitutional arrangements. Sir, we have amended Section 8 of the principal Act by separating the functions of the Commissioner of Police *vis-à-vis* the Governor-General and the Minister. You will see, Sir, in Clause 2 of the Bill, that we say that Clause 8 of the present law is amended to this extent.

4.05 p.m.

"The Commissioner of Police shall have the command and superintendence of the Force and shall be responsible to the Governor-General for the efficient government of the Force."

Subsection (2) deals with the position of the Minister:

"Notwithstanding subsection (1) the Commissioner shall be responsible to the Minister for the due execution of the functions of the Force and for the proper expenditure of all public moneys appropriated for the service of the Force."

What we are saying is that it is just like any head of a department would be responsible to the Minister, and ultimately to Parliament, for the proper expenditure of funds. We are removing that archaic position in Section 8 and saying that the Governor-General has overall general command and superintendence of the Force and the Commissioner is responsible to him for that, but in terms of the day-to-day functioning of the Force and the spending of money the Commissioner will now be responsible to the Minister.

Let me turn to Clause 6, Sir. This Clause amends Section 45 of the present law. Under Section 45, the police can have a Police Association, which they do, and the Association is permitted to, and I quote:

"... bring to the notice of the Commissioner of Police and the Governor-General matters affecting their general welfare and efficiency..."

The present law which we are going to amend now says that if there are matters affecting the general welfare and efficiency of the Force, the Association can bring those matters to the attention of the Commissioner of Police and not the Governor-General.

Government feels that it is more in keeping with contemporary practice and constitutional reality, that matters affecting the general welfare and efficiency of the Force should be brought to the attention of the Minister rather than to the Governor-General. In December we had some very bad weather one day and it damaged Crab Hill Sub-station significantly. Is that a matter to be carried to the Governor-General, or should that properly come to the Ministry? Should that matter come to the Ministry where we have a Project Unit and we have people who can go and report and say whatever we need to do with the roof, and we would make the approach to the Ministry of Finance for the necessary financing? We are putting in \$400 000 to repair it in the coming Estimates.

In matters affecting the day-to-day welfare and efficiency of the Force: for example, suppose you have a problem with cars, will you run to the Governor-General and tell him that we have ten cars broken down and we do not have parts and we need a supplementary, for him to go through all of that? You go to the Minister. What we are

trying to do is to put the reality of the operations of the Force and the relationships into the law and leaving matters of welfare – things like what allowances the officers should get, if they are entitled to glasses allowance – those are matters affecting the welfare of the men which should be brought to the attention of the Commissioner, but also to the attention of the Ministry rather than the Governor-General.

You have to remember that this Police Act was originally enacted prior to Independence so that there have been survivals from our colonial past in the legislation.

Clause 6 of the Bill is merely seeking to acknowledge the current practice where matters affecting the welfare and efficiency of the Force will be drawn to the attention of the Ministries.

Sir, you had a problem in section 45(3) that the Police Association of Barbados was prohibited from associating with other Associations in the West Indies, Guyana or British Honduras, and we think that is too restrictive, unnecessarily curtailing the freedom of association of the Police Association, and we are removing that. They can associate with other forces, other Associations in any part of the Commonwealth.

Clause 7 will allow the Commissioner, with the approval of the Minister rather than the Governor-General, to make rules for the constitution and management of the Police Association. Presently, there are Police Association's rules and we are just substituting "Minister" for the "Governor-General" to keep it contemporary.

A very important clause is Clause 8. Section 47 of Cap. 167 prevents members of the Force from being members of "any unauthorised association". When you go to the definition section, you will see that an unauthorised association includes a trade union. The present law is telling the Police Association that it cannot associate with BWU, NUPW, CTUSAB or whoever. That is not right. The days for those restrictions on workers' associations are over.

I would say, Sir, that modern industrial relations would no longer hold to the view that a trade union is an undesirable entity with which to associate and the present restriction therefore, as I said earlier, unnecessarily circumscribes the activities of the Police Association.

Now it is important what I am going to say. At that meeting of August 21st last year, the Police Association made it very clear that they were not seeking a right to strike. I want to be clearly understood. The Police Association said that in supporting efforts to amend the legislation to modernise, they were not asking for any right to strike but they wanted the right to associate with other civil groups for the purpose of getting advice in respect of negotiations,

receiving training and improving the general welfare of members of the Force.

