
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 23, 2001

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2001.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J. P. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE, K.A., Q.C., M.A., LL.M. (Cantab.)
Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and Minister for the Civil Service)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, LL.B. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN, K.A., Q.C., LL.B.
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A.
Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Mr. G. W. PAYNE, LL.B.
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of Labour and Social Security)
Mr. D. CARTER (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
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

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Physical Development and Environment)
Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.,
Mr. D. T. GILL, B.Sc.
Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. A. P. WOOD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development)
Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc. (Minister of Industry and International Business)
Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Wednesday, August 29, 2001.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, there are three errors in the Minutes that have been circulated to all Honourable Members of this House that will have to be corrected. Such errors can be found under the item "Resignation of a Member".

At the end of the paragraph ending "St. Thomas be vacant," there should be a period instead of a comma. Immediately after that the word "on" should begin with a capital "O". Concluding under that rubric, Honourable Members should be guided by the third paragraph where "The Honourable Member further laid". It should read "The Honourable Member further said".

Sir, with those amendments, I ask that the Minutes be accepted subject to the amendments.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I have received a letter dated September 24, 2001 from the Cabinet Secretary to the Clerk of Parliament. It reads as follows:

“Dear Sir:

I am to inform you that on Saturday, September 22, 2001, His Excellency the Governor General received from the Returning Officer for the constituency of St. Thomas, the Writ which has been issued for a by-election in that constituency certifying the election, the poll held on 21st September, 2001 of Miss Cynthia Yvonne Forde to serve as a Member of the House of Assembly for the said constituency of St. Thomas.

The Oath of Allegiance required by Section 59 of the Constitution and Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, Cap 12, was taken by Miss Forde on 24th September, 2001 before His Excellency the Governor-General.

Yours faithfully
A. Gollop
Cabinet Secretary.

I here also inform this Honourable House, that the said Member for the Constituency of St. Thomas has signed the declaration of qualification. I now invite the Honourable Member for St. Thomas to take her seat.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cynthia Yvonne Forde, it is my pleasant and Honourable duty to welcome you to this Honourable Chamber. As I note your contribution, I hope that you will conduct your affairs in the highest traditions of Parliament within the existing Rules of this House. May your term of office during this period be a satisfactory one.

Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your very warm words of encouragement. I pledge to be faithful and honest in all my doings in this Honourable Chamber and I look forward to serving, in particular, the

people of St. Thomas, and all the people of Barbados with dignity and pride. I also intend, Sir, to be the honest citizen that I have always been and look forward to spending many years in the Honourable Chamber.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, we wish you well.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I want the Honourable Member to know that Fordes usually spend a long time in Parliament.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, Sir.

I will also like to inform this Honourable Chamber of a letter that I have received from the Leader of The House relating to continuous radio broadcast of our debates. The letter reads:

“Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Government desires to have continuous radio broadcast of all debates in the House of Assembly.

The Debates will be broadcast on Radio 100.7 FM and all other radio stations desirous of carrying the feed.

I hereby seek your permission for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to enter the House and do all necessary acts in order to facilitate the broadcast of the Debates.

Yours faithfully
Mia Amor Mottley
Leader of the House of Assembly”.

11.25 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: And the response to this letter is that permission has been given and our Debates, starting from this one, will be broadcast continuously over the radio.

I am also advised to inform this Honourable House that I am in receipt from the Accountant General of the Accounts and Statements for the months of March, May and June, 2001.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the following Reports:

1. The Report of the Social Investment Fund for the Quarter ended June 30, 2001.
2. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Barbados Military Cemetery Association) Order, 2001.
3. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Barbados Military Cemetery Association) (No. 2) Order, 2001.
4. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Juphil Inc.) Order, 2001.
5. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Leon Burgess) Order, 2001.
6. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Maureen Surfleet) Order, 2001.
7. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Inter-School and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Barbados) Order, 2001.
8. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (The Barbados Legion of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League) Order, 2001.
9. The Value Added Tax (Refund) (Barbados Youth Training Association) Order, 2001.
10. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Dixton Investments Ltd.) Order, 2001.
11. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Stewart West Indies Trading Company Ltd.) Order, 2001.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Operation of the Sugar Workers Public Fund, under the Sugar Industry Act for the year 2000.

In addition I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the year 1998-1999.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the Auditor General's Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2000.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Annual Report of the Rural Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1999.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the Road Traffic (Collection of Car Parking Charges) (Validation) Bill, 2001.

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

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the recess of this Honourable House in late August, 2001, a set of tragic events taking place in the United States of America has put in motion forces that seek to undermine the political and other forces and indeed, the very security of the international community.

I speak of the events of 11th September, 2001. The events of that day, Mr. Speaker, will forever be etched in the memory of the most peace-loving people as they viewed and reviewed the terrible tragedy that took so many innocent lives of people going about their daily business. The latest estimates are that in excess of six thousand lost their lives as a result of the dastardly acts of terrorists in hijacking civilian airliners and crashing them into the World Trade Centre in New York City and into the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it must be stated explicitly and unequivocally that Barbados joins the international community in condemning these acts of terrorism and all other such acts that deliberately target the innocent.

There can be no cause, indeed, no ideal that can justify or legitimize the taking of innocent lives. In this new millennium, the basic norms of civilized behaviour must be the sanctity of human life and the respect and protection by each nation or group for that life.

While Barbados grieves with the rest of the world over this tragedy, September 11th was particularly saddening for us, in that we have lost five members of our Barbadian family in the Twin Towers of New York City. They are Pauline Francis-Tull, formerly of Newbury, St. George. Mrs. Francis-Tull immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s.

Lucille Virgin Francis, no relative to Pauline Francis-Tull, was born in Dominica and emigrated to Barbados at the age of 12 and subsequently became a citizen of this country.

Colin Arthur Bonnett, Rock Hall, St. Thomas immigrated to the United States in 1977.

Mavis Blackman, who was born in the United States and whose father is Barbadian and Mr. Wade Green, also born in United States, but whose mother is Barbadian.

These were proud Barbadians who carry the best traditions of Barbados and exemplified their commitment, dedication and hard work. Through these attributes, they sought to maintain and attain personal development and as such, in that way, paid their tributes to our Barbados.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we, as a nation, in turn pay tribute to them. As we remember them, let us also remember their families, their loved ones, their colleagues and others who grieve for them.

The implications of the 11th September, have been and will continue to be far-reaching. The global economy which seemed for some time now to be teetering on the brink of recession have begun to teeter faster in that direction. Small economies, like Barbados, which are dependent on tourism have seen significant declines in arrivals, and without innovative and effective leadership many of these economies could fail. The Caribbean has recognized this threat.

Three weeks ago, the CARICOM Heads met in the Bahamas and worked out an action plan. The Nassau Declaration on International Terrorism, the Caribbean response, indicated a clear understanding of the potential catastrophic effect of September 11 and what it can visit, and indeed has already visited on this region and the measures that are necessary to counter this threat.

CARICOM Heads have affirmed their commitment to work with the international community in the multi-faceted fight against terrorism in accordance with international law and convention. They have also expressed their commitment to increase vigilance and coordination in the future to ensure that CARICOM countries, institutions and citizens are not used in any manner to facilitate the activities of terrorists, or to undermine our national or regional security. We understand that the fight against terrorism is the fight to sustain our way of life and to safeguard the economical and social progress that we have so long struggled for. It calls for constant vigilance. What incident originating from Barbados and indeed, the Caribbean, could sound the death knell for our economy. Yet new forms of terror are being introduced. The very inter-dependence of the very economies means that countries with no known enemies, like Barbados, can become the unwitting victims of these terrorist acts. The struggle against terrorism has been joined. Barbadian blood has been shed. Barbados, like all other peace-loving nations, must stand up and be counted in this struggle.

Mr. Speaker, in paying tribute to those Barbadians who have lost their lives, and indeed to all other lives lost, I respectfully ask you to invite this Honourable House to rise and to observe one minute of silence and that this Resolution of Condolence, once passed this Chamber, be communicated to the immediate relatives of those five, whose lives have been lost.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join with those sentiments. One must recognize that in the early 60's and 70's there was a system where we had the practice of allowing persons to leave these shores to go and develop the country from outside of Barbados.

These five persons must be saluted for taking the bold step in leaving our shores and going to work on behalf of all people of Barbados. One must recognise that the event of September 11, is one that no matter where we live in this world, we must do everything within our power to fight for the simple reason that it has had such a rippling effect on the economies of the world that we cannot sit idly by and allow these things to occur.

We must understand that even though these things are far away from us they have had some effect on us and that we must use our creative minds to make sure that the damage caused to the economies of the world does not affect us in the same way as others and that is why I feel, that we as a nation because of the policies put in place previously, these should be strong enough to ride this wave.

I do not agree that this should be seen in economic terms to be negative. And I want to say that even though in the beginning it has affected us, we must understand that we are all part of the Caribbean and that the Caribbean is a place of special interest. That is why I am saying that we must be prepared to find those alternative policies and must recognize that the market force and target areas have now been narrowed and we are included in that narrowed area. That is why I am asking all tourism officials, all ministers of finance, ministers of tourism, ministers of foreign trade and every other minister and citizen of Barbados to recognise that it is for the good of Barbados that we must put our hands to the plough.

We must recognise that at the end of the day we must be in a position that even though we are faced with a negative problem to come out fighting and to prove to the world that even though we are small, we can do it. And I believe that we have the capabilities of doing exactly that, but what we have to do is to put those policies in place and one does not have to go too far. One only has to go back to

the recordings of last week and one would recognise that the Opposition Democratic Labour Party has been putting policies in place and we hope that the Government will take note of such policies. I strongly believe that this is our hour and we must do everything to maximise it.
11.35 a.m.

When there is a problem in the world, we cannot continue to behave as though we should lie down and play dead. We must get up fighting, Sir, and we must show the world that the place called Barbados is some place to be reckoned with. That great leader, the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please, we are paying tribute to five Barbadians who lost their lives, so let me pull you back in line with what we are supposed to be doing, please.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I thought I was on course based on what I heard before, Sir, but it is your ruling and I will so abide.

I am saying, Sir, that the great leaders before have laid foundations for us and I hope I will not be offending your rule by saying this, Sir, that we have a foundation laid for us that we must follow. It is no doubt that with that foundation we can ride out of this, and we should not see – even though on the personal side we have lost lives – it as negative. From the economic side, we should not see it as negative but should take advantage of it.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, the loss of a loved one is not easy to deal with, even if that person happens to be 100 years old. I believe that the loss is all the more heart wrenching when your loved one dies tragically and unexpectedly, as happened on 11th September, 2001.

Sir, we have lost five Barbadians:

Pauline Francis-Tull

Lucille Virgin Francis

Colin Arthur Bonnett

Balewa Blackman

Wade Green

It is impossible, Sir, for us fully to understand the personal trauma of those victims. I believe that what they went through is virtually beyond our imagination. I do not

think that we will ever be able to understand how they felt unless we experienced that ourselves, which God forbids, we will ever have to experience. I do not think we can imagine how our Barbadian friends felt inside when some of them saw death coming in the way it came.

I heard of some persons who had made phone calls to their loved ones by cell phones telling them that they are on the 104th floor, all the floors under theirs are on fire and they know that the end is at hand. They loved their friends and families very much and this is the end for them. We cannot experience that and we cannot imagine what our Barbadians went through, with no preparation for their extremely horrible death by the hands of whom I would consider to be very, very horrible people.

Sir, our thoughts go out to their relatives, some of whom I am sure would have been at some stage hoping to join them. Our thoughts also go out to their dependents, because for most of them the support that they used to expect is now cut off. I would think that a small but a very vital part of our Barbadian citizenry has gone and this would therefore touch each and every Barbadian.

What we do today, Sir, is just a statement of solidarity, a statement of empathy. I know how countries feel when they lose their citizens. I know what Cuba did when they lost their Cubans in the Cubana crash.

Sometimes the thought strikes me, even now, as to whether or not we have actually accounted for all of the Barbadians who perished on 11th September 2001. I am sure that there might have been some who had gone into the building for an early breakfast. Also, people from all over the world, perhaps some of them are still unaccounted for and therefore, Sir, we are saying today that we, as a country, empathise and we definitely sympathise with the relatives of those victims who perished.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 11th September 2001 was indeed a sad day for the whole world. Five Barbadians lost their lives among the 6,000 persons who perished on that sad occasion and a family of Newbury, St. George did not escape that event. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have heard on several occasions that you will find a Barbadian everywhere in this world and the saying is true. Ms. Pauline Francis-Tull of Newbury, St. George was born on 6th December, 1944 to Mr. Ivan Osbourne Tull. Mr. Tull was indeed a very close friend of my father. In fact, I must say, Mr. Speaker, that on several occasions, especially on weekends, you will find my father and Mr. Tull with a small stick in their hands, taking a stroll across the Newbury and the Bridge Cot areas.

Mr. Tull was a labourer who worked on the Cottage Plantation. He had six children. They were Ianthe, Merville, Vera, Ulric, Pauline and Godfrey. In the late 1960s to 1970s the Tull family was split up. Some of them went to live in the Deacons area, while Mr. Tull remained in St. George. It is understood that Pauline migrated to the United States of America around the early 1980s and she worked in the hotel hospitality industry. Mr. Speaker, Pauline performed a service in this industry to the delight of her employers as well as the Barbadian community.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that her life has been a blessing not only to her family but to the Barbadian Community in Brooklyn where she lived. In fact, I understand that she lived on Deane Street, which is a very popular street in the Brooklyn area.

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf and on behalf of all the constituents of St. George, especially of Newbury and Bridge Cot, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Pauline Tull and to all those relatives and friends who are now sorrowing.

I thank you.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to take this opportunity to extend sympathy to the families of Barbadians who perished on the 11th September, 2001. Those individuals, Sir, would have been the ones who felt that in leaving Barbados to reside in the United States of America would have given them an opportunity to better themselves, as well as to look after their families and friends whom they would have left behind. I want to add my sentiments to those already expressed because I know that thousands of Barbadians have left these shores to go into these various countries and have made Barbados proud when they make that kind of outstanding contribution as those who have perished had.
11.45 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make mention particularly of Colin Arthur Bonnett a resident from Rock Hall in St. Thomas. Colin reached his 39th birthday on July 16 a couple weeks before his passing. He would have roamed the hills and the valleys of St. Thomas doing all the things that Barbadians did traditionally. I know that his relatives and friends who remain here will sadly miss him and the wonderful experiences they would have had with him when he was growing up. They will also miss him sending back the little barrels, the postcards and all the other little things that families do to remember each other at Christmas time, for birthdays, at Easter time and for all other occasions.

I know Mr. Bonnett's sister, Heather Bonnett very well. Most of the family is now overseas but I am sure that those

who remain here would feel privileged to know that remembrance of their loved ones has been mentioned in this August Chamber at the highest level of this country.

I want to remind the family of those who are now deceased to remember that God has his plans for them. He knows that they have made their outstanding contributions and they will be sadly missed not only by families but by friends and others on whose lives they would have made a tremendous influence. I want them to rest assured that God has his plans for them and that he will continue to give them all forms of comfort to ensure that they continue to live good quality lives.

I trust that the wife of the late Colin Arthur Bonnett and his son in this their time of grieving will be touched by His magical hand which will help them over this time of grief. I trust too that all of the other families of those who are deceased not only in Barbados but indeed in the rest of the world would be comforted by the words of the Master. They have all gone home, they have served their purpose, they have run the race and God will continue to bless those who remain alive. Indeed, this should be an example for all of us that as long as we put our lives right now when that time comes we need not worry or be afraid because we would have made ourselves right with God.

I want on behalf of the people of St. Thomas, my family and myself to extend sympathy to all of them. May they rest in peace.

I thank you.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add to the sentiments which have been expressed by the other Honourable Members who have spoken so far but particularly to remember Miss Lucille Francis who used to live at Martindales Road and who came home quite frequently because she was not one of those persons who would have thrown Barbados behind her back.

I spoke with one person who was in deep conversation with Miss Francis before she left Barbados just 48 hours or so before that tragic accident and I was told that she expressed how much she had enjoyed the Crop Over season and was looking forward to be back home shortly.

Those with whom I came in contact with and who knew Miss Francis and who would have worked with her at the Asta Hotel where she worked for more than a decade referred to her as Franny. They remembered what a jovial, amiable and Christian-like person she was, particularly those who partied with her and with whom she held dances.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt sympathy to her son Peter who still resides at

Martindales Road and to her grandchildren. So in the words of the famous biblical verse "greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." May she rest in peace.

I thank you.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, I would have already on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados conveyed to the President and the people of the United States of America our great shock and outrage at the unspeakable horror that was visited on that country on September 11. As a Member of the Caribbean Heads of Government I would have also been a signatory to the Nassau Accord reflecting the outrage of the entire family of the Caribbean people. This incident reminds us how small and inter-dependent but how vulnerable our world is. For our part, while we share the great concern of the international community about this event, there is not much that we ourselves can do materially to be part of the international coalition fighting to bring an end to international terrorism; but that which we can do we shall do.

In this respect, I want again to pledge on behalf of Barbados, as we pledged on behalf of the region, to strain every sinew to ensure that our financial sectors are not used to facilitate nor to provide a support for the operation of international terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, this is an act that will live within me. It is a matter of the greatest regret to us that citizens of Barbados have been affected by it. It is now left to me to perform the sad but necessary duty to associate the office of the Prime Minister of Barbados with the Resolution of Condolence which this House, I am sure, with the appropriate language, will pass in memory of those Barbadians who have lost their lives.

May the trumpet sound for them on the other side and may they rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to associate this Honourable Chair with the sentiments expressed on the passing of our fellow citizens. This House, with acclamation, accepts the Resolution of Condolence and so directs that this Resolution be sent to the appropriate persons.

As a mark of respect for those Barbadian citizens who lost their lives, I now invite this Honourable House and all present to stand with me to observe one minute of silence.