Clause 8 of the Bill seeks to allow the Police Association to associate with trade unions but for three specific purposes. This must be clearly understood. They can associate with other trade unions for three specific purposes:

1. Obtaining advice with respect to negotiations for improved terms and conditions of service.
2. Improving the general welfare of members of the Police Force.
3. Receiving training with respect to those two matters which I mentioned.

I am pleased to be able to inform the House that the Bill was sent to the police for comments and the Association, and indeed the management, are very happy with the amendments which have been proposed and have given me the go-ahead to have this legislation enacted to take out those archaic anomalies and replace them by provisions more reflective of today's industrial situation.
4.15 p.m.

Sir, this Bill has the support of the Association and the Management. The Government is pleased to bring this legislation to continue our efforts to improve the police force in its every facet.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when this Bill is passed it will be clear to one and all that what used to occur will not be able to occur. Prior to today anything dealing with the Police Force was the sole command of the Governor-General of Barbados. This now gives the Honourable Member for St. Thomas the right to lay the Estimates....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Sir, I was careful when I began to say that what the Minister does is also under the constitutional authority of Section 72. These things are gazetted and, in my case, I am responsible for the police under Section 72. My authority is under the Section 72 of the Supreme Law of Barbados.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, that is correct as it relates to the Estimates and certain expenditures but it is clear that prior to today the Honourable Member for St. Thomas had no control of the Police Force. Control was in

the hand of the Governor-General of Barbados. This is why last year when the stress of the job created certain problems for the Police, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas could not be held responsible for trying to get the officers back on the job and all reference had to be made to the Governor-General of Barbados. What we are now seeing today is an amendment to the Constitution....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Sir, there is nothing here to amend the Constitution. Sir, he should not mislead the Honourable House in this way.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, this is a matter of interpretation because prior to today the Attorney General had no control over the day-to-day running of the Police Force, and he said that in this House on many occasions.

One of the things I can say, Sir, is that when it comes to politics, my memory is very good. He was very clear to point out that even though he comes to the House and he allows the House to vote for money, that he has no control over the Police Force.

Sir, in immigration matters, the Attorney General has authority. The Prime Minister of the day has the authority to command the Defence Force....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Prime Minister does not have any power to command the Defence Force. I think in Section 9 of the Defence Act, there is the Governor-General and the Defence Board although, let me say that, on two occasions Sir Lloyd Sandiford, then the Right Honourable Erskine Sandiford, gave directions illegally for the Defence Force to work with the police. If you want chapter and verse, I will bring the files here next week so that you can check them. The Governor-General should issue directions for the operation of the Defence Force but Sir Lloyd did it twice.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, that might be true but we also know that Tom Adams did it with the fire in Swan Street. I can bring facts too, to show that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, whom you replaced by accident because there is no similar behaviour, also ordered the Defence Force to deal with a fire in Swan Street with one phone call.

Sir, I am saying that control of the security forces is now fully in the hands of members of Cabinet. Prior to today the Attorney General could not give the Commissioner of Police any instructions but with this amendment the Commissioner of Police will now have to take instructions....

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Sir, I explained to the House that I cannot

give the Commissioner of Police any instructions. I do not have that authority to direct the Commissioner of Police in what he must do. I cannot tell him to go and arrest you or arrest Tom Brown. No Attorney General has done that in the past nor will any Attorney General attempt to do it now.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I never said that you can tell him to arrest anyone; and whether it is in the law or not, it would be in breach of one's constitutional rights. I am saying that prior to today, the Commissioner of Police did not even have to listen to you but there are certain procedures now in this amendment that the Commissioner of Police will have to listen to you. Prior to today the Commissioner of Police only had to listen to the Governor-General of Barbados. I do not know why the Honourable Member is offended by that comment.

Sir, I am also hoping that after today when the police say that they recognise that the amendment will also allow them to put a case to their Minister, so that the Minister can now put a case to his Prime Minister, that we will not hear that the procedure has to be one from the Police Association to the Commissioner of Police to the Governor-General.

I hope that we will not hear that it is the Commissioner of Police or the Governor-General that is holding up the demands of the Police Association to get proper increases and proper allowances. Sir, as from today the Honourable Member for St. Thomas cannot now say that he is not responsible for holding up the increases due to the Police. We would expect the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, because of the power now being given to him, to bring the necessary increases for the Police that they have been asking for many years.

Sir, I hope that we will not continue to allow the Police to get doctors' certificates to prove that they have been stressed out because of the demands of the job, and that we will recognise that they are deserving of compensation for the work they have to do.

I would like to believe that if the police of Barbados are prepared to give up so much, that Government will recognise it, and I know full well that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has agreed with me, because every time I say on the Floor of the House that I am asking for additional salaries for the Police he always supports me.

I would expect with this new amendment that he will use the authority I know he has to make sure that our Police Force is properly compensated, and we will not hear anymore excuses about what will block certain procedures from going through and stop them from getting these necessary increases.

4.25 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas has asked us for it, and he is about to get an answer. The Royal Barbados Police Force has been asking for years and we would expect the Police Force to get the compensation that they are due.

I am saying that no one in their right mind can deny that the stress that is being put on the Police Force is far greater than before. If anyone had any doubts that the job of the Police Force is a special job, all they had to do was to listen to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North speaking in his constituency about what is occurring in Barbados today. He put a case to prove that even parishes like St. Philip are now being affected, and that the ordinary policeman cannot now deal with the criminals the way they used to deal with them before. They are now being threatened on a daily basis when they seek to carry out their duties.

I am calling on the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to accept the new powers and also to use them, not only in the interest of Government, but also to use them in the interest of the Police Force which is doing such a good job.

I know that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is famous

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I agree with him that the Royal Barbados Police Force is the best Police Force in Barbados because when one looks around Barbados we are not clear which one is the Police Force anymore. We have the police and the police, we have the Barbados Defence Force, and now we have the Barbados Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, we need to give back power to the Police Force. I have been saying on the floor of this House that if we have a shortage of manpower in the Police Force and we have a situation where we have too many people at this point in time somewhere else, then we should make a shift.

It bothers me, Sir, that during the tourist season we can find it possible to take people from the Barbados Defence Force to work with the Royal Barbados Police Force and everybody tells me that they are doing a good job, yet we cannot find it possible to transfer some of those soldiers and make permanent policemen. The soldiers would be happy to become policemen. Sir, the last set of officers in training, the majority of them, are ex-soldiers or soldiers.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying that the Barbados Defence Force soldiers now recognise that life is better within the Royal Barbados Police Force than up the Garrison Hill and they are planning to join the police ranks. I have already said to them that if they want to receive pensions, the best way to get a pension is to join the Royal Barbados Police Force. That is one guaranteed way of getting a pension. Join the Royal Barbados Police Force and as soon as you join the Police Force, you are entitled to a pension.

I would like the Honourable Attorney General and the Prime Minister to work out a provision that when the soldiers leave the Barbados Defence Force their years of service can be brought over and they can have a continuation of service. I would like the Honourable Attorney General, in winding up on this, to deal with that particular matter.

I do not accept, Sir, that when it is convenient to Government they can use the Barbados Defence Force soldiers to behave like policemen, then they use the flimsy excuse that they have not been trained to do such work. Sir, policing is not like it was in the 1960s and 1970s. In my opinion, sometimes the training of the Barbados Defence Force soldiers can be used properly within the Royal Barbados Police Force if they have the correct supervision. I know that they have correct supervision within the Police Force.

If we are to fight crime and drugs in Barbados the way that we have to deal with them today, Sir, we do not only need the normal policeman to do the day-to-day work that they have been trained for, but we also need an extraordinary policeman to deal with the extraordinary problems we have to tackle in this country. That is why I have no problem saying on the floor of this House, or anywhere in Barbados, that I support the right for a Barbados Defence Force soldier to join the Royal Barbados Police Force. We can then take the policeman and put him in the community to be a community officer because we also need that, Sir.

We need to have the policemen at the street corners relating to the youth on the block on a day-to-day basis.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very glad to hear the Honourable Attorney General saying that. I always say to the Priest, every time I get an opportunity to speak at any church function, that they have to recognise that the church cannot be seen anymore as the building. They need to get out of the buildings and come on the street corners and meet the people. If we are to seriously

tackle crime in this country, people cannot expect the criminals to come to the various organisations; the organisations have to go to the people. That is why I do not have a problem with that suggestion.