One minute of silence was observed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE PEOPLES
OF CUBA, GUYANA AND NORTH KOREA ON
THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CUBANA DISASTER ON
6TH OCTOBER, 1976

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Barbados has once again been touched by terrorism. Twenty-five years ago on October 6, 1976 this was brought home to Barbados when a Cubana airliner was destroyed by terrorist just outside the territorial waters of Barbados. We came face to face with it when we retrieved the bodies of young Cubans, Guyanese and North Koreans who were the innocent passengers aboard that airliner. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as a very young, new Minister of Health that was my first duty.

We have sought in our own way to keep these memories alive by the erection of a modest but eloquent memorial on the west coast of Barbados. This memorial also stands in condemnation of those who through their twisted thinking would believe that the slaughter of the innocent could further their philosophy or legitimize their causes. Mr. Speaker, they are mistaken.

The stand against terrorism must be concerted, committed and must seek to withhold reward from and indeed sanction any nation or group that seek to use terror to achieve its goal. The high ideals of the United Nations must be upheld; they that promote the engagement of ideas, discussion and compromise in the settlement of disputes. Terror, in any of its forms, cannot and should not be tolerated. Since 1976, we have seen an escalation in terrorist activity worldwide which has resulted in tremendous loss of life and destruction. More recently, on September 11, we witnessed in our hemisphere another such horrendous act. 11.55 a.m.

Now more than ever, we recognise the need for Barbados and all peace-loving nations to speak out in all international fora strongly to condemn terrorism. We must be ever vigilant to maintain our principles of democracy and respect for human rights. Therefore, we pay tribute today to those who perished 25 years ago in the crash of the Cubana Airlines flight.

We must pray for God's guidance in these tumultuous times and we must act ourselves as we work towards making the world a safer place and strive to root out the seeds of terrorism and, indeed, problems wherever they are found to exist.

I beg to move that this Resolution of Condolence be indicated to the Government and people of Cuba, to the Government and people of Guyana and Government and people of Korea whose citizens perished on that day 25 years ago.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: In rising I seek to associate myself with the words of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and to say that we, in Barbados, have had to join the unfortunate nations in the world who at some point in time would have become a site for an act of terrorism.

Twenty-five years ago is a long time and perhaps the passage of time more than anything else proves that the cause of those who sought to express their support for a political cause was unsuccessful by virtue of the fact that the very government which their actions were designed to undermine remains the Government of the country of Cuba. It is unfortunate that in this world as we seek to go about our normal business that innocent people continue to be made the subject of attacks, all in the name of causes, many of which have long historical bases and many of which are unrelated to the people who eventually suffer either as a result of loss of liberty or loss of life.

I believe, Sir, that the early twenty-first century will be a difficult one for those who have the determination and those Parliaments in particular who have delicately to balance the rights of the State against the rights of the individual, indeed, Sir, the rights of national security against the civil liberties of the individual. We will have difficult decisions to make in respect of whether to conduct surveillance to gather more intelligence, whether that is more important than protecting a person's right to privacy.

We will have, Sir, to determine whether the right to detain persons without charging them straight away is more important than a person's right to freedom and we will have to determine whether the right to espouse views of a different political complexion can override the right to suppress that, can override the right to freedom of expression. These are matters that are not unique to the developed countries of the world but will face each and every country in their determination of how to fight a faceless enemy who is as invisible as the very air we breathe and whom we will have to confront, largely because when people feel that historical grievances continue to be ignored, the access to all forms of weaponry, whether they be traditional weaponry or biological warfare as we are seeing in North America and indeed, throughout the hemisphere today, can be available to them, then we ordinary citizens are at threat.

In those circumstances, Sir, the countries of the world are being called upon more and more to implement a whole range of measures to fight terrorism. In the context of our normal development agenda, it is likely to put that largely at risk because considerable resources will be necessary in order to fight that faceless enemy, terrorism.

The Government of Barbados has been forthright in its statement that it does not support terrorism in any form, nor does it support the harbouring of terrorists or the refusal to bring terrorists to justice.

I believe, Sir, that stance accords with all of the best traditions of this country, and that we should continue in this vein should be the hallmark of the Government of Barbados. With those words, Sir, I associate myself with the words of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and wish once again to express great regret to the Government and people of Cuba, Guyana and the Government of North Korea on that incident which so unfortunately took the lives of their citizens, 25 years ago on October 6, 1976.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, let me join with the Members on the Other Side in supporting the Resolution in memory of those persons who lost their lives off the shores of Barbados 25 years ago. It is important for us to recognise that terrorism in any form cuts very deeply into the psyche and into the confidence of people. Not only does it have an effect on adults like us who understand and perhaps disagree with it but appreciate why it happens because of the context of world political and economic relations and even because of racism or religious differences or any of the other kinds of differences which have been part of our existence on earth.

The real issue is its impact, particularly on our children, and in the way they look at the world when they see, feel and experience not only the images of terrorism but the fears of their parents or adults who are really supposed to be their protectors but who themselves feel vulnerable by the circumstances that give rise to terrorism and the effects of the acts of terrorism. Our confidence in economic matters, in political matters and even in going about our daily business, receiving mail, travelling on aeroplanes and doing simple tasks gets shattered and we essentially pass on that fear and lack of confidence to the next generation.

I hope that collectively the leadership in Barbados, in the region and in the world will be able to ensure that if it is true that the demise of the Berlin wall, the end of the Cold War and all of those events that we have witnessed in our lifetime were truly meant to signal peace in the world that we would continue to try to place peace at the top of our agenda.

There are some people who have lived through world wars who feel more frightened now in the year 2001 than they felt when they experienced those world wars. That is because they are able to see the images of terrorism because the propaganda and public relations campaigns of the terrorists and of those whom they affect are so direct in their faces and affecting their lives and influencing their decisions. It is a frightening prospect.
12.05 p.m.

I hope that the people of Cuba will continue to have strong relations with us which have transcended political parties and political leadership down through the years.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to trespass on your generosity as I was not here for the previous Resolution, but I want to join with you in agreeing to the terms of that Resolution. I did not have to attend an incident of terrorism but a house was practically destroyed in St. John yesterday by a tree during the heavy rains. I hope that since it was an act of God I will get relief for the persons who have suffered from that act as quickly as possible.

With those few words, I want to give full support to the Resolution passed in the House today.

Hon. Sir HENRY FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in the Resolution moved so ably by the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown. Just over 25 years ago when this event occurred just outside of the territorial waters of Barbados, I was one of the Ministers with primary responsibility to investigate and take a stand on the issue. At that time I shared responsibility for security as well as for our external affairs.

It was for Barbados not only a tragic occasion but it was a frightening act and a numbing experience. It was horrible to understand how young, innocent people could have their lives curtailed by the wanton and destructive acts of people who are so blinded by their beliefs that normalcy escapes them and rationality is a thing of the past. I, along with other Members of Cabinet, the then Prime Minister, the Honourable Tom Adams had to make decisions that were strange for a small nation such as ours.

Sir, our nation is a nation founded on fundamental values. We cherish democracy, we understand ways of changing Governments by democratic means, we settle our differences not by destruction of innocent lives, we settle our differences peacefully and we have been recognised worldwide as a strongly democratic country with the highest political and social values. This is a tradition and a legacy which has been borne well by our respective leaders and those values guided us to make the right decisions and to take a stand on behalf of terrorism.

Barbados has consistently been against terrorist acts whether these be the terrorist acts of a group, a misguided person or state terrorism. We have spoken out about this, our laws reflect some of the measures we have taken in order to eradicate terrorism from the world, we have signed several conventions and I have no doubt that the Government so ably led in this regard by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister will bring before Parliament additional legislation and measures to strengthen the steps that we must take to provide the necessary security for our citizens wherever they may be and to signify our joining with the free world in defending the principles of democracy.

We have consistently said that Cuba as our Caribbean neighbour must be recognised and that we must always show our respect to Cuba in particular who suffered more than anyone else at that time, to the Cuban families, our brothers from Guyana and from Korea.

I am pleased that the monument has been established in memory of a sad occasion. I still pray that those who were responsible for that dastardly act, just as those responsible for the dastardly act of September 11, 2001, will be brought to justice and will be punished in a manner that will satisfy all of us that their awful, dreadful deeds are properly dealt with.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, one only appreciates how very greatly that bombing of 1976 wounded the people of Cuba when one visits the José Martín Museum in Cuba and sees the photograph of several million people who gathered in the plaza to express their outrage and sadness at the event.

Sir, we also have evidence of the continuing impact through the image of Fidel Castro and his entire delegation weeping on the occasion in 1998 when a shrine was erected by Barbados in memory of those who died on that tragic occasion. Mr. Speaker, the people of Barbados have in some ways sought to bring some balm to this deep wound by erecting a shrine in memory of those who died.

The time has come when I think that this matter ought to be properly brought to an end and those responsible for the act should be brought to justice. I want today in speaking in support of this Resolution to convey to the world the complete and utter opposition of the Government of Barbados to terrorism of any form, to convey to the rest of the world the unshakeable commitment of the Government of Barbados to support all actions by the international community to refuse to harbour any terrorist of any nationality and to support the efforts of the international community to bring terrorists of all nationalities to justice in keeping with the new spirit of international solidarity.

Sir, I feel that after 25 years this matter finally must be brought to a conclusion where justice is served and, in the same way that we are supporting the fight against terrorism in other places, I believe that we have an obligation to call for this matter to be resolved.

Sir, in that spirit I sadly but necessarily associate the office of the Prime Minister with the Resolution that is before the House.
12.15 p.m.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 27 asked by the Honourable Member for St. John is ready.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 39 asked by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS TOURISM INVESTMENT INC. OF LAND SITUATED AT CHEAPSIDE IN THE CITY OF BRIDGETOWN

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution before this Honourable House seeks permission to vest 211.2 square metres of Crown Land at the Corner of Cheapside and Temple Yard in the City of Bridgetown, in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., in order to facilitate the restoration and re-development of the Old Town Hall site.

Mr. Speaker, this site is popularly known as the Sheila Gill property, formerly owned by Sheila Gill, and it is well known to Honourable Members. The property which comprises the abovementioned square metres of land, was acquired by the Crown since 1997 after Cabinet had agreed to acquire this property by private treaty. The Crown paid \$250 000 for this property which was dilapidated. We have since cleared the site and it is to be developed by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTII).

The Cabinet has agreed that we should acquire 20 properties in the Bridgetown area for the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. So far, we have acquired and vested 12 properties in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. They are the old Police Station, Bay Street; the old jetty opposite Jemmotts Lane; the old Eye Clinic, Bay Street; Willoughby Fort; Trevor's Way; Princess Alice Highway; Old Town Hall Centre, Cumberland Street; Savoy, Bay Street; the car park near Furniture Limited, Princess Alice Highway and the old Spirit Bond, Bridgetown. I notice that development has started at the old Spirit Bond, the Temple Yard, Cheapside, and the old Post Office, Speightstown, St. Peter.

There are seven remaining properties which are to be vested in the BTII. A number of these properties do not have

proper titles. Sometimes it is difficult for the Crown, even though we say that the Crown owns these parcels of land, to find the titles since these properties were acquired hundreds of years ago. Sometimes the plans do not show the proper line marks and it is very difficult for us to find where the properties begin and end.

Sir, the seven remaining properties that are to be vested, and we have difficulty in finding the titles or the line marks, are the Lower Green Bus Stand, Jubilee Gardens, Lower Green, Bridgetown, the old Custom House, Prince William Henry Street, the Mobil Refinery, Gravesend and the common fish market, Bay Street. We cannot find title for the fish market, Bay Street and this is proving to be very difficult. Even though the surveyors have been working at that site for a long time, we cannot find the title. Within the next week, we will advertise to see if anyone can come forward to show title to this property. Eventually we will come to Parliament and provide proper title to the property. The old Fort Denmark, Speightstown, is another property that the Crown claims ownership but cannot show title.

There are several other parcels of land across Barbados that were left in trust from time immemorial but we do not have the title for these properties. Mr. Speaker, we will have to come here to provide proper title for these properties.

Mr. Speaker, the BTII have started to develop Bridgetown. I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Tourism will outline the programme that is being done by his Ministry and the BTII. With those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, from time to time, we have been coming to this Honourable Chamber requesting the Government to acquire or vest properties in the BTII. It appears to me that this procedure is being done on an *ad hoc* basis. I take this opportunity to ask Government to set out a proper land use policy so that we will not be in any guessing game on which properties that the BTII will be needing in the future.

Sir, I think we are at a stage, considering that our economy is very much concentrated at this time on the sale of land and the tourism product, that a proper land use policy be brought before this Honourable House. As you are aware, Sir, some years ago while discussing either the White or Green Paper on Education, I brought up the point about the need for having a land use policy. To date, nothing has been done about this particular matter.

A country the size of Barbados, cannot continue to adopt the procedure where every time we need a piece of

land, we just come and acquire it without having a proper long-term policy for our land. One must appreciate, Sir, that land is that scarce resource which we do have much of and also that we must do everything to allocate properly the land that we have at present.

12.25 p.m.

With this in mind, Sir, I would implore the Government to recognize the need for a proper land use policy and before coming again to this Parliament especially to vest land in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., it must first put a proper land use policy in place.

It is regrettable, Sir, that as a parliamentarian one cannot tell anyone, whether it be an investor or anybody else, which piece of land in Barbados is to be used and for what purpose.

Asides.

Mr. D. ST. E. KELLMAN: One must understand the importance of this and must recognize that if we do not have that policy in place, we would not be able to properly allocate the resources of Barbados to their usefulness. It is for that particular reason, if we are going to go forward, that we must first have a land use policy in place. Those Ministers who do not understand the need for land use policy will continue to make the errors they have been making. Therefore, I implore the Government, Sir, to recognise the need for a land use policy and to make sure that that policy is brought before this Parliament.

I am also asking the Minister responsible for the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., to come and outline the total process and usage of the lands that are presently in store and also to tell this Parliament the required land they will be needing in the future between a ten-year to 20-year land use policy, so that one could better understand the allocation and usage of land in this country.

Some persons might not understand the importance of this, but any Government that wants to operate must first understand that if it does not do that, the land that can be easily used for another purpose can end up in the hands of other persons that it was not intended. Then the Government will have to pay a very high price for a parcel of land that, if they had used foresight, would not have cost the same amount that they would have had to pay at a future date. Sir, I hope those who can think and understand would recognise the importance of this call and will do the necessary things.

I do not mind the asides, Sir, because I know three months or so from now, this very speech will be repeated by the same person who has made the aside. I thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am delighted to give my support to the matter before this Honourable House.

This Resolution for the vesting in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. of this parcel of land at Cheapside, the City, more particularly described and known as the site of the Old Town Hall, is very much one of several focal points in what is going to be a redeveloped and rehabilitated capital city of Barbados known as the City of Bridgetown.

In this early 21st Century, as the sitting Member and one who has sat for close to 25 years in this Honourable Chamber, representing the City of Bridgetown, you would understand that nobody will take greater pleasure in this than myself.

When I first spoke of this in my early years in Parliament there were those who laughed at me and said that I was a dreamer. Indeed, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who is not now in his seat, has often found it possible to say of me that I am in advance of my time. But sometimes, Sir, the planning period has to be a long, involved and consultative one and it makes me very happy that in a new era, Sir, both public and private sector are coming together at long last in ways that we, with the naked eyes, can see to make this a reality.

It is incredible that at this stage of our development we can expect to move forward at a time when tourism is the major sector of our economy and set to remain so for many years to come; when the international services sector is growing in strength and indeed, is the second largest foreign exchange earner in our economy, then we can expect to move forward with a shabby, dishevelled and broken down city centre, such as we have had for too many years in our lifetime. I am pleased to say, Sir, that what is known as the Old Town Hall, broken and derelict, is going to be restored to its former glory. The restoration of that piece of our architectural heritage is going to begin in this financial year 2002, but not in this calendar year.

It is proposed that the facade of the Old Town Hall, with its overhanging gallery, as some of us who are old enough to recall, will be retained as it looks out onto Cheapside and the Lower Green and that behind that facade, a modern office block in the footprint of the Old Town Hall is going to be erected.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is going to cost several million dollars, financed from proceeds of the Caribbean Development Bank in the form of a loan to the Government of Barbados. Some of the funding for it will come from the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., first settled development bound rating.

The Old Town Hall, Sir, is going to look out on a green again. As we speak, works are underway at the bus stand just north of the General Post Office. Persons can see that work is now going on there. What is happening is that a modern bus stand, with modern facilities and amenities, including a vendors court, is being constructed, so that both public and private service vehicles will move from that location. Once the Lower Green is freed up, it is proposed that it becomes a green again and will become an extension to the Jubilee Gardens. The St. Mary's Church Council has given permission for its church wall to be taken down and replaced with railings which will allow a flowing of green. 12.35 p.m.

The St. Mary's churchyard, Sir, is a very beautiful place and we have undertaken that we will restore graves and put benches both in a restored Lower Green and in the church yard where I hope there will be lunch time concerts and other performances. I would think that the Lower Green will be a place in the City of Bridgetown where you could go and sit and where on a Friday or Saturday, artists would come and put up their easels, potters would come and put down their spinning wheels and do their work and sell their creative products to Barbadians and visitors to Barbados.

We all must have a share in this, and I would hope that Barbadians would wish to purchase a bench and are prepared to put a little plaque on the bench. I am prepared to pay to put a plaque on a bench to commemorate my grandfather who was a denizen of that part of Bridgetown. I have no doubt that the Attorney-General would want to purchase a bench, at many thousands of dollars, to commemorate the memory of her grandfather who was a denizen of that part of Bridgetown and indeed rose to become a distinguished Mayor of the City of Bridgetown.

I wish that other people would wish to do likewise. Somebody would want to pay thousands of dollars for a bench either down there or somewhere in Independence Square, which is going to become a very green and beautiful civic space, to commemorate many characters known in the City of Bridgetown. Somebody would want to pay for a bench to commemorate "Gear Box".

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I would be willing, Sir, but it is going to become a green and a beautiful place. Mr. Speaker, the private sector who have frontages onto that square are already beginning to assume a sense of responsibility for them.

For instance, last year the Caribbean Commercial Bank decorated the Christmas tree and again this year, they are going to decorate the 40-foot Christmas tree that the Government of Norway is going to give us for the Jubilee

Gardens. They have decided that it is going to be their everlasting contribution.

Other private sector interests now want to look at the possibility of a sidewalk type café and sidewalk type places where one could buy artifacts and beautiful things made by the hands of Barbadians and where, not only visitors of Barbados but Barbadians themselves would want to go and make their purchases. We could see what is happening already, coming up from the south gate of the Port. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East who is not now in his seat, Sir, and his Ministry were responsible for the restoration of Pelican Village.

Immediately east of that, there is going to be a small village to accommodate the Rastafarian craft's people. The Cheapside Market is now in the process of construction. It is going to have a food court and it will become a place where I expect people would go at lunch-time on a daily basis. People would continue to go on the weekends, as they do now, to get their greens – and we need to be eating more and more of those – and it will become a busy place like it used to be when I was a child where people went to buy everything. It will have its meat counters, greens counters, provision counters and a mezzanine where games, arts and crafts made by the hands of Barbadians can be purchased. Sir, all of that work is underway.

Sir, coming up the Wharf Road, Barbadians can see already underway the Old Spirit Bond, sometimes known as the Queens Warehouse, now being restored. Very careful attention is being paid to the restoration of the brick work and the flagstone work of the floors. I am keeping my eyes very closely on these matters.

Sir, let me say this about the Old Spirit Bond. There is a small group of black Barbadian private sector entrepreneurs who are undertaking the restoration of the Spirit Bond. We expect that there will be many small boutiques, restaurants and the kind of business enterprises which would attract not only visitors to Barbados and tourists but Barbadians as well.

A lot of this redevelopment of Bridgetown, Sir, is private sector driven and I think that Barbadians are beginning to get involved now that the redevelopment has started. The Boardwalk is going to be extended westward at the expense of private sector individuals who are in the process now as we speak, of creating a courtyard kind of development.

The Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTII) is also constructing a car park there, as we speak. These works are all going to be completed by mid 2002. The Boardwalk is also going to continue in an easterly direction, up the Inner Careenage which now has to be piled and there

is a proposal for the piling of the Inner Careenage. There is going to be construction of both sides of the north and south walks, the Independence car park side and the National Heroes Square side.

The Inner Careenage has to be sheet piled. We have to put concrete centre beams and anchor ties for small crafts which will come into it in time. The Boardwalk will continue along this northern side as I have said and I am hoping that a floating platform will be a feature of the Inner Careenage, where artistic groups can perform with very imaginative lighting on festive occasions like our Independence, Christmas, Easter and during Crop Over. It would appear as though the performance is taking place on the water of the Inner Careenage itself. People should be able to sit, certainly those who are senior citizens, on benches in a green and beautiful place with a park-like setting.

Sir, our Independence Square will no longer be a scruffy car park. It will be a place of beauty with maybe a few statues of some of our National Heroes and a place that we can be proud to point out to people and to say, "That is our Independence Square." The Minister of Finance has already given a direct remit to the Barbados National Bank for that job. He has also made them to understand that they have to take some responsibility for the restoration of the Empire Theatre.

The Bethel Church Council is busy now developing their property. It is not enough to say that we are going to make Independence Square beautiful. There is a great demand, Sir, for car parking spaces in Bridgetown and we first have to find other locations to accommodate many of the cars that are parked along the wharf. It is proposed that the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited is interested in multi-storey car parking in the back of the buildings which front onto the Independence Square.

Aside.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: You do not put multi-storey parking, Sir, on road frontage because that is too precious in terms of retail and other interests and I believe that the Bethel Church is going to put multi-storey car parking on its property which is south of the Fire Station and south of Golden Square.

All of this work is already underway. Before Cheapside Market is finished, Fairchild Street Market's restoration will be underway and that is going to be better situated as an adjunct to the bus stand between the Charles Duncan O'Neal Bridge.

It is part of the portfolio of the BTII to do quite significant repairs to the Charles Duncan O'Neal Bridge.

Sir, there is even a proposal that we may possibly have to put another lane under that bridge. Indeed, as I drove over it going to the gym this morning, a truck with containers on it was coming in the other direction and the bridge actually shook; but those repairs are being planned. Indeed, I can give you a little more detail about it. The remedial repairs to the Charles Duncan O'Neal bridge scheduled for Phase 3 is to be implemented in 2003 to 2004. It is possible that may be fast forwarded to 2002 to 2003.

The Swing Bridge is going to become a lift bridge but the Inner Careenage piling which is going to be implemented in this financial year 2001-2002 will have to be done before the new swing bridge is put in place. We who can remember, knew a swing bridge as one that swung out to allow traffic to pass. In those days beautiful, massive schooners entered the Inner Careenage for careening where they were turned on their sides and careened. We are now talking about a lift bridge which will still allow a certain amount of modern day yachting traffic.

Aside.

12.45 p.m.

Speaking of yachting, this brings me to the Pierhead Development Project. I know that Honourable Members would feel that we are talking a lot about this but that project is undergoing a great deal of amendment in a positive way. The investors thought that a fairly significant retail component was the way for them to realize a major return on their investment. Their decision that a marina would be a better investment in this connection is a good one and so we will live to see in our time a breakwater erected so that yachts could come into the area just south of the Pierhead.

As we speak, the Barbados Coast Guard is in the process of building new accommodation at the old Flour Mill site. I think everybody in Barbados knows of their own experience and how inappropriate their present site is. We have lived through a few storms which put the Coast Guard vessels at great risk. In fact, significant damage was done to them. I know what it is to go down to the Outer Careenage one morning and see nothing but a sea of floating wood which were once many boats that came into the Careenage for safe harbour only to discover that the Inner Careenage is really not a safe harbour. That is part of the reason why a proper breakwater had to be built in order to provide for a better and safer harbour for the vessels in the event of bad weather.

We have a flourishing marina known as the Port St. Charles Marina and this would be another marina. The Pierhead Project is also contemplating the provision of a yacht repair facility. This is going to be a great and very profitable enterprise for those yachts coming to Barbados and for Barbadians who own boats and yachts as well.

I think it is going to attract quite a lot of business from the other islands in the southern Caribbean where yacht repair facilities and amenities are required. So all of this is in process.

Both the Inner and Outer Careenage will have to be dredged at some point. I have to be guided by technicians and experts on this matter, but I think that the piling of the Inner Careenage may well have to be done first before the whole dredging process can be undertaken and that is due to be done in 2002.

Now, from the Charles Duncan O'Neal Bridge up to the gate of Queen's Park... Queen's Park will have to be refreshed and become a very green and beautiful area to which Barbadians will want to go again. There was a time when Barbadians used to go to Queen's Park at lunch time and sit and eat their lunch. There used to be a nice restaurant in Queen's Park that many of us used to frequent. That canal that you see in the back of the bus stand will be cleaned.

The new Fairchild Street market is going to have a nice food court and restaurants that will look onto a beautiful boardwalk. We are going to have boardwalks on both sides of it. The one going up River Road will take all the pedestrian traffic off of River Road and we will need that other lane on River Road coming down from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. On the side of the River bus stand, there will be a wider boardwalk which will have little café stations, juice bars and facilities for vendors, beautifully designed, colourful and attractive so that from the east to the west from the north to the south...

Asides.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is reminding me of the West Wing of Parliament. This wing in which we are accommodated today was the subject of a major restoration project. I was put in charge of it at the time. These walls were all plastered. Nobody remembers what it used to look like, but it was made a beautiful and fit place for this highest committee of the land to meet in.

A great deal of restoration work has already been done to the West Wing. It has a new roof and new floors but really and truly there is not a great deal left to be done to complete it. This will become a place where on the southern end looking onto National Heroes Square there will be a museum and a repository for artefacts, papers and other documents associated with the National Heroes of Barbados. There will be accommodation for the Leader of the Opposition's Chamber and additional committee rooms for Honourable Members.

The repaving of Broad Street I know is uppermost in the minds of Barbadians. People have seen what Swan Street looks like. The Minister of Public Works and Transport assures me that some of the wear and tear that we are already seeing on Swan Street will be put right. Those property owners on Swan Street, like everywhere else in the world, are going to have to learn that they must take some responsibility for the beauty of the street as well. If the tree outside of your property needs a little watering, well, you should water it. If the pavement outside of your shop could do with a nice piece of pottery or sculpture, then you should put it. If it needs washing down, then you should wash it down. When we were finished with Swan Street, it was a beautiful place when lit up at night with the swans up.

Broad Street wants to look like that, and we want to carry forward that as well because Broad Street in the general scheme of things is scheduled for 2003/2004. We need to pave Broad Street. The period lighting is already in place and, bearing in mind how other developments are going particularly on the roads in and around it, we would hope and pray that at a sooner date Broad Street can become a partially pedestrianized shopping area which would entice more Barbadians into Broad Street again.

A lot of people are avoiding Broad Street because Broad Street is a parking lot now. People feel that they can drop off passengers in Broad Street and policemen are standing up and watching all of this going on. It is not a place that you will want to go. It is a place that you will want to avoid and you feel that you will only go there if you are an extremist; but if it becomes a beautiful place again and amenable to shoppers, both local and visitors alike, people would flock to Broad Street again and business people would be fighting for shop frontages in Broad Street again. And that is going to happen, Sir.

This Resolution which is before the House is only a tiny piece in that large mosaic of small, discrete, individual redevelopment and restoration projects which will make up the entire redevelopment and rehabilitation of Bridgetown as the capital city of Barbados of which we can be proud. There is a great deal that is going to happen on Bay Street, but I do not want to stray too far beyond. Very soon the site which now houses the old Eye Department, the Savoy next to it, is going to be transformed. The old hospital jetty is going to become a pier again with a restaurant at the end of the pier and little shops and boutiques and facilities for vendors. I insist on that every single step of the way so that right up to Needham's Point which, as you know, Sir, is the site of another development, is a work in progress and that is part of everything that is happening along the South Coast as well.

12.55 p.m.

Some aspects of the work are moving more slowly than others. I think it is fair to say that the South Coast Sewerage Project is mercifully coming to a close. Of course, the

West Coast Sewerage Project is about to start up. They have assured us that they are going to learn not to make the same mistakes and fall into the same pit as their predecessors on the South Coast. As one who lives on the West Coast I sincerely hope so. The fact is that Barbados has to be seweraged to protect our near-shore waters and to protect the reefs of Barbados; and for our general public health it has to be done. We simply have to put up with the inconvenience.

St. Lawrence Gap is also part of the portfolio of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., and I think that people who operate in that area and who frequent it are aware now that the Gap is in the process of transformation. It is going to be a very beautiful place with sidewalks and side-walk vendors. There is a little swamp – I do not know how many people know that it is there – which is going to be transformed into a little inland lake with nice benches there where old folk can sit out and relax in the cool of the morning or in the cool of the evening and be away from the bustle of The Gap itself. That work is underway and we just have to be a little more patient, Sir, and put up with all of this because at the end of it Barbados will be transformed.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister is encouraging the private sector to be engaged as they are in Bridgetown and I hope they will become even more engaged in the St. Lawrence Gap area with this. The BTII, of course, will be looking with an eye to other parts of Barbados where this work needs to be done. We are talking about a programme that will be ongoing for many years and that will make Barbados in these early years of the twenty-first century a really beautiful place again. Once it is done, we will learn that we have to maintain and sustain it, and keep it beautiful.

I want to see this work accomplished in our lifetime, Sir, because I wish that it would be said by the historians, those who bother to write, and I would hope that some of them would start to write now, pick up their pens or go to their computers and record that in our generation we returned Barbados and particularly its capital city, its older town of Speightstown, Oistin Town, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would put it, and other places to be places of beauty and places which will make Barbados stand out again as a jewel in this hemisphere of the Americas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would wish to commend to Honourable Members the Resolution that is before the House and I would wish to encourage entrepreneurs in Barbados of every stripe, of every colour, of every persuasion, to become part of this exciting and on-going process so that the Barbados that we leave to those who come behind us will be a much improved product upon the Barbados that we inherited from those who went before us. They did their work too. We have inherited much. Our heritage is great and it is goodly and we have an obligation because all that we see

before us here, Sir, is only on loan for us in our time to try to improve upon it. In a nutshell, that is what this entire project and development process is all about, that we would have left a good and a decent mark upon this little rock in this ocean in our time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much obliged to you.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. SPEAKER, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.15 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.05 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Hon. N.A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be associated with this particular Resolution, the matter of vesting the land at Cheapside in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the restoration and development of the Old Town Hall Site.

This debate has long been awaited and desired in the context that it speaks to two very important issues as we continue the further physical development of Barbados and also as we seek to create new opportunities in building this new economy. The remit and work plan of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2001-2003 will also be discussed in this debate.

Sir, central to this debate is the building of a modern Bridgetown. The Honourable Member for the City spoke quite eloquently about what Bridgetown needs to become in the 21st century if we are to continue to create economical and social opportunities for the citizens of our country.

Sir, Bridgetown is not really a city, it is more like a commercial centre and it must become more alive in this century firstly, for Barbadians to be able to work and enjoy Bridgetown and secondly, to be able to move our tourism industry forward. The Cheapside area is pivotal to the reconstruction of Bridgetown as a modern city.

Sir, Bridgetown virtually goes to sleep at 6.00 p.m. and people must be encouraged to live and work in Bridgetown because a city becomes alive when people start to live in it.

In Barbados, we have created the concept of closing down the City after 6.00 p.m. There is very little residential space in Bridgetown and what we want to do is bring back people into the city after 6.00 p.m. or encourage those who are there already to stay.

Sir, this activity in terms of the reconstruction of Bridgetown, particularly the Cheapside and Lower Green areas, will create and encourage a certain level of entrepreneurial activity and will also encourage people once again to be part and parcel of the City.

Sir, when I left Barbados in the early 70s to study overseas, I was immediately struck by the fact that the city of Puerto Rico was a commercial entity and that most of the buildings had commercial activities on their first and second floors and above those floors residential space was provided. This concept began in Roebuck Street and Baxters Road in the early part of the last century but after that everybody moved out of Bridgetown. Sir, we want to encourage as part of this debate to bring people back into the City.

Sir, the Lower Green area will once again become a green area. It is necessary as we continue to build the city that we provide green spaces as oases and outlets for people within the development of that City. Sir, there are not enough green areas in the City of Bridgetown as it exists today. A lot of people would remember the large evergreen tree in the Lower Green and that area will once again become green.

In major cities in North America and Europe, urban rehabilitation and urban renewal speak to the issue of having green spaces. As a matter of fact, at the back of what used to be the World Trade Centre, what is now called Ground Zero is a park called "Battery Park". I understand that the recovery process would have been longer had it not been for green areas in New York City where people can now go, sit and console themselves about what happened on September 11, 2001.

Sir, the old Town Hall is a listed building by the National Trust. It will be restored as close as possible to the existing facade and above that there will be another storey of offices. There is also going to be the concept of a museum which will speak to the development of Bridgetown over the years.

Sir, the renewal of the building itself and the green area around Cheapside is good for two reasons. It will appeal as a tourism site for land-based tourism because of its proximity to the Bridgetown Port and it will also be important as we seek to develop our cruise tourism sector. We will provide activity for cruise passengers because of the interpretive centre, the museum and the green area.

Sir, many cruise lines have complained that Barbados is becoming stale as a cruise port and if we can provide more activities closer to the Bridgetown Port it will enhance our ability to be a more sought after port. We can expand this concept further by working quickly on the boardwalk and the restaurants in that area because there is going to be, in terms of cruise tourism, a repositioning of ships after the September 11th tragedy. Sir, there is a fear of flying and cruise ships are seeking to utilise most of the ports in the southern side of the USA to reposition ships coming out of the Mediterranean because people can actually drive to ports in the USA and take a ship without having to fly.

Sir, we have been in contact with many of the cruise lines which are repositioning ships and we hope to be able to get Barbados onto a longer itinerary of ten days and the redevelopment of Bridgetown creates a much better base overall for cruise tourism development.

Sir, it also creates a better base as a home port for ships. We have European ships which use Barbados as a home port but we have never been successful in attracting any ships from the United States. If Bridgetown is redeveloped, then we can present ourselves as a more viable concept in terms of being a home port. Sir, it means that activity will be closed down on the ship during the day and night and Barbados will benefit particularly from entrepreneurial activity in the lower part of Bridgetown.

Sir, we need to create more special niches for our tourism in the light of what happened on September 11, 2001. In the world of a diminished market and a diminished pool it means that if we are able to create for ourselves and our country a concept that appeals more so than our neighbours or closest competition we stand the benefit of being able to get many of the cruise industry people and other niche market people to come to our destination.

Sir, it is also important in the midst of this turmoil and uncertainty which may have changed travel and tourism for good that we start to think about the niche markets that can be created.

In that context, the Town Hall falls squarely into what could be developed for Barbados in the 21st century. First of all, it is going to be restored as a historic site with the interpretive centre and the museum and that in itself will be appealing for cruise tourists and land-based tourists as well. The issue is that we will create more activity in Bridgetown and we will have the green area. This means that the particular market will be satisfied.
2.25 p.m.

Sir, many would-be marketers have surfaced after the September 11th crisis, particularly from North America. I have heard them on the radio talking about what should happen in tourism and tourism development. Let me say that

this concept of offering a greener, safer Barbados and being able to create a better place at the Lower Green, is sending a message to our potential visitors about the concept of Barbados being a tranquil and safe place to visit which will help them to overcome much of the turmoil that exists in the world. Sir, to send such a message may not be the best thing at this time because it is potentially dangerous to say that Barbados is a zone of peace amidst all this turmoil. It is better to send this message subliminally so that people will understand.

Therefore, the concept of being able to attract people to a place like Barbados, being able to focus on all the elements that Barbados has that makes us appear to be a clean place with a certain environmental appeal, the fact that we are friendly people, that Barbados, to a certain extent, is a secure destination, should be sent in a subtle way but not overly boasting about Barbados being safer than anywhere else in the world. This is the way I understand the experts have been telling us to send that message. Sir, by providing an opportunity to enhance Bridgetown, to make Bridgetown better and to be able to advertise and tell people what we are doing, is obviously the way that we need to go.