We have to find a way of going to those who we feel are offenders and dealing with their problems because we cannot expect them to come to us. We have to go to them. All the amount of talking and criticising the youngsters is not going to make them change. It is only when you go among them and reason with them that you might be able to get some change. If you are going to stand on your high horse and you are going to talk down to people, you are not going to impact on those people. Those people are going to ignore you. You have to come to the youngsters on a one-to-one basis if you want to develop a relationship with them.

Any psychologist would tell you that if you want to impact on a person, sometimes you have to behave like that person in order to develop a rapport with him. I am no psychologist, but I just want to leave that one with you to ponder.

If the police support this, they have a right to do so; but they also have to understand that if they are prepared to give up with their left hand they must be prepared to take with their right hand. It is obvious to me that they have given up a lot and Government must recognise that the police have given up a lot, and they too must give up a lot and they must be prepared to meet the policemen in the middle of the street and start negotiating those issues that affect the Police Force.

If we do not do that, Sir, we will not be solving the problems within the society. We cannot have an embattled police force at the same time that we have an embattled society. We have to make sure that we have a happy Police Force so that we can tackle the major problem that we have in the country today, and that problem is crime.

There is no doubt, Sir, that anybody who understands globalisation and trade liberalisation would understand that criminal activity would tend to increase because of these factors, and we need to make sure that we put our house in order and deal with the problem. I am saying to this Parliament that we need to recognise that the policeman is our brother's keeper and that we should do everything in our power to make sure we have a good Police Force.

The Police Force continues to be as good as it can be at this stage, but we know that if you have a man under stress he cannot perform the way he should perform and we should do everything in our power to relieve the Police Force of the stress they face at this point in time.

I thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

4.35 p.m.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you and, as usual, would be brief by simply making two points in support of the Amendment to the Bill which is before this Chamber.

I would have hoped that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would have treated this discussion with a greater measure of seriousness, but his offerings today...

Asides.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: ...His offerings today remind me of similar offerings he made on that occasion when this Chamber debated some Amendments to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). His arguments basically were that the Minister was looking to get control of CBC, but I would draw him to view this matter with a greater measure of seriousness.

I would like to admonish the Member for St. Lucy that in the practice of opposition politics one would perhaps better serve one's country, if one were to be careful not to go overboard in terms of making issues such as law and order political, and to speak with meaningful relevance to those specific and serious points before the House.

I want to make two points, and anyone who understands Government will know that one of the principal functions, perhaps the primary function, of Government is the maintenance of law and order in the society. If that is true, then that implies some measure of accountability to the principles that are governing authority in the land.

It seems to me that the proposed Amendment seeks to serve the purpose of ensuring that the element of accountability can, in fact, be better facilitated by this Amendment. This Amendment seeks to take us out of another era, by providing new arrangements which allow the present Government, represented by the Honourable the Attorney General, a more direct responsibility regarding the supervision of the Royal Barbados Police Force. It also has the objective of ensuring that the Government can be properly held accountable with reference to Law and Order. Hence, we need to have a policy where the substantive Minister can give a more direct, but yet general, oversight to policies in relation to the Royal Barbados Police Force, whilst at the same time ensuring there is independence of operations and prosecution where necessary and, of course, timely investigation.

I think the Honourable Chamber today, and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would feel very assured that this is what the Attorney General, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, has outlined for us. As it presently stands the law precludes that type of situation which is more desirable.

Sir, recent statements, both inside and outside the hallowed halls of this Honourable Chamber, have suggested that, in essence, the Attorney General is held responsible for all matters relating to the operation and management of the Royal Barbados Police Force, though that may not be the case. But that is the perception of the public's mind and I am therefore suggesting that the Amendment serves the very useful purpose of ensuring that where the Honourable Member is accountable, he has a greater say in what transpires without interfering with the integrity of the institution or with the independence of the operation in any way.

The new global circumstances in which we are living and which we are moving towards necessitate a lot of things, and one of those new circumstances will make it necessary that we make sure we have in place, a system in the industrial relations context in which we operate to facilitate the management and practice of industrial relations.