Sir, after September 11th, there is going to be much clutter in the marketplace, in terms of advertising. Barbados will have to be able to create a special message that appeals to a particular niche market. I believe that if we continue on our work programme by providing a city that is most sought after in the Caribbean and a modernized Bridgetown, I believe that would make the overall difference.

In terms of Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTII) work plans for the year, there are a number of things that are going on. The Town Hall is going to be a two-storey building. The ground floor will continue to maintain the old Town Hall facade and we are keeping the existing footprints of the walls. It is going to become an interpretive centre and a museum exhibiting photographs of Bridgetown over the years and other memorabilia.

Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. has received Town and Country Planning permission for construction of that building and it is expected to commence in April 2002 at a cost of \$6.5 million. The tender documents have already been prepared and sent out. The \$6.5 million is going to come from the reflows from the Caribbean Development Bank loan.

There are other projects that BTII will undertake that are in close association with the development of the Town Hall that would make the difference to the entire area. One of these projects is the reclaimed Waterfront Car Park, Princess Alice Highway, which will provide an additional 172 parking spaces in Bridgetown. This project commenced in July 2001 at a cost of \$1.3 million and the reclaimed area

which will be linked to the concept of the reconstruction of the lower part of Bridgetown is expected to be completed in November, 2001.

The Princess Alice Highway Bus Stand and the food court project are ongoing. If you drive down the Princess Alice Highway, you will notice the area is boarded up. That project commenced July 2001 at a cost \$3.2 million. The vendors' court, a part of that project will be completed by December 2001 and the bus stand will be completed in April 2002. I must mention that a part of the facility is already completed.

Sir, there are a number of projects which the BTII has undertaken in terms of the urban rehabilitation programme. Work on the old Spirit Bond has already started and there will be a mall in this building, with shops on the ground floor. On the upper floor of the old Spirit Bond will be a restaurant overlooking the Careenage area. This is expected to be completed in July 2002 at a cost of \$3.6 million.

The Boardwalk by the Wharf is going to be extended up to the former Hilton Hotel. The BTII will spend approximately \$20 million over the next two and a half years to redevelop a number of these areas. This will include the Savoy and the old Eye Ward, extending the Boardwalk and a number of other projects including the old post office and the old police station in Speightstown.

Sir, the Pierhead project is going to be an integral part of the development of Bridgetown. Government is pressing for the project to begin by January 2003 but the Barbados Shipping and Trading, the major investor, is expecting that this project can begin in 2002. The Honourable Member for the City spoke to the Pierhead project as well in terms of the commercial and residential project that it will be. Lands of the Barbados Shipping and Trading, Government and other small holdings will be developed as a residential and commercial area for Barbadians, tourists and other wider economic activity.

There are other properties on Bay Street which will be linked to this project. There will be the relocation of the Barbados Coast Guard to the Barbados Flour Mill site. This will be done by December 2003 and the Pierhead Development Act, which has already been passed, sets out the benefits for that project and may have to be amended because of the modifications that have already been done to that project.

The Honourable Member for the City spoke of the concept of the marina and said that a breakwater would be built to protect the inlet. This particular marina will be partially residential and not exactly like the one at Port St. Charles. There is the concept of the rehabilitation of

Independence Square and the lands behind Coles building for a multi-storey car park. There will also be development for a 150-room hotel at that site and high-rise apartments. Another hotel project is also being considered.

Sir, this brings me to the issue of the old Bay Street site. Mr. Speaker, the entire bridge will be transformed. We have already seen what has happened at the old Harbour Police Station in terms of creating the type of activity that we need for Barbados. The extent of BTII's involvement in these projects will come over the next two years at a cost of \$20 million.

Sir, if tourism is the centrepiece of our economy and our economic development as we seek to build this service sector, the creation of more linkages will come out of the redevelopment of all these areas and more entrepreneurial activity should spring up.

Sir, this is an urban renewal concept that will revitalize Bridgetown and create more green space. I am a firm believer that well manicured grounds and places for good social outlets will cause different types of behavioural patterns in our people. We now have a situation, Sir, where the City of Bridgetown is not at all clean. We believe that part and parcel of that is not only to change people's attitudes by educating them, but also to provide the type of place that people would be encouraged not to litter, but to maintain. Sir, this is all very important in terms of this service economy and particularly for tourism.
2.35 p.m.

I want to encourage all Barbadians to embrace this project and the concept of the whole revitalization and rebuilding of Bridgetown. It is an important centerpiece of what we seek to do, as we seek to further develop Barbados, both at the physical level and being able to provide the economic and social opportunities that our people need to go forward into the 21st Century.

I also want to encourage all business people to take advantage of the opportunities available to them through the development of this project. This, Sir, is just the first phase of what we should see as a new Bridgetown in our time. Therefore, I want to commend the Minister for having brought this vesting and for having seen the light in terms of the development of Bridgetown to a stage where we can boast about it again.

Sir, even though it has become a major commercial centre and some work has been done, what I think has happened is that we have not gotten the full potential that we could have gotten, at both the level as a new commercial centre and as a centre for promoting tourism development, both land-based and cruise tourism. This particular concept

and Resolution will go a long way to building a Barbados that we can be proud of.

Sir, with those words, I want to associate myself with this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of this Resolution, I want, first of all, to state that even though I have some comments to make about the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., and the nature of that particular company and its operation in Barbados, the overall efforts to rehabilitate the Old Town Hall site is something that I think would be positive.

I believe that Bridgetown does need a major face lift. I also believe that the entrances into the City of Bridgetown from the various points need to be more attractive. Anyone who writes travel logs or reads history would always reflect that one of the more important things about a city is how one enters it, whether through gates or by some other important edifice or boulevards.

In St. Lucia, one enters over the Morne, or on entering from the other side of the island, from the Catholic cemetery. Every city has its own distinctive features and over time Bridgetown has become more and more run down. Where Governments have undertaken projects to improve Bridgetown, those projects very quickly fall into problems such as vandalism, litter, *et cetera*. So that one does other kinds of physical improvements, but at the same time, to my mind, enough is not being done to maintain them and to encourage persons to believe that they have a stake in the maintenance of the beauty of our City. Therefore, the City of Bridgetown is a very dirty city. By Caribbean standards, there are many that are slightly dirty, but there are also some lesser developed countries in the Caribbean that have clean cities and have been able to pass laws and regulate litter and other physical degradations in a way that we have not yet seen as important in Barbados. We have had a very dirty Careenage, we have public conveniences that are filthy, and not only in the City, they are also in the schools. Therefore, if they are in the schools, then we are not surprised when they are provided for the public otherwise. In other parts of the Caribbean, that is not always the case, and I think it says something about our country that we have not been able to do a lot more to keep our city clean and to change the attitudes of our people towards littering, *et cetera*.

Therefore, it means that even where one undertakes major physical improvements a level of degradation can take place very quickly to reverse all that one has tried to do and therefore, the impression of Bridgetown needs to be changed. Some of the physical improvements will do it, but

that alone will not be enough, particularly in the area of the Lower Green which has important historical interest and is otherwise an attractive area of the City. It is important that Government gets cracking on its effort in improving this area. The Honourable Member for the City has always had our support in most of these measures for the improvement of the physical conditions of the City and we would not withhold it on this occasion.

Sir, there is one aspect of the debate that I am concerned about and that is even though this, by itself, is not a Bill to grant money to the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated, we still have not brought to Parliament – and I hope that the new Attorney General will give it her urgent attention – legislation to require companies owned by Government to report to Parliament.

The Minister has just indicated that the BTII will be spending \$20 million over two years in various investments. Nobody is questioning the importance of these investments or even the nature of the investments, but I am saying that \$20 million dollars in capital projects over two years is probably more than the Ministry of Social Transformation will be spending on capital projects over two years and that the Ministry of Social Transformation would be required to have its accounts and estimates scrutinized. They would have to come to Parliament and show the progress that they are making in relation to these projects. Yet the BTII, which is wholly owned by Government and is entering into arrangements with private sector companies undertaking what essentially are public/private sector projects, as the Honourable Member for the City has said... Even though this is a private company in the sense that it is incorporated under the Companies Act, the Member for the City has recognized that these are public projects and that it is entering into public/private joint venture projects. Therefore, the public aspect of those investments needs to be scrutinized by Parliament.

2.45 p.m.

The \$20 million is probably in excess of the capital works programme for the Ministry of Business Development which is the responsibility of the Honourable Member of St. Michael North. Twenty million dollars would have been in excess of the capital budget for the former Ministry of Labour, Sports and Community Development, Sir, so that you have privately established companies owned by Government, undertaking major capital projects in Barbados, without Parliament having effective scrutiny of the financials of those companies, other than when a Minister takes it upon himself or herself to outline to Parliament what is being done.

I do not think that is good enough, and I would therefore urge the Government to get cracking relative to the legislation that it promised to pass to ensure that companies in which the Government has a stake of 25 per cent or more,

are required to lay their financials in Parliament for the scrutiny of Parliament, and in some cases of the Public Accounts Committee.

Many of the other projects that the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated (BTII) will be undertaking are projects which are being financed again essentially by the taxpayers, or underwritten by the taxpayers in joint ventures with other public companies. Those public companies themselves may have to publish information relative to their investments, but there is no requirement for the BTII to publish that information for the scrutiny of Parliament.

I urge the Minister of Tourism because I know that he is the person who would respond favourably to these things, to ensure at all times that all the programmes of the BTII are consistently outlined and updated in this Parliament, Sir, so that until we have the legislation, we can keep an eye and, in a sense, a grip, on the financial arrangements that are being undertaken.

There is another aspect of the scenario that the Honourable Member for the City spoke about but which is still going to have a tremendous impact on Barbados. When the Bridgetown Traffic Management project, or whatever it was called, was conceived of, we had a fraction of the motor vehicles on the road that we now have on our roads. Sir, even with the developments that the BTII and the Ministries involved in these projects conceived of, it is clear that traffic is still going to be a major problem at the end of the day.

I believe that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Government as a whole, need to identify a very clear strategy, Mr. Speaker, about the problems relating to the management of traffic of motor vehicles in Barbados. It is becoming more stressful during rush hour and nowadays, even outside of rush hour. For example, at the time to collect children from school, there is another traffic build up. The slightest blockage in the road, there are major traffic build-ups and very often the major arteries in Barbados are clogged by traffic and so the question of being able to manage traffic in Barbados is vital.

At one point, the Government had indicated that it was going to introduce parking meters in some parts of the City, but I do not know what happened to that idea. Sir, even with the car parks that are being built now on Hincks Street, sometimes while they were casting the concrete, people were waiting for it to dry to park, and that is a fact. The facilities that are now being provided are barely going to scratch the surface of what is needed, but then you have another element which is to be considered.

St. Lucia built a massive multi-storey car parking facility but it is empty and in front of the same multi-storey car parking facility, people are parking their cars on the

sidewalk and practically in the Careenage. Therefore, you have to make sure that if you are going to provide those facilities, it is actually going to make a difference, not so much to the traffic that would rent a space but I am talking about the kind of traffic where somebody comes into Bridgetown – as the Honourable Member for the City said, to shop or whatever – on a temporary basis and will not use those facilities and create problems for the management of traffic overall.

A night this week, I passed and saw the work that has started in St. Lawrence and I compliment the Government for the work that is being done in St. Lawrence. There are nicely paved roads and I believe that as long as that project is brought in within budget, it will be a very attractive investment for Barbados. I believe that is an area where we needed to have some physical improvements and I hope that project will continue and the public/private sector partnerships which have been identified by the Government will be able to proceed smoothly.

Regarding the west wing of Parliament, I believe, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I speak for you, when I say that we have been trying to manage this project for a long time and it would be a great boon to Parliament, if we were able to have that project completed and have the building made available, so that all of the other ideas that the Management Commission under your leadership have come up with for the development of Parliament and for the facilities of Parliamentarians can come on stream.

We have been hamstrung in recent times. One of the reasons why the Leader of the Opposition's office has to move is to make permanent space – but we would hope to be moving temporarily – for the facilities that would be needed for the Library and so on here at Parliament. I felt that it is important for those facilities to come on stream, so that even if the Opposition has to bear some inconvenience – hopefully for a short time – that the wider Parliament, Government Members included, would have access to facilities here that we badly need.

Sir, but unless we can get the west wing completed and the other developments that had been promised for this area on a timely basis, then what appears to be temporary arrangements may end up being permanent arrangements much to the disadvantage, in my view, of the Parliament of Barbados as a whole. Sir, I hope that the west wing project will be restored to a priority status and agreements will be reached on the use of that building. Also that we can see some progress being made during the course of this year to improve the physical conditions of this Parliament so that it can be made more accessible to the public. Sir, those were my principal concerns.

The Honourable Member for the City spoke about the improvement of St. Mary's Church yard. The Rector of St. John's Parish Church never got a cent from the Government of Barbados, not that he asked for it. I am not saying he asked for it and did not get it.

Aside.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am talking about the new Rector. He was not Rector when I was the Minister of Finance.

I cannot go into a churchyard and simply do it without permission.

I am helping you. I am not hindering you or I am not criticising you either.

Aside.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am saying to you that if you want to go and see some physical development that has taken place in a churchyard in which the headstones were cleaned and in which all the parking in the churchyard was removed and the area paved, that place is the St. John's Parish Church. They built a gazebo out of the church's funds, put up fencing and made some other very significant improvements to the ambiance of the St. John's Parish Church. St. John's Parish Church, in my view, should be a sanctuary without people coming and parking like what was happening before with all of these tour coaches and so on.

If the Honourable Member wants to see that in operation, then she should advise the Rector of the St. Mary's Church to travel to St. John and see how it is done. In fact, the Rector of St. John's Parish Church has put lights in all of the trees in the pathway leading to the rectory and in a lot of the trees in the churchyard and at night it is beautifully lit. There has been significant improvements there without resources being made available, and I assume, without any being requested to improve physically the conditions of St. John's Parish Church.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Well, you are free to say that. The rector would not say it but you are very free to say that if you wish.

I hope that the Honourable Member for the City will help with the St. Mary's Church since, as the Honourable Member knows, it is a church in which people, not just from the City but from all over Barbados attend because even though the St. Mary's Church is located in the City the vast majority of its congregation comes from all parts of Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The point I am making is that I would like to see St. Mary's Church developed in that way. It is an attractive churchyard and I think there are many other churchyards throughout Barbados not only of historic interest but which have commanding views which needs to be improved and upgraded. Many of them, including the cemeteries attached to them, have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair and many of the vaults and headstones are in a filthy condition and are not maintained properly.

I believe that what has happened at the St. John's Parish Church is a good example of the way in which a community can use the resources which are available to it through its collections and donations to improve the physical conditions of the church and also to benefit from because they do so through tourism, and I hope St. Mary's will benefit similarly.

With those few words, Sir, I give my fullest support to this Resolution and hope that the projects as identified will meet their success in due season.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few comments on this Resolution and to lend my support to it.

I do believe, Sir, that the time is long overdue for the site of the Old Town Hall to be vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. such that appropriate development may take place on that site. Many of us have lamented the fact for sometime that the building has been allowed to fall into desuetude and indeed parts of it have actually started to fall off. I believe the verandah fell off some years ago, but it is a good and fitting thing that this Government is seeking to stem that development and to ensure that there is a complete rehabilitation of Bridgetown but in particular as this debate is focussed on the Lower Green and surrounding areas that this should happen.

I, Sir, as Minister of Culture have had the opportunity to liaise with the Deputy Prime Minister and to indicate our strong support as a Government for the use of the Lower Green as a green again so that it can become a centre of activity for visual artists by allowing them to be able not only to sell their works but to be able to do paintings and drawings on the site so that tourists coming either from the cruise ships or in Bridgetown could mingle with Barbadians and would be able to purchase authentic works instead of having to rely on other things that are imported that may well have occupied other people houses across Barbados but not reflective of Barbadian images.

I, therefore, look forward to the relocation of the bus terminal at the Lower Green and to the work which would be

done to green it and to merge it with Jubilee Gardens. I also look forward to the implementation of the decision taken by the church council at the St. Mary's Church. In fact, I believe it has taken some years now to change the high concrete church wall to something more pleasing to the eye which would allow persons to be able to look into the church and for the church and the cemetery to be able to flow onto the green so that persons would be able to enjoy the ambiance created in that lower part of Bridgetown.

St. Mary's Church is very dear to my heart. While I have no specific memory of it, I am told that I was baptized there on December 18, 1965 and in those circumstances I try occasionally to maintain a relationship with the church. On occasions I have had the pleasure of congratulating the church council on the way in which they have generally kept the church and the churchyard. If you pass down there you will see that the church is always well painted. Indeed, in its grey and white it stands out very much in that part of Bridgetown and generally the graves in the churchyard are well maintained.

We believe that there is a market not only locally but for persons travelling from overseas who will want to visit historic churches and be able to do research which can only be located in that particular vicinity. The Old Town Hall obviously has a long history and one that has impacted significantly on 20th century Barbados. In addition to the offices that will be going into that new site once developed, I believe that space should be reserved for an interpretive centre on local Government and the vestry system so that Barbadians and visitors in future years will be able to go to that location and be able to access information that would allow them to understand how both the local government system as well as the vestry system would have worked in the 20th century, particularly since it plays such a large role in persons' lives across this country.

In a very real sense, part and parcel of being a newly independent country has meant that we have not been as careful about preserving aspects of our history and heritage as we might otherwise have been. I do feel that site would be an appropriate location not just to deal with the Bridgetown City Council but also to be a general interpretive centre on local government which could speak also to the existence of the Northern and Southern District Councils and generally the functioning of the vestry system in the country.

I also want to share the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Prime Minister in relation to the general state of Bridgetown. I really believe that the time has come for us to stop talking and take action. Bridgetown is filthy and there is no getting around it. It is not aided by the fact that we are in fact undertaking considerable rehabilitative work in and around Bridgetown in terms of roadworks and rehabilitation of buildings. With that

happening, I do believe that there are opportunities for us to ensure that we not only clean up the city but that we beautify the city because simply to clean up without landscaping and beautifying will invite the problem to recur.

3.05 p.m.

I hope that both the new Minister of Physical Development and the Environment and the new Minister of Health will see to it that we will not have in future years to speak generally about the state of it. I want to pledge also the support of the Government Information Service because I believe that part of the problem is not only requiring Government action but the action of individual Barbadians who continue to behave as though they do not have responsibility for their environment and for the surroundings in which they live.

I believe, Sir, that there should be a consistent campaign calling on each Barbadian to accept responsibility for his or her surroundings, whether it is in front of their houses, in front their businesses or whether it is in terms of how they walk the streets and what they throw out of their hands, finding the appropriate receptacles to do so instead of just littering on the road. Indeed, the campaign perhaps needs urgently to be started among the children. In Australia, ten to fifteen years ago a similar campaign by children shamed adults into changing their habits in respect of littering and dumping garbage and in the same way we hope, Sir, that within a five-year period our young people could make a stand and assert that we simply hold this environment in trust for them and that we have a fundamental responsibility to keep it clean.

Sir, Bridgetown is an old city and these buildings in which we find ourselves are equally old and we should feel a sense of pride to want to be able to reflect them in their best light. We should want, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to be able to invite others to see them in their best light. The greening, therefore, of Bridgetown, not only of the Lower Green but indeed, Sir, at Independence Square, the work that already took place at National Heroes' Square, is to be welcomed. I would like that the recommendations coming out of the Committee that looked at the redevelopment of Parliament and the surrounding area come before this House to be debated because that whole development of Bridgetown will inure to the benefit of us all not only in terms of the pride that we will derive from it but the economic benefits that I do believe will flow from it. It is a good thing that this Government is committed to the cleaning of the Careenage which will require dredging to take place and which will allow some of the pollution that is there to be reduced. Part of the difficulty I understand is that the work requires considerable piling before the dredging can be done.

I hope that the Port Authority would assume that responsibility as soon as possible to ensure that we can benefit from it. The Pierhead Development Project has been

announced as a project which is to be developed in the core of Bridgetown. It is supported by its own Act of Parliament and we are told by the Deputy Prime Minister today that it is being extended to include also the possibility of the introduction of a marina for Bridgetown and the construction of a sea wall to help protect that Inner Basin.

Sir, I look forward to all of these developments because in a very real sense people get an appreciation for a country and its people very often by visiting its capital city and we have to treat our capital city better and ensure it reflects all the best that there is about us. In so doing, Sir, there needs to be a softening of it both in terms of the landscaping as well as in the actual maintenance of our buildings to ensure that people want to remain in the city not just to do business but, indeed, to recreate on evenings and on weekends.

I therefore support the work programme of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., but in so doing call upon them to ensure that elements of our heritage and our culture are integrated across the work programmes that they have for the development of these buildings and, in particular, at the old Town Hall to give thought to the establishment of an interpretive centre. It need not be large but one that would reflect the papers and photographs of that old Town Hall as it once functioned as a seat of power.

With those few words, Sir, I support the passing of this Resolution which seeks to vest that building in the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: With the House's permission, we will now recommit to Notices.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the grant of a sum of \$5 973 000 from the Consolidated Fund to be placed at the disposal of Government to supplement this year's Estimates 2001-02 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 2001-02 as No. 2.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER NO. 13 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
LEASE OF LAND AT WARRENS, ST. MICHAEL
TO THE BARBADOS RED CROSS
SOCIETY

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution here today seeks Parliament's permission to lease 2 101.6 square metres of Crown land at Warrens, St. Michael to the Barbados Red Cross Society.

The Red Cross Society is a member of the International Red Cross which provides assistance after disasters, conflicts and war. The Barbados chapter also provides *inter alia* first aid, resuscitation for persons with heart problems, home nursing classes and a "Meals on Wheels" programme. The building which housed the Red Cross Society formerly at the Ministry of Health was destroyed by fire on February 2, 1999. As a result, the Red Cross has been seeking permission to get accommodation from Government.

In a letter from Dr. Raymond Forde on August 16, 1999 he stated that the physical circumstances under which the Barbados Red Cross Society is operating are causing great concern. At its present temporary accommodation, the office space being used can scarcely house three staff members including the Director General. He went on to say that the space which the Technical Division of the Ministry of Health has so kindly allowed them to share is about 8 x 20 feet and he felt that this space was not conducive to a good working environment. He also mentioned the fact that the volunteers who are used on these programmes were finding it very difficult indeed to operate in their present accommodation.

We were in engagement and were looking for space for the Red Cross Society between 1999 when the fire took place and earlier this year. We identified land at Warrens, St. Michael late last year. The land at Warrens is owned by the Crown. It is situated to the East of the Warrens Polyclinic and it is presently not occupied. It is Crown land which was bought years ago by this Government.

We went to the site and the Red Cross Society have accepted the terms and conditions of the agreement. In fact, their letter to us on February 2nd this year from Mr. Edmund Bradshaw stated that the Barbados Red Cross Society accepts all the terms and conditions as were set out by Cabinet on its meeting of January 4, 2001.
3.15 p.m.

They were very grateful to the Ministry, Cabinet and Government. They indicated in the letter that they hoped that Parliament would soon meet so that they move into the accommodation. It is anticipated that the Red Cross Society would use their influence in the society to raise funds from the business community and from agencies abroad to provide them with the necessary funds to erect a building.

It is also anticipated that this new arrangement will not only provide the normal programme of the Red Cross but will do other things like youth development, AIDS prevention, a parent education workshop, Meals on Wheels, first aid and plans for new programmes when this new structure is erected.

It is anticipated that they will also get help from the International Red Cross and other agencies.

Mr. Speaker, we have agreed to 2 101.6 square metres at Warrens, St. Michael. The terms of the agreement will be a nominal fee of \$100.00 a year. The society will be responsible for the development of the site, maintenance and upkeep of the property, payment of taxes, utility charges and other matters including insurance.

Mr. Speaker, we are happy to be able to provide the Red Cross Society with the accommodation.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution for two reasons.

First, I am happy that we as a Government have been able to meet the request of the Red Cross who since their unfortunate incident with the fire have literally been "scotching" in terms of a home from which they could do their excellent work in Barbados. Secondly, the land which is being made available by way of a lease to the Red Cross at a peppercorn rent is behind the Warrens Polyclinic in my constituency.

Sir, I do believe that it is an appropriate use for this land. I am happy that the Ministry of Housing has still left a buffer zone so that there can be further development of the Warrens Polyclinic because we have had to contend with an increasing number of housing developments because a lot of persons may not know that three constituencies actually converge near that site, St. Michael North East, St. Thomas and St. Michael North. Also, with the virtual determination that Warrens should become a city centre we have also had a considerable degree of commercial and industrial development and it means that on a daily basis there are a thousand more persons travelling in and out of that general environment who at some point or another may need the services of the polyclinic.

It is, therefore, appropriate that the buffer zone be left for the further development of the polyclinic. I do hope that at some time the Ministry of Health would develop it in terms of recognising that it is perhaps a little small, given the need at the time when it was built as compared to the need today.

To have the Red Cross stationed in Warrens will also, in my view, assist in encouraging a greater level of volunteerism in that society because there are large numbers of young people living in the area and I was particularly taken by the comments of the Minister when he indicated that the Red Cross would be carrying on from that site all of its programmes but, in particular, the training which it does in first aid, care of the elderly and the sensitization which it does in its HIV/AIDS programme as well as the community-based training programme in disaster preparedness.

I am one of those who believe very strongly that the extent to which we will be successful in our preparedness for disaster depends on the extent to which it is decentralised at a community level, because when a disaster hits invariably a person is not only taking care of their normal duties but their personal welfare and, in a very real sense, people tend to be located in their home district and we need persons who already know what to do and when to do it in the event of an emergency, particularly within a small community. I hope that the Red Cross can work with CERO to increase the number of persons who are the beneficiaries of such training programmes generally in Barbados.

We have been very fortunate in the last decade but that does not mean that we will always be fortunate. The greatest thing that we can do to protect ourselves is to be always vigilant and be prepared for such an emergency.

Sir, I want to say that the general development of that area where the lease is being given is one of particular concern to me. A few months ago I made a plea, and I am glad that the Minister of Transport and Works was able to respond to me quickly. He ensured that the road was completed which provided a second exit to the residents of Friendship Terrace where over 200 houses are located because there was a hiatus for eighteen months in the construction of the road. The residents of that area were particularly concerned that there was a single entrance and exit as the other side of the houses were bound by a gully and in the event of an emergency there would be significant difficulties for the persons who would have to come in and out.

I can only give the assurance to the residents now that we have the second exit to persuade the Ministry of Transport to fix the road which constituted the first exit, because it has undergone a lot of stress and there are a lot of potholes and it needs to be properly paved given the fact that we have a lot of heavy traffic going to the industrial buildings as you enter the area.

I want to say thanks to the Minister of Transport and the Transport Board because the bus service has resumed inside the area and the residents of the area no longer have to walk from the Green Hill main road with groceries if they do not have access to transportation.

Sir, we are grateful, but we do believe that there are still other things that can be done and while I am happy that the Red Cross will be located there to help provide classes for the young people in the area I would like the other side of the young people's development to be looked after because there was a playing field opposite the Red Cross building and it was taken up by the National Housing Corporation and made available for commercial lots. In spite of that, they have refused to date to ensure that a playing field is again made available to the young people of that area, many of whom now are resorting to liming under the street lights playing dominoes, because they no longer have the playing field that they had for years.

3.25 p.m.

I hope that both the National Housing Corporation and the National Sports Council will treat this matter with the level of urgency that I have asked of them. I have been speaking for over a year and my voice is getting hoarse and I do not like it when my voice gets hoarse, because I then have to use even more effort. Both Ministers of Sports and the National Housing have assured me that, like you, Sir, who have benefited so well from the sporting facilities at Hill Road, the lights and everything, the people of Friendship Terrace and Lowlands should now be able to benefit like your residents in Hill Road, Mr. Speaker, by getting back the playing field which we had.

Sir, given the fact that they have been without the playing field for some three years, I am told that the interest which is due will be a pavilion and lights to ensure that instead of a normal playing field, they will at least have some place so that they do not have to run home when it rains.

I look forward to the comprehensive development. The area has already taken on a new look. The rehabilitative work at Manor Lodge is welcomed, the presence of the restaurant, the presence of stores for construction material and the presence of the Fair Trading Commission are welcomed to all of us who are either living in the area or responsible for the area.

Sir, I hope that the National Housing Corporation will complete the commercial development of those lots soon, because the general state of the area and our desire to landscape the area is being affected by the length of time that it is taking them to complete the re-development of those commercial lots.

I wish the Barbados Red Cross a long and enjoyable time at that site. When the appropriate time comes, Sir, I would want to be able to welcome them to the area and to say to them that in anyway I know that they will need assistance, the residents and certainly myself would be available to help them. We should be able to see that while this lease in the first instance – 25 years, once the investment is made, I am sure that successive Governments would

ensure that this becomes a permanent site for them. Many people do not realise the international network that the Red Cross has and how powerful an entity it is. There is a Geneva Convention and a number of protocols that allow for persons, particularly during armed conflicts, to be protected. The Red Cross has become one of the major symbols for the protection of that Geneva Convention.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I support the Resolution and look forward to the Barbados Red Cross locating at that site in my constituency.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution. I agree with the leasing of the land to the Barbados Red Cross. There is no doubt that we on this Side have recognised the contribution that the Barbados Red Cross Society has made to development and to the people of Barbados.

Sir, one would wonder why the Barbados Red Cross would make an application to Government at this time to move its location from Bridgetown or as near as possible from Bridgetown, which is one of the more focal points. When one thinks about the accessibility of that location, one would wonder why the Barbados Red Cross would want to move from Jemmotts Lane to Warrens at this time when the Barbados Red Cross is supposed to serve the whole of Barbados and not just three constituencies, as was rightly said by the Honourable Member who spoke previously.

Sir, one would need to ask Government to rethink the location of this particular location for the Barbados Red Cross or to provide the necessary funds to ensure that there are branches spread across Barbados so that you would not have a situation where only certain areas can be helped by the services provided by the Barbados Red Cross when the Barbados Red Cross depends on the whole of Barbados for its funding.

Another point I would like to make from this Side is that the work being done by the Barbados Red Cross can easily be claimed to be work that normally could have been done by any Government. I think it is regrettable that we will have a situation like this where we are now asking the Barbados Red Cross to provide funds that should be used to help those people that are in need to use it for the construction of a facility. I am going to ask the Government of Barbados to recognise their obligation to the Barbados Red Cross to continue to provide a building for them.

It does not matter whether it was 8 x 20 before or not. The important thing is the Barbados Red Cross did not have to pay rent or to construct a building and this particular point should be taken into consideration.

The demand on places like the Barbados Red Cross is greater now than before and we cannot afford to deprive that entity of the resources that it has to deploy otherwise to take that money and construct a building. I am saying to the Government that even though they are providing land, land is not the only thing. I am aware that they also get a subvention, but one can even question the size of the subvention at this time. The Ministry of Social Transformation should be proud to have an entity like the Barbados Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I have always said that, in my opinion, Social Transformation should not be a Ministry but it should be an entity like the Barbados Red Cross and the other groups should be the ones doing the job that the Ministry of Social Transformation is now doing.

Sir, if we are going to tackle certain problems, then it cannot be seen as being tackled on the political front but it must be seen as being tackled in the interest of the masses and people in Barbados. There are certain things that we cannot allow politics to get involved in. We must allow the good nature of organisations to rise above all other considerations. That is why I am asking the Government to recognise that the Barbados Red Cross need to have a free hand and I hope that by giving them this portion of land, it would not cause them to stop allocating the funds according to how they allocate them and that the concentration will not now be in three constituencies but they will continue to provide service for all of Barbados.

I thank you very much, Sir.
3.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to lend my support to this Resolution which is before the House and I would also like to urge the support of Honourable Members.

The Barbados Red Cross Society which, in the Islamic world, is known as the Red Crescent, is one of the few areas at this time where there is no partisanship between Islam and Christianity.

The Red Crescent of Islam and the Red Cross of Christianity, any and everywhere in the world, on any battlefield, at any accident sight, in any crisis where there is hurt or harm to human being, is respected and welcomed. For years, the Red Cross Society in Barbados has done excellent work. We do not hear a lot about it. I was a Girl Guide for many years, indeed, I even became a Guider and there was a lot of collaborative work done in those years between the Barbados Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. We do not hear a lot about that either but they, too,

do their share in the community along with the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts Movement, were all taught first aid. I was taught life saving, the hoganeilson method which has stood me in good stead throughout my life.

I remember, as a teenager, on Brighton beach, together with my brother Buddy who, now for years is living in Trinidad, helped to save the life of a drowning young man by applying the hoganeilson method. If I had to do it now today in this Chamber, I can do it. We were taught basic first aid which helped to make us self-reliant in our homes, our families, in the communities where we lived. There are certain basic things that one never forgets. So, we did not always have to be running to the doctor for everything and in the event of an accident or crisis, somehow you knew what to do and what not to do, in the case of a broken bone, all because one was so well taught by agencies such as the Red Cross Society.

Therefore, I want to say that there is everything good that can be said about the role they have played in Barbados and we need to see, in these times and for the future, far more activities by the Barbados Red Cross Society, if only they would be welcomed. And I put it this way because I know that they are only willing and waiting to be welcomed in the various youth services, community centres, service clubs, senior citizens clubs, *et cetera*. People tend to look down their noses at the Red Cross Society a little, but they should not.

Now, what I particularly want to say about the Barbados Red Cross Society, apart from what has already been stated, has to do with its location.

I beg to differ with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in that the Barbados Red Cross Society does not need a proliferation of offices or facilities across Barbados. What it needs is a good, well-equipped headquarters, of which it has always had and which I hope that this Government will help it to reacquire at this time. Because of the way it works in the community, it does not need buildings, plaques, or whatever. What it needs is people sufficiently interested to allow them to come into their communities wherever: in the church hall, community centres, school halls and do what they do best.

I am concerned about the location at Warrens. Let me say first of all that, in my opinion, the locating of the Red Cross Society's Headquarters within the precinct of the Warrens Polyclinic is an excellent idea. I think that the Barbados Red Cross Society will complement the services that the Polyclinic offers, but I just want to say a few words about the Warrens Polyclinic.

The Warrens Polyclinic, when built way back in the late 70's to early 80's – I well know because I was a Minister at the time – was built with a clear understanding that the catchment area that it would serve in the years to come would be a St. Thomas which was fast growing. It turned out that it grew faster than we had first thought, and is still growing and would have serviced a sub-town, as the late Tom Adams had envisaged it. When the A.B.C. Highway was being built, it was his dream as he has always said, that it would be a natural place for a town to grow up. And that influenced my choice of Warrens as a location for a Polyclinic and in an earlier Administration of the Barbados Labour Party, time has proved that we were right. We now see a town growing up at Warrens. We see residential areas proliferating in and around what is known as Warrens: Warrens Terrace, Arthur Seat, Lodge Hill, Jackson too is expanding – and there is going to be more of it. Therefore, it is very important that the Ministry of Health now recognizes that the time is right for the expansion of the Warrens Polyclinic. It needs now to be modernized and upgraded. It has enough of a cartilage – I saw to that – and it was built in such a way that it can now take another storey or two, if necessary. And, in fact, Warrens Polyclinic is well suited and located to carry a small emergency unit, what we would refer to as a “casualty” to take some of the load off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Indeed, all of the polyclinics need to go back to the place where they are offering some amount of clinical service and where doctors are in residence, or working there, well up to 8 or 9 o'clock at nights. That is what it was designed for.

The Warrens Polyclinic was also the home of a subdistrict of the Public Health Inspectorate of Barbados and that, too, needs to be upgraded and expanded. So that the Barbados Red Cross Society Headquarters in that environment is ideally suited and Mr. Speaker, Sir, I recommend it highly and will support the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in the call, not only for the Government to provide land for new headquarters, but that it might think, as it upgrades the Polyclinic, of incorporating the Barbados Red Cross Society and providing premises too. I think the days of the Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in those prefabricated wooden houses are gone. These people can provide all kinds of services; some that they do not even now provide, but are equipped to provide and do provide in the community, to complement and supplement the work that is being done in the Polyclinic.