Sir, recently there have been some happenings within the Royal Barbados Police Force. There are other aspects to the Amendment before the House, but indeed, on the matter of industrial relations practices, where I believe we would want to ensure there is greater facility by everyone regarding the resolution of issues and to ensure that the institution functions as effectively as, and with the highest level of morale possible which is critical to all proper and sustained national development. I am saying, therefore, that this Amendment can only serve to provide for greater facility in that context. We need to ensure that any department of any Ministry functions as effectively as possible. It is the bureaucracy of which we speak and, therefore, we need to ensure that as far as possible, if we are to facilitate and sustain this Amendment, proper developments have to be speedily made and operations smoothly pursued. We then have to ensure that any obstacle which makes the bureaucracy even more cumbersome than it already is, is removed and I see the objectives behind this Amendment as being simply that. We have to improve the channels of communication and this is what we are seeking to do.

Sir, coming out of recent events relating to improper and inadequate channels of communication, was one of the contributions, and we would want to improve those channels of communication. Of course, in any similar situation, we would want to lessen the constraints on the ability of the workers to properly represent themselves and their causes. These are basically the two points that I wish to make, and in

that regard support the Bill that is before this House.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in winding up this Bill let me thank the Honourable Members who have contributed. I wish to give the Honourable Member for St. Lucy the assurance that regulations providing for pensions for members of the Barbados Defence Force are very, very far advanced. They have passed the Director of National Insurance and some comments have been taken on board. Certain amendments have been made to the draft and soon those regulations will be in place.

Without dwelling too much on them, those regulations will provide for the carrying forward of services, just as happened in any situation we saw, for example, the Barbados National Bank (BNB) Limited Bill where we made provisions for the service of officers from the Bank to carry-on for pension purposes under Cap. 25 from the Bank under the Act, to the new limited company, an arrangement under the Companies Act. Therefore, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy does not have any reason to fear.

The Barbados Defence Force recruits from suitable candidates, Sir, and both the Royal Barbados Police Force and Her Majesty's Prison Service have benefited from the recruitment of Officers who have left the Barbados Defence Force.

4.45 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on December 20, 2000, the Prime Minister announced new arrangements for Police Officers to be paid on a flexitime basis. Those details have been given already, Sir, and I would not repeat them. I just wish to say that they came into effect from 1st February, 2001 and there are still one or two aspects of them that are being refined, but the broad principles have been established. The quantum that is to be paid has been determined according to rank. The hourly rate goes from \$18.00 an hour for a constable, to \$27.00 an hour for an assistant superintendent.

Asides.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: That is one of the things that have to be dealt with because in the correspondence from the Ministry of the Civil Service, the ASP is mentioned. I am not sure if this is...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...Right, it should start from Inspector down, but they have ASP here. That is why I say that there are one or two wrinkles that have to be worked out, Sir.

There seems to be a concern; I certainly had a personal concern about protective officers and officers in the Drug Squad who were not mentioned in the correspondence from the Ministry of the Civil Service which I have here. I believe that we have to treat them as the Police Force has been treating them for all the years. That is to say that officers in the Drug Squad...

Aside.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: ...because they do not put the protection officers in here. They did not mention the Drug Squad men and they work all hours of the night in plain clothes and they were not mentioned. We are trying to have that clarified, and my information is that they have always been classified as detectives so they will be covered, but there was not a specific reference to them. My Ministry is pursuing those matters with the Ministry of the Civil Service for final clarification.

Sir, as I said, this Bill is intended to remove a number of the restrictions on the Police Association and also to clarify the lines of authority between the Governor-General, the Minister and the Commissioner of Police.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive, were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as The Police Amendment Act, 2001.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PARCELS OF LAND AT WARRENS, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution here today seeks permission to acquire three parcels of land measuring a total of 2 220.93 square metres at Warrens, St. Michael for the purpose of road construction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Cabinet agreed since 1997 to invoke the Land Acquisition Act to compulsorily acquire these three parcels of land at Warrens, St. Michael. Sir, two parcels belong to Allied (Investment) Limited, one totalling 1 035 square metres while the other measured 1 315 square metres. The third parcel measures 493 square metres and is the property of Falicer Enterprise Limited.

The Cabinet also approved the donation of lands to Government for the construction of the said road for the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited and its subsidiaries, Tractors and Equipment Limited and Gardiner Austin and Company Limited.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these acquisitions are in keeping with the Warrens Physical Development Plan in which an area of approximately 41 acres has been designated to be used as a Town Centre and for various types of businesses, including Government offices.
4.55 p.m.

Also included in the development of the site is the construction of an internal access road which will link the Lodge Hill Road with the ABC Highway. Since the road system will benefit all the landowners in the area, it was genuinely felt that they should share in the road construction. Pursuant to this, we held discussions with the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited; Gardiner Austin and Company Limited; Allied (Investments) Limited; Mr. Keith Thorington; Falcier Enterprises; Shell Antilles and Guianas Limited and Cheffette Restaurants Limited.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the majority of the landowners and the names we have called readily agreed to participate in the project by way of financial contributions which were in direct proportion to the area of land being served by the road, and some of them also gave donations of cash.

Let me explain that again. These various landowners contributed some of their lands because they will benefit from the road and some also donated cash. Tractor and Equipment Limited donated 11.75 square metres; Gardiner Austin and Company Limited donated 493 square metres; Mr. Thorington donated 1 173 square metres, another Mr. E. K. Thorington donated 418 square metres and

Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited donated 395 square metres and 105 square metres, respectively.

However, there were two landowners who refused to donate or participate in the exercise. I must say that these two landowners will benefit from the Ring Road because, as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Warrens Development has attracted a number of large businesses and financial centres in the area. Even though we will compulsorily acquire the land today, I am sure that they will also benefit in time from its development and it is very unfortunate that we do not seek now to acquire the entire lands belonging to these landowners.

However, we are today acquiring only that portion of the land which will form the road. As I said before, we will be acquiring from Falcier Enterprises Limited approximately 493 square metres and approximately 2 000 square metres from Allied (Investments) Limited.

The acquisition is in keeping with government policy. It was surveyed and approved by the Lands and Surveys Department and approved by the Attorney General's Office.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say again that I am one of those who support the call for changes to the Land Acquisition Act, Sir. I have said already on the Floor of this House that it allows the Minister the right sometimes to take up land because he or she might find himself or herself in dispute with a landlord. We must make sure that no minister should have the right to abuse the Land Acquisition Act just because the Minister might have a dispute with a landlord.

I also want an assurance from the Minister that the landlords in this particular case will be paid a fair market price for the land acquired from them. I would also like to find out from the Minister why there could not have been an agreement between his ministry and the landlords without necessarily having to come before Parliament. I would like to find out from the Honourable Member for St. George North what has caused this particular land acquisition to come before Parliament, and what are the contentious issues that would have caused this particular acquisition to be discussed among ourselves today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must recognise that sometimes there are personal conflicts that could cause some Ministers ..., not that I am saying that there is a personal conflict between this present Minister and landowners.

We, as a Parliament, must be sure in our minds that the Land Acquisition Act is not misused by anyone to spite anyone. The land Acquisition Act must be used for fairness. I need a rider in this particular Act to make sure that no Minister, whether they be on this side or on the other side...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: When I say 'this side', I mean a Democratic Labour Party Minister or a Barbados Labour Party Minister.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am saying, Sir, that we have to be very sure in our minds that everything we come before this House to do is above board and that spite is not involved in any of these land acquisitions. I would hate to believe, Sir, that if I were to go tomorrow and ask any of the landowners that we are dealing with today about these acquisitions, that one would say to me that there has been spite applied to this particular acquisition, because I would find it very difficult, knowing the Cabinet members as I do, that they would allow any particular Minister to apply spite when it comes to land acquisition.

I want to have the assurance from the Minister that the Land Acquisition Act has been used the way it should be used, because I detect a particular tone that I do not like, and that is "if I had my own way." That is a very serious statement. There was also a statement that, "today we are taking X and there is a possibility that tomorrow we will be coming for Y."

5.05 p.m.

As it stands now, Sir, there is no justifiable reason for any Minister to go back to Warrens to get land, because the requirement at the time was only to get enough land for a road. Anytime that I have to deal with a land acquisition in Warrens in this same area I can only believe that it is because of spite that we are in that particular area looking for a land acquisition. A word to the wise is enough. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution which is before this Honourable Chamber and to make a plea and a very strong plea on behalf of my constituents in Warrens. Three years ago or more, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Ministry of Housing dug up a playing field that was at the back of Friendship Terrace between Friendship Terrace and Warrens Polyclinic. In so doing, it was to provide another entrance/exit to the development of Friendship Terrace and Lowlands which all of us want, both the constituents and myself. It was understood that the road would be completed in good time and that, apart from the road being completed in good time, the playing field which

was used by the residents of the more than 300 houses in that district would be available to them for usage in short order again.