3.45 p.m.

Sir, the beauty of the Barbados Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade is that they are all voluntary. We are still in the year of volunteerism in this year 2001 and that is where the difference lies between the Polyclinics and the NGOs such as the Barbados Red Cross Society, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and several others, that give voluntary service. Mr. Speaker, there needs to be more of that in our community.

I know that there are many returned nationals, particularly returned nationals from the United Kingdom, many of whom worked in all kinds of jobs and competencies in the British hospital system, who have come back here as retirees and are willing to give three or four hours, two or three times a week to all kinds of institutions.

Some of them have come to me at my constituency office and asked me to help them find a room where they can set up to take blood pressures and that sort of thing. I explained to them that they have to be very careful how they go about these things. It is not enough just to do blood pressures. Then, what do they tell people when they have to be referred? They have to be doing that within the process of a referral system. In that case, it was about nine or ten of them and I suggested that they are better off going to one of the Polyclinics and saying to them:

“There are four, five or six of us who have this skill. We are retirees and do not want any money because this is our way of giving back to the community. We are volunteers. How can we be helpful?”

There is a great demand for these services. They only need to be well-channelled and well-organised and if they are coming under the auspices of a well-respected and well-established institution like the Barbados Red Cross Society, their access into the structured and institutionalised health services of Barbados would be easier.

Sir, I very much want to recommend to, not only the Ministry of Housing which is sponsoring this Resolution but to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry responsible for community development that this is an area we need to look into. We have resources wasting in our communities and these are experienced people. These are not “fly-by-night” people who went and did a little course. These are people who have worked in hospitals for thirty or forty years who know what they are speaking about and who have had this same community experience in communities where they have lived in England, the United States of America and Canada for many years. We cannot afford to waste these resources because these are people who can live another twenty-five to thirty years and are willing to give this service.

Do you know what is three or four hours, two mornings a week? That is eight good man or woman hours for no pay. These are people who are prepared to counsel and soothe patients, who have skills, Sir, and that is the way in which we can add value, as they say nowadays, to the health service of Barbados.

I hope my few words have not fallen on deaf ears, Sir, and that the Barbados Red Cross Society which needs help with its institutional strengthening, will begin to widen its

horizons and look to see how better in a modern era, it can bring the services for which it is so well-known around the world to our communities here in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am much obliged to you for the opportunity to make this contribution.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: I, too, would want to add brief comments to this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, and to indicate that the Resolution is indeed timely in light of the fact that this is the International Year of the Volunteer.

I think that more Barbadians need to give of their time and resources in helping with the growth and development of Barbados. Indeed, for centuries, Mr. Speaker, Barbadians have been volunteering their time, whether it is at the church level, the school level or the community level.

I would want to caution Barbadians at this time, since I recognise there is a tremendous decline in persons wanting to give of their time, sacrifice and commitment to the country. Almost every parent in Barbados wants his or her child to become a scout, a guide, a 4-H member or all the other things that one could think about which would help to develop young people. Unfortunately, we are not finding enough leaders or role models who want to give of their time and energies to help with the development of these young people. I call it a decay in our society at this time.

The other downside of that, Mr. Speaker, is when you try to draw on the resources of others, many of them want to know what they will get in return. Our foreparents volunteered. They went beyond human call to ensure that the communities in which they lived remained intact. But unfortunately, people are asking, “What will you pay me if I participate in the Committee for Community Independence, if I become a member of the 4-H Club, if I become a member of the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade, if I become a member of the Barbados Red Cross Society?”

I feel that more people should be giving of their best in the communities and at the national level because of the free education, free health system and all the other facilities that are being offered that we get and take for granted.

The Ministry of Education, in looking at the reform, started to target community groups and other organisations, in an effort to see what credits can be given to our young people, when they complete a level of study. For example, we have individuals who are at various levels in Barbados, where they started at primary and continued through to the tertiary level. They are not grounded because most of them do not have a good community base. They have the academic ability but when it comes to working with people and giving of their time and energy that, Mr. Speaker, is a “no-no”.

I think that if we are going to be well-rounded and willing to look after each other's needs as indicated in the 'Golden Rule' and in the Bible which say to love one another and love your brother and sister like yourself, then we have to be involved in the various activities that help us, as a society, to grow from strength to strength.

Mr. Speaker, people all over the world get involved in voluntary activities. It was said by one of the other Honourable Members that many of the returning nationals who were professionals in the areas that they served, especially returned nurses, teachers, doctors and others, want to give of their services but there are times when they approach individuals and organisations and, for one reason or the other, they are not taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, the catastrophe at the World Trade Centre would have called for all the agencies to come and assist with the injuries, traumas and drawn on all the other experiences of those individuals. In particular, when you come to the situation in Barbados like the flood we had at Weston in 1995 and any other catastrophe that would overcome our country, we need those in the voluntary organisations to come and give of their hearts and souls to ensure that others get comfort and satisfaction in whatever the situation.

Sir, we must always be on the lookout for the man-made disasters or those that are made by God and every year we hear threats of hurricanes and storms. It is said by many Barbadians that they think that God is a Barbadian but God forbid, Mr. Speaker, if at any time there is a catastrophe on the Highway with one of the large oil tankers, or with a bus running off the road, we never would want that to happen but we would want to rely on locals who first come to the scene to be able to give of some form of assistance, through the training received from the Barbados Red Cross Society, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade or in whatever way they can offer service to this country.

3.55 p.m.

The Barbados Red Cross Society as we have heard before is an international body that has found its niche in Barbados for many decades. We all know that many of our parents and foreparents have made their contribution in the Barbados Red Cross Society. It continues to serve its purpose as it goes into the various schools in Barbados to train young people to carry on from where others would have left off and this has been happening since the 1960s. Many of the schools have a branch of the Red Cross. It is still very actively involved in community organisations and offers lectures, discussions, demonstrations, first aid classes and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Mr. Speaker, only this Saturday, October 20, approximately 50 Barbadians graduated from the Barbados Red Cross Society for their involvement in the Red Cross and they did so with pride because they know that at some point in time in the future they will be able to respond to any emergency because, as was said earlier, they have the training for home. We know that in the past children used to choke on ackees. In the more recent times, in the late 1980s, there were big adults who choked on eating a piece of pork skin, whether they should have been eating it or not, that was a reality, but because there was no training at that level for individuals and no one being present to offer that experience of the Heimlich Manoeuvre those individuals died. I think it is important, as we continue to educate ourselves and to go up that social ladder, that all of us should be skilful enough to be able to offer that service to help our fellow man or fellow woman.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Red Cross Society has been making more outstanding contributions as it continues with its Meals on Wheels programme. While many of us may be able to have a meal in our house on a daily basis, whether it be for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or supper, there are thousands of senior citizens and other persons who are indigent who do not get a proper meal except that is offered by the Meals on Wheels programme through the Barbados Red Cross Society and other agencies. That is still very significant and the day that the Barbados Red Cross Society cannot find a driver who will volunteer his or her time to take that meal to that person, that person goes without food. So it is serving a very important role in our society still.

There is a medical aid scheme that the Barbados Red Cross Society offers to Barbadians and visitors to the island through the form of crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and other forms of equipment that are not easily available unless there is immediate cash for those individuals who are in any way injured.

The other role they are playing has to do with their disaster emergency programme where they work in close collaboration with the hospitals, polyclinics and other institutions to ensure that the needs of those who are ill or those who are injured are met with more expediency. We all know that so far this year we have had almost 100 house fires and the Barbados Red Cross Society is also actively involved in working with fire victims through the trauma that they experienced and the kind of counselling that is necessary when one looks at a spot and see all that they have ever worked for in a lifetime is gone and there is no hope except perhaps the job that they may be able to go to in a few days' time. The Barbados Red Cross Society offers food items, clothing, beds and other forms of furniture as well as more furniture when that person becomes more settled as will the National Assistance Board and the Ministry of Housing when such fires occur.

They offer an ambulance service in the form of a vehicle on site if there is a parade or other national activity because of the role that they are expected to play when such emergencies occur.

Finally, they offer training not only now in their facility but indeed leading into the various communities where, as I said, schools, church groups, community groups and others can call on them and they will come on spot to give the necessary training. I think that is significant to the whole exercise of the outreach programme that the organisation has. They work towards compassionate needs and the tracing of relatives and friends who individuals would want to make contact with over the years. That is significant and they do it also at an international level.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, they also offer a youth development programme for the personal development of young people through training seminars and workshops in the area of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and preventative programmes.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to say that the opportunity being offered to the Barbados Red Cross Society is extremely important. We have learned of the fire that destroyed most of its possession in 1999. They were located at that time at the corner of Jemmotts Lane. They do need a form of expansion to be able to carry on the outstanding work that they have been offering before and I think that the location in Warrens is important to the whole expansion of the industrial and residential area.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the people of St. Thomas will benefit and I have already encouraged many of them to join the Barbados Red Cross Society because my life and the lives of many others in here have led us as individuals to offer more service because service is significant in any society despite whatever level that service is offered at.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Red Cross Society is hoping that its move to the Warrens area will ensure that its Meals on Wheels programme is expanded. The people in the north of Barbados and the surrounding districts will be able to benefit from the various programmes that are being offered. It will complement those services in the north and in the east and indeed the other locations in that general area.

We have an industrial location at Cane Garden, St. Thomas. This location, coupled with these services offered at Warrens would indeed benefit the people in St. Michael North East, St. Thomas, St. James, St. Andrew, St. Joseph and indeed St. Lucy as well as the many areas that are not now covered.
4.05 p.m.

I want to add to the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to say that it is important that the Barbados Labour Party continue as a leading Party and,

indeed, we have been the most outstanding in the history of this country, to look after the needs of all Barbadians. I do not want to go down too much of a political road today seeing that I am now observing the tradition of this August Chamber.

Asides.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: ... It is a theme that says A Better Life for Our People and it offers large subventions, more services, more of that human face that is necessary if our institutions are to continue to cater to the needs of its people. The Red Cross Society along with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and other service organisations, the National Assistance Board and the Ministry of Health, should help our people in Barbados to become more involved in activities that help to broaden their lives and give them an understanding that unless you reach out to touch others when the time comes for you to be touched there will be difficulties. We need to rely on the assistance of all if our country is to go forward.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that the Red Cross has looked at the site and have agreed that it is the best site for them at this time because it is centrally located and they could develop with this site. The site that was given to them and the house that the Red Cross was given formerly were beneficial to them but they could not do any developmental programmes of a futuristic nature and therefore this site will be better for them.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by saying that this was the best site because the Honourable Member has not spoken to the other sites so that you cannot have the best of one site. I would beg the Honourable Member to tell us the other sites the Red Cross looked at.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Red Cross Society informed us previously that this site is the preferred site since it is not a site that is flood-prone. They welcome the opportunity and they will develop it.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. G. A. CLARKE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. CARTER in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

ORDER NO. 15 (a) – RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE
SUM OF \$5 973 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED
FUND TO SUPPLEMENT THE
ESTIMATES 2001-2002

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is today seeking this House's approval for the sum of \$5 973 000 to carry out programmes of the Ministry that were started before last Estimates and we are asking that the funds be used to complete various projects in the country of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, in April 1997, a contract was awarded to C. O. Williams Company Limited for the rehabilitation and improvement of some highways in Barbados. These were:

Highway W – Mapp Hill to Constant

Highway N – Airport to Crane

Highway 6 – Searles to Six Roads

Roebuck Street from Palmetto Junction to Country Road and Fairfield Road, Spring Garden, Hoyte's Village

Highway 4 – Welches to Salters and Benn Hill to Mile and a Quarter.

The following roads were completed:

Roebuck Street, Palmetto to Country Road, Fairfield Road, Spring Garden, Hoyte's Village;

Highway 4 – Welches to Salters and Benn Hill to Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Chairman, this loan was terminated in 1998. It was a loan that was from the World Bank and two of these highways that I spoke about, Highway N and Highway C at Trents, were severely curtailed. Part of the funds that we are asking for today is to complete the network services subprogram 511: Highway Construction and Maintenance Services. These two roads for which we are asking for funds to work on would be Highway C, Trents to Orange Hill including the replacement of some houses that had to be removed from the area in order for the road works to be carried out.

The project is to cost some \$3 million and today we are asking as part of this Resolution to have \$1.9 million which would complete the work on the Trents Road to the junction at Highway 2A and over into the area of Orange Hill just above the playing field. As I said, this money would be used at the end of this financial year in this area of Trents and Orange Hill.

The other area where work was severely curtailed was the Highway N project and the whole project is estimated to cost \$3.8 million. The area between the Crane/Stonehaven is completed and represents some 25 per cent of the entire work to be done in the area. We are asking for \$2.5 million to be used in this area where the work is continuing. It will go from St. Martins to Rices and this \$2.5 million is to complete the work at the end of this financial year.
4.15 p.m.

In the approved Estimates we were given \$16.5 million to be spent in this area. As at September 13, expenditure was \$11,647,278.14. Funds required under Highway Construction, Subprogram 511 is \$4,400,000.

We are also carrying work under Subprogram 513, Residential Roads Construction and Maintenance Services. We were given \$990,000 in the Estimates and we are now asking for additional funds to complete two roads, Dukes in St. Thomas and Redlands in St. George which were started but not completed by the Spanish company Inversiones and also two roads started by two contractors which were not completed. Windsor in St. George was started by Black Bess Quarries Limited was never completed and Dash Valley was started by C.Q. Quarries Limited and never completed.

Mr. Chairman, Cabinet mandated that these roads would have to be completed and we are asking today for the funds to complete these roads. In Redlands, the road has been paved and it is 75 per cent completed and wells now have to be sunk and a culvert built. At Dash Valley the road has already been paved and completed but the work involves debushing the site, replacing marl and grading, completing the curb in the area and the Barbados Light & Power has to move the poles standing in the road.

Sir, at Dukes in St. Thomas 80 per cent of the curb is completed. The road is marl in certain areas but because of rain the road has been eroded and we have to go back and repair the road. The work involves cleaning, clearing and debushing the site, suppling marl, grading and rolling, construction of culverts and sinking suckwells. Some time this week the workers from the depot at Bagatelle will start the work there.

At Windsor, St. George, the contractor has started excavation of the 600 metres of road there and this had to be

completed. Work to be done includes completion of the excavation of the road, the removal of soil and any vegetation, the supply of marl, grading and rolling, excavation for curbs and construction of these curbs. We have to put in manholes, sink wells, pave these wells and supply hot mix for paving.

These four residential roads, Windsor, Dash Valley, Brighton in St. George and Dukes in St. Thomas will be done by the staff of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport depots. The Golden Ridge depot is responsible for work in the constituency of St. George North, St. James South, St. George South and St. John. Workers from this depot carried out the work at Dash Valley and will be carrying out work at Windsor, St. George.

Mr. Chairman, we also have to carry out work in Oistins. We had complaints from the Reverend at Christ Church Parish Church that there was a high wall in the area for years that needed to be moved. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South says he remembers the wall being there since he was a boy going school at Foundation School and we were finally able to get the wall removed. I was at a funeral at the church and I remember the Reverend praising the Ministry for removing the wall because many accidents had occurred in the area.

Mr. Chairman, the Urban Development Corporation also did work in the area and it now remains for the Ministry of Transport to make sure that the work on the other side of the hill is completed. The Seventh Day Adventist Church owns some land in the area and they gave the Ministry permission to use the land of the church to do work in the area. This work will include putting steps in that area. We are spending \$253 000 but a lot of this money which we are asking for in this supplementary will be used for the rental of equipment and the purchasing of equipment. This work will be carried out by the Ministry. I would like to say to the Honourable Chamber that the Cabinet of Barbados has given permission to the Ministry of Public Works to advertise for tender to supply some equipment that is much needed in the Ministry. The Ministry would be purchasing approximately \$10 million in equipment to do its work. We would then have no excuse for not having roads completed. Sir, tenders are out and very soon a contract will be awarded to someone for the supply of this equipment for the Ministry.

5.25 p.m.

Sir, the island is divided into 12 depots. All the parishes have depots. The depot at Prospect, St. James services the constituency of St. James North and South. The constituency of St. Andrew has its own depot. The St. Joseph constituency is being serviced by St. Andrew until a new depot is built for that constituency. The depot at Golden Ridge services the constituencies of St. George South, St. George North and St. John. There is a depot in Christ Church and it services the five constituencies of Christ

Church. The depot at Richmond, St. Michael services four constituencies in St. Michael and the depot at the Farm services the remaining depots in St. Michael.

Mr. Chairman, each depot has a number of persons comprising maintenance teams. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Transport does some of the work itself and other wood work is contracted out to contractors in Barbados, small and large contractors. The main contractors are Rayside Construction Limited and C. O. Williams Construction Company Limited. There are other small contractors that we sometimes use.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, this is the rainy season and the Belle contract has been tendered out to twelve contractors who are responsible for the cleaning and sinking of wells in Barbados. There are a lot of areas in Barbados that are overgrown with bush and each depot is responsible for its cleaning. When the equipment is here, we will make sure that we continue to operate the way the Ministry should operate.

Mr. Chairman, with these remarks I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am confused by something that was stated by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central. A year or two ago, this Honourable Chamber was told that the Ministry of Public Works will no longer be responsible for the construction of new roads and that it would only be dealing with ...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Thank you very much. I am now hearing that the depot at Bagatelle, which belongs to the Ministry of Public Works, will be doing the tenantry road at Dukes, St. Thomas, Dash Valley, Windsor and Redlands.

I want to know from this Honourable House, when was the policy changed, when would we have been informed of that change and why was the other Party not informed of the necessary changes. I am saying that we have to be very concerned because when one gets an estimate in here for \$1 320 000 to be spent on these four roads, I am concerned. Anyone who knows the road at Dukes, and I am asking the Parliamentary representative for St. Thomas to speak on this particular matter, one would have to know that this particular...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, one would have to know that it is impossible to finish the road at Dukes, Redlands, Dash Valley and Windsor on an estimate of \$1.3 million. One of the longest roads in Barbados to be constructed is Dukes. This estimate of \$1.3 million will be the amount needed to complete the road at Dukes. Anyone who knows the road at Dukes, will tell you that road is one of the longest roads that you can drive on to get to a tenantry.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do not know, Sir, if the Parliamentary representative heard of the proposal during the last by-election and has been able to convince the Minister of Public Works to reallocate the available land and change the direction as to how the road should now be cut. The truth is, to get a road into Dukes, you have to travel through a lot of cane land. I am saying that the people in Dukes deserve a road but we also have to find the shortest way to get into Dukes.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the Honourable Member to address the Chair, please.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am suggesting, through you, Mr. Chairman, that this Resolution be looked at again because it is misleading this Honourable House and gives the impression that you can complete those four roads for \$1.3 million. It is also misleading the House to give the impression that the Ministry of Public Works can again construct tenantry roads when this Honourable House has changed it. This is very misleading, Sir. I was told that both the Rural and Urban Development Commissions are now responsible for building tenantry roads and I want to know when it has been changed.
4.35 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not care how they try to change it, Sir, everyone knows that the roads in Dukes have to be new, because there are no roads in Dukes as yet.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, sometimes I want to know if the Honourable Member knows the roads. I am also saying that we have a serious problem when it comes to this particular Ministry. There is no other Ministry in Barbados that has created so many headaches for the public of Barbados, because of the amount of stress that

Barbadians have to undergo every day, travelling on the public roads of Barbados, the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Health, both have to be under severe pressure because of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that we also have to consider the foreign exchange that is being misused by the public of Barbados having to travel on the roads and having to remain on the roads with their engines idling for so long, because of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. I am saying, Sir, that Ministry is becoming a big liability to the Government of Barbados and we need some efficiency in that particular Ministry. It has never been like this, Sir. Do not care wherever one travels in Barbados, one can come on a sign saying "Detour". Sir, the only place one would not find that is in St. Lucy and St. John because as yet there is no work being done there. Sir, do you know what is ridiculous? Anyone travelling from Colleton, St. Peter to Checker Hall, St. Lucy, will see a road which was used by the former Parliamentary Representative for St. Lucy on his way home. This road was started at election time and there are two deep gullies at the side, along with a sign which says that work was being done there. This is now presenting a problem for the Ministry of Health because the only thing that is now going on there Sir, is mosquitoes breeding. What is also dangerous is that the grass has overgrown the road and nobody knows about those two deep gullies at the side of the road.

I am saying, Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has to understand and to do something about that, because they are creating too many problems for Barbadians. Sir, not only that, the Minister of Public Works and Transport is creating environmental problems for the country of Barbados, because the same way that an article was written about sea bathers now affecting the reefs of Barbados, I am saying that, because of the stress created, Barbadians are now affecting the lands of Barbados. Before, when I said that, all of you laughed but these are now facts, because it is known that a man who is under stress breathes out whatever he has inside...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The plants, invariably take in what is being breathed out. Sir, if the situation is being created where Barbadians are unhealthy, then naturally the plants are also unhealthy too. Therefore, I am saying that the Minister of Public Works and Transport should be given a course as it relates to the environment of Barbados and to recognise the problems that he is creating to the environment of Barbados. How can we continue going to international conferences and brag about our environment, when we have a Ministry that is creating environmental problems for the country of Barbados?

I am also saying that we have to understand that the Minister of Public Works and Transport is creating problems for the Minister of Tourism and International Transport. We brag about a country that depends on tourism and whenever we invite tourists here, we bring them into total confusion. Therefore, one has to wonder what is the impact of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport on the economy of Barbados. We must do the opportunity cost of this particular Ministry because it appears to me that Barbados would have been better off without this particular Ministry...

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I did not say "Minister", I said "Ministry". Sir, we cannot afford to be a service industry and have so much confusion on our roads. Do you think that is all, Sir, do not talk about the seatbelt laws.

On the very Floor of this House, I had warned the Government of the shortcomings of the seatbelt law. The Minister had said that I was talking foolishness, but the truth is, I would advise the Minister that before he drafts the new amendments, he needs to get it right, he needs to read the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and he will be able to get back on the high road. The problem with the Minister is that he does not listen to good speeches and that is where he always gets himself in trouble.

Therefore, I am saying that I want an assurance from the Minister that he will recognise that St. Lucy also has a demand for over 70 roads and that he had started some roads at election time and we need them completed.

Sir, we are not begging anybody for roads, we too deserve roads in St. Lucy, neither are we begging for Transport Board buses and, for the simple reason that we have an entitlement just like anybody else. I was told that when the new allocation of buses came, St. Lucy would have been allocated its fair share. Sir, that 7 o'clock bus that normally travels through Josey Hill, Pie Corner, *et cetera*, is no longer available. I am saying that the Minister of Public Works and Transport is creating unemployment for my constituency and he needs to stop that.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I have said on more than one occasion that if the Minister has a problem with ZR vans on this side of Barbados, we have no problem with them in the North, because the demand and the culture are not the same. If they do not have enough Transport Board buses available, then let us have some ZR vans because my people need to get to work too. Therefore, we cannot continue to allow the public transport system to affect the production of Barbados, especially at a time like now, because the production of Barbados must be up and no ministry should be interfering

with a country's capacity to produce. I am saying that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has been doing just that. I am also saying to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that we were told in this Parliament that utility companies have an agreement with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport so therefore, there is dialogue between these agencies. Now I am hearing that contractors have to complain and that the Ministry does not know what is going on.

That is utter nonsense, Sir. If there is an agreement, it is for the public relations personnel in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to tell Barbadians what is going on and not the contractor. But do you know what is amazing, Sir, it seems to me that particular rule is only for certain contractors. I am saying to the Minister of Public Works and Transport to listen and understand what I am saying because if he does that, then he will be able to implement and get efficiency on our roads.

The Minister of Public Works and Transport must also understand, Sir, that "re-road" programme, or whatever he wants to call it, if the necessary utility companies do not do what they have to do, we are going to have a major cost coming before this Parliament as a supplementary, because many roads in Barbados will be destroyed because the Ministry of Public Works and Transport did not coordinate the works in the way it should have been done and would have caused many minor roads to have been destroyed.
4.45 p.m.

Sir, when a project is executed, the Ministry of Public Works must follow up on how that project is going and not just blame the contractor because they want a scapegoat.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister will reply to what I have said because I also find it rather strange that the project at Oistins, which is a small project, could cost \$253 000 and when you divide the four roads into the \$1.32 million, you get \$330 000 per road and that sum also includes the rental of equipment.

I am telling the Minister not to come back before this Parliament for a supplementary. If it is wrong, let us know now because if you come back, I will nail you. If you want more money that this, let us know now because I am not here to waste my time. I am saying it is wrong, admit it is wrong and let us deal with it now. Let us do the amendment. Call the officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and find out if they have misled you because this Estimate is too small.

I will remember and I will hold this speech and I will remind you because in my estimate, to complete the Dukes road alone, is about this sum. Mr. Chairman, I say to the

Minister, through you, to take heed. This is good advice because we do not want a situation, Sir, where we start these roads then to be told that the money is not there to complete the roads. Any advice given should be taken, especially when it is good advice. The problem with the Minister is that he says it is the advice of a fool. It only means, Sir, that he has taken his own advice.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It would be very remiss of me, if I did not rise to make a contribution to this discussion, Sir, if for no other reason than the fact that a sum of \$2.5 million is being asked to further the work on the very important project, Highway 10, stretching from Rock Hall to the Crane.

Mr. Chairman, at the close of the last general election, I was reasonably successful in my constituency and I took over a constituency that was characterised by a very poor state of infrastructure. It is no secret that up to the last term most, if not all of the roads in my constituency, have fallen into a terrible state of disrepair. I am not talking about just the tenantry and the subsidiary roads, but the main roads in the constituency have fallen into a terrible state of disrepair. As a matter of fact, there was only one road which we, in that part of Barbados could have been proud of and that is the Highway running from Bridgetown to Eastbourne. Sir, it passes my constituencies through Brereton, Carrington, Marchfield, Grove Road, Ruby, the road that will take you to King George V Memorial Park, up to Long Bay. As I said, that was the only good road in my constituency so I am not exaggerating.

The World Bank Project, stretching from Searles to Six Roads had gotten started during the administration of 1994 to 1999, and around the time of election no significant work had been completed on that project. Mr. Chairman, what is so disgraceful about that is that St. Philip would have benefited more than any other parish in this country from the inward infrastructure that is taking place. We have residential developments springing up in St. Philip North, St. Philip South and it will continue to happen in the parish. We have the space and it is being used in a way that is not threatening the agricultural activity in the parish. All this was happening and up until January 21, 1999 there was no associated or commensurate development in the infrastructure to justify the large sums of money paid by constituents in St. Philip to the Consolidated Fund. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that things have changed and there is a new approach to infrastructural development in the constituency.

I am not talking about what is happening through the Rural Development Commission. This debate, Mr. Chairman, originates from a request by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and I will keep my comments

specific to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. I am not going to get drawn into anything the Rural Development Commission is doing in my constituency. I will do that when I speak about the benefit of the Commission to St. Lucy, because he has been complaining about lack of roads.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is misleading this Parliament by giving the impression that he can give his responsibility to the Minister of Public Works and Transport without first getting permission from the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Barbados or this Parliament.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. Carry on.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, when I rise in this Honourable Chamber, I like to continue in a smooth manner and not to be disturbed unnecessarily by my good friend the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, the point that I want to make is that the constituents of St. Philip South would have suffered at the hands of the Democratic Labour Party for the better part of 40 years and things have changed and they will continue to change because we in the Barbados Labour Party are going in the other direction and we will continue to go in that direction full steam ahead.

Mr. Chairman, since the last election, through the caring disposition of this Government, we have seen the completion of the road project from Searles to Six Roads and you could not want a better stretch of road. It really is a job very well done, notwithstanding the length of time it took Rayside Construction to complete the work.

We have also been the beneficiaries of cable work in Gemswick. I well remember when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and myself participated in a groundbreaking ceremony at Lowthers Hill in his constituency for a tenantry road, done by the Rural Development Commission, there was an old lady of about 65 years old in the midst, who lives in Gemswick. She has a son living in Lowthers Hill area so she was visiting her son and she came out to witness the ceremony. As I was speaking, she raised her hand and said, "May the good Lord thank you, I have lived in Gemswick for the better part of six decades and it is only when you come that the folks in Gemswick have seen the road being done." Sir, that is thanks to the Democratic Labour Party that the road took 60 years to be done.

Mr. Chairman, we have also been beneficiaries of a stretch of road which was crying out for rehabilitation, from St. Martins Church through Foul Bay, terminating at Rices and that is Phase I.
4.55 p.m.

Phase II will bring you from Rices through Heddings and take you back on to St. Martins Road at the point by David Clarke's shop.

Mr. Chairman, Ruby Development is a massive development. All of the roads in Ruby Development are in need of some sort of rehabilitation but I am a very patient fellow. They have been able to come and do the main road, Casuarina Drive in Ruby and now all the folks who live in Ruby come onto Casuarina Drive at some stage.

Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, there is a new approach to dealing with the road problems in the constituency and my folks are happy for what little we have been able to achieve since the last election. Of course, Mr. Chairman, there have been other roads being rehabilitated. Some of these projects have been undertaken by the Rural Development Commission and the good folks at the depot at Six Cross Road.

Mr. Chairman, I have some words of caution and advice for the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central and he can pass them on to the folks at the local depot at Six Cross Road as a reminder. That is an area I visit very often. I am in very close contact with them because, as I said earlier, the state of the roads in the constituency mandates me to go to the depot at regular intervals to appeal to them to come out and continue the maintenance works in the constituency.

Mr. Chairman, let me use this opportunity on the Floor of this august Chamber, as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said earlier, to remind the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central that his officers need to be a little more vigilant and pay closer attention to the state of the signage in this country. I have said it on the Floor of this House already and the Honourable Member for the City has said it here and I remember hearing her saying it at a Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) meeting previously. There are too many broken signs and inverted signs. All it takes is for the officers at the local depots to be a little more vigilant so that when they see these signs whether they are inverted or broken, they can make a note of it so that they will be able via a structured approach to deal with each of them. There are enough depots in Barbados to do so because that is very simple work. We should not have to go through the Minister of Public Works and Transport or come into this Honourable Chamber to give persons a reminder of a simple task that is to be undertaken.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before you get on to the second point, you have got one minute to wind up.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: The other areas of concern would be the bush and the trees which grew up and are blocking some of the signs which are extremely dangerous. So I am

appealing to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central to ask his officers to be a little more vigilant in that area as well.

Before I wrap up, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister made mention of the drainage work that is to be executed and I am appealing to him to deal with the business of the contract of the wells in a more expeditious manner so that next year the work can get started more or less at the beginning of the rainy season and not towards the tail end of the rainy season. I have too much blocked drainage and too many collapsing wells in the constituency. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport knows about them very well and most of them had to be done by the well contractors. So I am very happy that they have awarded the contracts now for the well work and I look forward to the contractor for my zone working very diligently to bring about some ease in that particular area of concern in my constituency.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think at this point that you have to wrap up.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I am obliged to you.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to say a few words in this very important debate. It was only last night that I was under considerable strain from my constituents when a meeting took place in Maxwell at the Moravian Church in which the contractors for the South Coast Sewerage Project were explaining what would happen when the South Coast Sewerage Project nears its end. I want to say that that is now within a very foreseeable future because when one considers that this project started at Bay Street and it has now reached Maxwell Road and the ending point is just above Oistins one would see that it is really coming to an end.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, now that the main road between Oistins and Bridgetown is taken up, it is the side roads from Top Rock to Church Hill that are now being used. Oistins Hill and Cane Vale Hill will play an integral part in the relief of the pressure that will arise when the coast road between Oistins and Top Rock is being dug. We have reached that point.

I am, therefore, exceedingly glad that the work at Oistins Hill will be restarted. It is something that I had hoped would have taken place previously because of the fact that at the present moment, although the road has been widened at the top, buses are not allowed to go down the hill because the drivers became very nervous when they were going down the hill and it was thought that it was better to allow them to go all the way up to Church Hill and come back down to the Y underneath Thornbury Hill.

Now, I also hope that something will be done to Cane Vale Hill. Cane Vale Hill just needs a jackhammer to cut down a mound of rocks that goes all the way up the hill which prevents two cars from passing. A truck also has a difficulty as it turns the corner going up.

Previously, I saw with my own two eyes that the whole of the hill around Ilaro Court between Sherbourne and Two Mile Hill was cut in one weekend and widened to have a three-foot sidewalk. I find it exceedingly difficult to be convinced by the functionaries in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that a much smaller area cannot be done in the same one weekend. I am going to continue to press them because I felt the pressure of reasonableness from my constituents last night when they said that they cannot understand why we have made Cane Vale Hill into a one-way road and Oistins road now is becoming a one-way street as well. What will happen when we reach Maxwell Coast main road and we are going to Welches with the sewerage scheme?
5.05 p.m.

I also want to say, Sir, that there used to be a road, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West reminded us today in another place how people from Silver Hill, when he was a young boy used to go from what was called LT Corner on Maxwell Hill where there is a church down through Maxwell through Fairholme to deliver their canes to the donkey carts coming down Maxwell Hill.

Somebody blocked off the top of that hill. I have never seen any legislation or any order made giving permission to block it off. Now Barbados is a very peculiar country: people can take it upon themselves to act in total defiance of the law with impunity. This is Barbados. That happens. The point was raised last night again that if you had that road reopened – the bottom has been beautifully barber-greened – we would not have any difficulties. As you reach where Doctor Ward was in Fairholme all that is needed is for the wells to be cleaned. Nobody has cleaned those wells for a long period of time. I would like some attention being paid to that so that we can have relief from the pressure that is going to arise.

They say that the sewerage scheme between those two vital points will be reached by February next year and all I am saying, Sir, is let us try and get something done between now and February on Oistins Hill, Cane Vale Hill and that Maxwell Hill point. Luckily, through the good offices of this Government and its agencies the rest of the steps have been put in between Top Rock and Oistins Hill so that people are now catching the bus at the top of the hill by walking from the bottom of Maxwell Road through the side roads and going up the steps. All the steps want is light and debushing.

I want to appeal to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that gutters and bush along the roads which obstruct the view of motorists is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, not the Ministry of Health. Cleaning of gutters and the bush by the myamosee tree is their responsibility. They have to get it cut down. If they want to delegate it to the Ministry of Health or to anybody it does not matter but the point is that we have had a good rainfall this year and there is a lot of bush, particularly on Maxwell Hill, and it is affecting the flow of traffic and I would appeal to them to do that.

I am not going to talk about other things, Sir. The depots, I am glad that some Honourable Members get good service from their depots. That is singularly lacking in my area. I have had a series of unfortunate relationships with the people there and I will continue to press them. I look forward to the day when Goodland will be finished because the people who live in Goodland say that they have never seen such poor delivery of work as they have witnessed over the last four years because they have been working in Goodland now for four years. It is still not near finish. Everybody has complained about that. It was one of those developments that should never have occurred because Goodland should never have been allowed to develop because everybody knew that it was a swamp. Now the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, this generation, cannot be blamed, but we are trying to correct the problem of previous Ministries of Transport and Works officials who did not see that proper drainage and proper wells were put in. The wells collapse up there because it is a clayey soil and they did not come from the bottom when they were built in the original days. Steel was foreign to them in those days.

Aside.

Hon. Sir HAROLD St. JOHN: I know that people are frustrated about the road works in Barbados, but I want to say that in my 30 years I have never seen so much work being done in respect of roads. The position is that if one looks at what is happening, particularly in the St. Michael area and study the history of what has happened in that area, the inner ring roads should have been done about 12 years ago. I believe that the planning for the inner ring roads in St. Michael must have started many years ago and it is not a mystery because Belleville, Bank Hall and Black Rock are over 100 years old.