I, Sir, was part of the group of persons who would have explained to people to hold strain while Government did what it had to do in terms of the construction of this road, and the reinstatement of the playing field. Sir, I am sad to say that almost three years later, in spite of the fact that the road was started, it remains incomplete. It is safe to say that not a stroke of work has been done on it in the last two years, and in circumstances where the completion of the work would not only provide the much needed second exit to a district that has over 300 houses, but also a playing field which was regularly used by the residents of that area.

I, therefore, speak to the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Public Works and make a strong appeal at this stage that the needs of the residents of Friendship and Lowlands be addressed with urgent despatch. It is not good governance to start a road and leave it without a stroke of work for over two years. In those circumstances, I know and trust that both honourable gentlemen will try their utmost best to ensure that these residents are no longer disadvantaged particularly given the fact that, in addition to the road not being completed and the playing field being out of order, it has now become a dust problem as well for the persons there because it is all marl fill and it is not properly compacted.

With those words, Sir, I want to support the Resolution but just make that plea to both Honourable Members to assist.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to answer the concern of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and say in winding up that the Land Acquisition Act will never be used to disadvantage any individual, and to reassure him that in the Warrens area which, as you know is becoming very developed, there are several landowners who will benefit from the ring road where the Government offices will be. Five of the landowners have donated their land willingly because they will benefit, but then there are two landowners who have not contributed and who will benefit from the road.

Government has to go ahead because it is a Government programme, and we will never be using the Land Acquisition Act to unfair landowners.

On the other question of the land east of the Polyclinic, the Minister of Education is perfectly right. We have cut a road east of the Polyclinic and we have about 10 lots and a playing field. We have just awarded a lease to the Red Cross Society to erect their building and that will soon be coming to Parliament. They will be able to erect a modern facility at the junction above the Polyclinic. There is a road there and also a portion of land for a playing field as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has indicated. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to develop that land as yet, but I give the Minister the assurance that we will do whatever we can to ensure that the roads and the business centres that we are planning for that area and all the lots are taken within the next couple of weeks.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, February 13 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning.

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

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

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 1

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 30, 2001.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. Deputy Speaker noted the presence in the Gallery of the Speaker of the State of Connecticut in the United States of America and a delegation from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

PAPERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 2

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1999.

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS: 2

Annual Report of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the year 1996.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY 2

Annual Report of the National Cultural Foundation for the year 1999.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley spoke paying tribute to Hon. Miss B. A. Miller and Hon. D. A. C. Simmons on the award to each of the Barbados Centennial Honour.

Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 5; Hon. Sir Henry Forde, 6, 8; Hon. R. C. Eastmond, 9; Hon. R. R. Farley, 11.

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN STANDING ORDERS

Hon. D. A. C. SIMMONS 13

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42 (5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the

Sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT THYME BOTTOM, WILCOX AND FAIRY VALLEY IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH IN THIS ISLAND, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULES HERETO FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE EXPANSION OF THE GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. 13

Hon. G. A. Clarke, 13, 26; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 15, 17; Hon. R. R. Farley, 18, 19; Hon. N. A. Lynch, 21; Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, 24, 25.

ORDER NO. 7 – VICARIATE IN BARBADOS OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS (INCORPORATION) BILL, 2001 26

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 26.

ORDER NO. 5 – POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 27

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 27; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 29, 30; Rev. J. J. S. Atherley, 32, 33.

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCELS OF LAND SITUATE AT WARRENS IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULES HERETO FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION 34

Hon. G. A. Clarke, 34, 36; Mr. D. St. E. Kellman, 35; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 35.

SUSPENSION 13

ADJOURNMENT 36

Hon. D. A. C. Simmons, 36.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ATHERLEY, Rev. J. J. S. (St. Michael West)
CLARKE, Hon. G. A. (St. George North)
EASTMOND, Hon. R. C. (St. James North)
FARLEY, Hon. R. R. (Christ Church East)
FORDE, Hon. Sir Henry (Christ Church West)
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)
LYNCH, Hon. N. A. (St. Michael South)
MILLER, Hon. Miss B. A. (City of Bridgetown)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)
SIMMONS, Hon. D. A. C. (St. Thomas)