I was reading something about the history of Barbados the other night and I believe that Belleville and Pine Road were developed nearly 100 years ago. Those roads were developed at a period of time when motorcars were on the scene, the model T variety, so that all of the infrastructure there, the roads and pipes would have to be changed because of their age and their inadequate capacity to carry the volume that is needed at the present moment.

Therefore, what I would say is that I believe that the human resource capacity, particularly at the higher levels in the Ministry, is not sufficient to deal with the volume and the magnitude of the work that they have today. The capital works programme is conceptualised to plan and supervise it. Most of it is being done by contractors and that means that you have to supervise them because it is a myth to believe in Barbados that we can give out a contract and not have people who will see that the contractor sticks to the contract. You have to have contractors and supervisors of the contractors and you have to have project managers. Therefore, they are under tremendous strain.

What the functionaries in the department do not understand is that politicians have a different agenda from them. They have longevity in the civil service. We have to be accountable every five years and therefore our constituents' pressure on us to see that things are done is going to be far greater and we have to have a completely different attitude as to what is good work and bad work from them. That is one of the things that I think we have to get across in the first part of this new century because it is an important point that we all have to get the functionaries to understand that when politicians request that things be done it is not because they are against them but their constituents have legitimate concerns and they reflect it by appealing to their politicians to be able to get something done.

Sir, I hope that the rest of the developments will be a bit more fortunate than I have been but I now see some light and I will be out there watching to see how they will finish Oistins Hill. I am glad that the Pentecostal Church was good enough to give up the land and that they asked for a revetement road, but I hope that on this occasion when steps are built that we do not have to put steps within steps because the older people and the handicapped will feel a little discomfited when they have to keep stepping up. The point about the handicapped, many people are now talking that the handicapped need a ramp, even if it is long, to allow them to go down at the various levels. There will have to be some changes in the level. The handicapped people are constantly talking about it.

I trust that for those on the east side they would do that. It is no use putting steps without lights. The Urban does put handrails for safety but it is no use doing it without putting some lights because people will stump their feet and will tell you that they missed the step so that there must be some kind of lighting in there.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5.15 p.m.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to laud the Ministry of Public Works for coming up with these 80 pieces of equipment to be purchased at a cost of \$10 million.

Sir, it is alright to come and vote for this money but then in three months' time this equipment will be in the yard not working and rusting out. In the private sector you have to look after the machinery you are given to work with.

Asides.

Mr. D. T. GILL: This has nothing to do with the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. It has to do with the people using the equipment who should be looking after the equipment.

Two weeks ago I called for a tank to pump water off a well because of the heavy seasonal rain and I was told there was none available. The Ministry of Public Works said the one they own was in Headleys Land, the Ministry of Health had none and the National Housing said I would have to wait until six o'clock in the evening. Sir, it is horrendous.

I have put it to them to rent a piece of equipment from a private company and get the job done. If you ask to have a tree trimmed there is only one piece of equipment to trim trees.

Asides.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Sir, I am not speaking of the Ministry of Public Works only, I am speaking generally.

If you ask to have a playing field cut, you hear that the equipment is down. Sir, the workers take the equipment and drive it over rocks and that breaks up the blade. Sir, we cannot come in here so often and ask for \$10 million. If it was in the private sector, they could not drive that equipment over rocky terrain. These vehicles are driven without oil or water and so they seize up. They take sensitive equipment and treat it as though it was manufactured 40 or 50 years ago.

Sir, if you give a lawnmower to Windward Club and one to National Housing Corporation at the same time, Windwards' own will last 10 to 15 years and the Government's own will break up in one year. You will see a host of weedwackers all parked in one area because they are put onto the edge of concrete and they were never made for that purpose.

Sir, it is alright for us to vote these exorbitant sums but some sort of supervisory mechanisms or somebody must be created in order to see that this equipment live the life span for which it was made.

Sir, with respect to the road works within my constituency I have mixed feelings at this time. At one time it was way ahead of schedule and it looks good but what has

gone wrong is that there is no public relations. We have to let the people know what is going on, there is nothing wrong with that. Let the people know about some of the good work which might have contributed to the extension of the period. For instance, some wells had to be put in the Government Hill area and I laud the Ministry for that, because as a result of widening the area, the flow is increased and four wells were put in that were not in the original scheme of things. Sir, we know the project is behind because of the heavy seasonal rains and I am of the opinion that a lot of the aggregate has been washed away because if you check the pattern there is extremely heavy rainfall virtually every other day.

Sir, there is also the lateness of the drainage crew. In the first quarter of the year all these wells are blocked up with debris and that is the time we need to clear them. We are fighting a losing battle now because the well diggers say they are not going into the wells now. Sir, there are lots of old wells and the people of the community know where these wells are so we can divert the water course accordingly.

Another matter of concern is the weak grills, manholes and culverts. Sir, people are suffering injuries and they are asking for damages. This is no fault of the users of the road and the blame would have to be fairly and squarely placed at the feet of the Ministry.

Sir, there is another worthless practice of taking garbage drums and putting them into culverts and grills and this is no replacement whatsoever for fixing the roads.

Asides.

Mr. D. T. GILL: Yes, you can see these drums put in holes and cavities along Bank Hall, Belmont, Pine East/West roads. We have to take into account the elderly people who use these roads. There was a time when a flashing lamp was used but that is no longer used. Sir, the highways, roads and sidewalks must be made safe. We are all taxpayers and people want to see how their money is spent and they want a return on their investment.

Sir, I said at the opening I have mixed feelings and I will give praise where praise is due. Sir, with the number of vehicles on the road it makes travelling dangerous to the pedestrian. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South spoke extensively about the danger to vehicle drivers with respect to overgrowth.

Sir, with those words I appreciate the whole meaning behind this Resolution and it indeed is a positive step forward but if we do not supervise, maintain and care this equipment, this \$10 million will evaporate overnight because of the breakdown of this equipment.

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have been following this Resolution on the radio having attended a funeral in my constituency and I am back here to lend a voice in this debate.

I would first like to put on record my satisfaction about the depot at the Farm and the response to the needs and requirements of the people of St. Michael North West. It is obvious that work takes time to be accomplished and when you think of the area that this depot has to cover, one must be thankful for the work done in the short space of time I have been the Member of Parliament for the constituency. Recently, I requested some assistance for the area of Ferniehurst where the canal was built approximately six years ago by the Ministry of Public Works. There have been several complaints from the residents that the canal is too low and when it rains the dirt is washed into the canal causing it to become blocked. I would like the Ministry of Public Works to look at the canal located at Ferniehurst in an effort to rectify the situations so that the residents would be relieved of the inconvenience.
5.25 p.m.

I also made a request for another walk-path as there are only two currently in place at Ferniehurst. I received a compliment from a lady who lives close to the walk-path thanking the Ministry for providing the walk-path.

The depot at the Farm is doing some very good work. However, I am going to question the delay of the re-surfacing of the road at Goodland which was prepared for several months. The residents have been asking when the work will be done. I am hoping that the Minister responsible would listen to the pleas of the residents and let us know when the road at Goodland will be resurfaced. Sir, I am anticipating some complaints from the residents of Jones Land because of the increase traffic in that area and the roads are deteriorating.

I observe that the Barbados Light and Power is running a 69 kV cable. The work has progressed well from Haggatt Hall to the roundabout at Warrens. They are now working in the area of Hinds Hill with the possibility of going into the Free Hill area. Several flood wells in the Hinds Hill area are blocked and I am concerned that when the trench in Free Hill is opened, it would create a problem of flooding. It is a serious situation to have flood wells blocked at this time. I think that there should be some housekeeping for the Ministry of Public Works or the Drainage Unit to ensure that we do not have another situation like what happened at Weston, St. James. We have to protect the residents of St. Stephen's and the Free Hill area. If there is heavy rainfall and those wells are blocked, then there is a possibility that we can have a situation where the residents who live below Hinds Hill will be in danger.

Another concern is the Brandon Beach area where the Ministry of Public Works built a canal some years ago. There seemed to be an engineering problem relating to the construction of that canal. This canal has not functioned the way that it was intended to do. The residents of Brandons are experiencing problems where there is a settlement of water in the area of Brandons Beach and the pasture at the Deacons Farm. I am appealing to the Minister responsible to have the engineers look at it again and have the problem rectified. Mr. Chairman, whenever the sea washes up the sand and block the canal it causes problems in the area.

I must compliment the Minister of Public Works for the work that they are doing. I realise that there is a lot of work that is being undertaken at this time. I also want to compliment the depot at Richmond for the quick response given in relation to signage in the area of St. Michael North West, which I represent, and other areas. I have called on the depot on many occasions after receiving complaints by the residents in my constituency, that there is a need for signage at certain locations. For example, the residents of Brighton requested signs to be placed at Brighton, Black Rock, so that motorists travelling in that area would be cautious and recognise that it is a residential area. I am sure that given time the Ministry of Public Works would correct these problems.

The residents of Black Rock have benefited from the construction of the road at Black Rock. The motorists and the residents of Black Rock say thanks and have complimented the road. However, there is no pedestrian crossing in the area of Danesbury where children have to travel to the St. Stephen's Primary School. That Danesbury area is like a jungle in the morning and evening when the children are going to and returning from school.

Another area of concern is the layby that has been positioned opposite the 3rd Avenue Spring Garden. They removed the bus stop from the top of Danesbury which now makes it difficult for the old folks of Danesbury. These folks now have to travel on the bus down to the Paradise bus stop and walk back up to Danesbury in order to get to their homes.

5.35 p.m.

It is my appeal to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to put zones on the Black Rock Main Road, between Frank Worrell Roundabout and between the area of Brighton. Also a bus stop be repositioned between the area of Danesbury so that those persons living in Danesbury would have free access in getting to those areas with their packages.

I think with this Resolution before this Chamber, we must sit back and give the Minister a chance to have some of the works done. I am sure the work will be done but again,

one must also bear in mind that at the various depots – and I am proud to say in this Chamber – I have built up a relationship with the workers and I can say that they respond quickly in getting things done.

In closing, Sir, I have one final point on behalf of the residents of Barker's Tenantry. I should never stand on this Floor without drawing attention to the problems facing the residents of Barker's Tenantry, Deacons Road.

There is a situation there where the residents in that area have already signed papers giving up some of their lands in order that roads can be built. Unfortunately, a few weeks ago, a gentleman was sick in that area and the ambulance could not go down that gap and so he had to be wheeled out to the ambulance. Also, there is a Barbados Light & Power pole that is completely rotten and it is only a matter of time before that pole comes down by high winds. The residents are concerned because the truck cannot get into that gap and so would like to appeal to the Minister, through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, to have a look at Barker's Tenantry, Deacons Road because, this is the Year 2001 and we would not like to have a serious accident there.

I thank you and look forward to the good works of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make these few comments in light of the fact that this Resolution deals with Dukes Tenantry Road and in my small way I would like to put the Dukes Tenantry Road context into perspective.

Mr. Chairman, Dukes Tenantry is a rural district, nestled in the environment of St. Thomas, near the Lion Castle/Lewis Village and the other surrounding areas such as Canefield, Vaocluse, Highland and others. It is a very closely-knit community where the locals have for many generations been cultivating their lands, feeding themselves and also the rest of Barbados. Earlier, I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who seemed to have been indicating that the residents there should be resited. It is unfortunate...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have never mentioned anything about resiting the residents of Dukes Tenantry, because I do understand the importance of district and community life.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, all that it says is that the Honourable Member does not seem to have a very good memory but, nevertheless, I shall not dwell on that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on point of order. I am saying, as I have said before, that I have never mentioned that. I said that maybe we might need to change the direction of the road, which is something completely different, Sir, and I ask you to rule on that.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do not need to upset the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I just want to make the point that I have inherited a constituency that, for many years, has been overlooked by the DLP and that the Dukes Tenantry Road is one of the projects which the DLP had abandoned in the early 1990's which the BLP made sure was one of those projects that was completed. The St. Thomas Secondary School, the Cane Garden Project, Dukes Tenantry Road, they all had the infrastructure put in place, but because of the heavy rainfall in that area, the roads now have what we call little rivers.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy that this Government has been able to complete the road works at Dukes Tenantry to the tune of almost \$450,000. There are approximately 20 households there and those persons do not want to move, and have made that very clear to me. They have had parents and fore-parents who had lived in that community and have helped develop it.

What is unfortunate about the situation there, Mr. Chairman, is that the younger people can no longer tolerate having to wear two or three pairs of shoes. They have bought their new cars because of the upward, social mobility, an opportunity which has been offered to the people of Barbados by the BLP. Therefore, numerous problems are being created in bringing their cars in and out because it is the wear and tear on their vehicles, but the traditional people: the Williams and Daniels families, and others living there have made it very clear that they do not want to move, they want to continue living and working in that neighbourhood. Mr. Chairman, that is the story of Dukes Tenantry.

Mr. Chairman, Lion Castle, Hopewell, Highland and Canefield, were all roads in the constituency of St. Thomas that were so openly ignored by the former Administration and which the BLP made sure were properly fixed. We will continue to work with the people of Barbados to ensure that their needs are met because, like the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, we recognize that they are not only contributing through their taxes, but are doing it through the cultivation of the land. We need more people working the land in order to feed Barbados and, therefore, the people of Dukes want to return. The BLP have heard their requests and

will ensure that they get a road that will help meet their needs.

Mr. Chairman, the Dukes environment has the potential for further development and not only for further houses that will link them into Lion Castle, Lewis Village and Endeavour, but also for small farming where we can acquire land to ensure that other individuals who are landless farmers will get an opportunity to do small crop farming: raising animals, growing more sugar cane, corn, and other vegetables, that will help to feed that community.

Mr. Chairman, while I am on my feet, I also want to indicate to the Honourable Minister the gratitude of the people of Vault Road; a road that was never fixed for over forty years, but is now near completion, except for the guard walls, *et cetera*, that are still being serviced.

I want to thank the Honourable Minister and also the members of staff for their very quick response to the request for that main highway that leads through Sturges, Chapmans Village, onto Trio Path. That too, is now being threatened by slippage, yet we know that that is a regular bus route taking individuals through St. Andrew.

Through the engineers' recommendation, a team from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport visited that location on Friday to ensure that that bridge is strong enough to continue to carry persons, but there is also a plan in place. Therefore, though I know that while some of us have got some kind of difficulty with the staff at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport because of delays and other things, on the other hand, more praises should be showered upon them for the kind of high-quality work that is being offered in most instances.

Mr. Chairman, it is with those comments that I would want to give my support and to commend the team at Bagatelle Depot for their commitment and dedication to ensure that the people of St. Thomas get the benefits that the rest of Barbados are receiving because we, too, deserve the good that is being offered.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5.45 p.m.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to say from the outset that the Minister should also recognise that with the allocation of new roads, there is a need for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to recognise that there is a great need for more bus stops to be installed in Barbados.

What I am observing, Sir, is that many housing areas are springing up but the necessary allocation for bus stops are not being placed. A good example is that there are many

houses in Cave Hill, St. Lucy but no bus stops. The same thing occurs with the transportation system. There are too many people in Barbados who have to travel long distances after they get off the public service vehicles and I am asking the Minister of Public Works to do a mapping out of the necessary roads in Barbados so that more people will have access to the public service vehicles without necessarily having to walk long distances to get to them.

One must appreciate, Sir, that as times change, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport must be prepared to change. The Minister mentioned that there are 12 depots in Barbados and the constituency of St. John has to share one with someone else and I think that is deplorable in this day and age. The constituency of St. John should have its own depot and I hope that the Minister will rectify this particular problem.

Aside.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying through you that the depots cannot only be constructed but they must be fully equipped, not only with equipment but with the necessary material. Sir, that is why I am calling on the Minister to make sure that the depot in St. Lucy has the necessary equipment and the personnel to do the work. There are too many roads in St. Lucy that have not been completed or have not been repaired for a long period of time and I am asking him to make sure he does what he has to do.

Sir, I also want to remind the Minister that something must be done urgently with the road between the Globe and Country Road. This road leads into the City and it is too important a road to have it remain in that state. The Minister must also understand that this is the rainy season and the same way that the rainy season has affected the sea egg season, it is also affecting the construction and repairing of roads and the cleaning of wells in Barbados. I am calling on the Cabinet of Barbados to make sure that the funds are provided on a timely basis so that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport can allocate the work at an earlier stage and that we would not have this confusion again.

I believe, Sir, that when advice is given from those mass based people in Barbados that it should be accepted and not ignored. The problem relating to Barbados right now is that information is given by people who have the practical knowledge and it is being ignored. We must move away from the belief that we can solve the problems in Barbados by reading books from outside but we must concentrate on listening to the people whom we have within.

I am also saying, Sir, that the road in Spring Garden which leads into Pie Corner also needs lifting and there is also a need for some wells in that particular area. Even if they do not repair the road, they should put some wells so

that they can have the water running off and people will not have to traverse through water when the rain falls.

I am calling on the Minister of Public Works and Transport to recognise that St. Lucy is also part of Barbados and he must come and see the condition of the roads in St. Lucy as he promised for many years. If he cannot do that, Sir, I will have to do the necessary thing to make sure that there is somebody willing and capable to come to St. Lucy and look at those roads. I am saying it is about time he stops taking the people of St. Lucy lightly.

Sir, I also want to correct a small problem that was raised previously by the newest Member of this Parliament when the Honourable Member sought to accuse the Democratic Labour Party of neglecting the road at Dukes. The truth is that up to 1994 that road was under construction and what the Honourable Member has forgotten is that between 1994 and 2001 it was not the Democratic Labour Party that was controlling the affairs of this country so that any neglect of the road at Dukes will have to be the Barbados Labour Party and not the Democratic Labour Party.

What the Democratic Labour Party must be complimented for is acknowledging that the people of Dukes, though a small district, were prepared to build a road to allow those people to remain where they lived. We have also practised a policy of expanding districts and not removing people from their districts and putting them elsewhere. The Honourable Member knows quite well of the policy about which she speaks because the Honourable Member will know about Deane Town where those people were living on one of the loveliest pieces of land in Barbados and they were removed because they had the best view in Barbados and relocated somewhere else and now that land is very accessible to other people.

I am saying, Sir, that our policy is clear. We strongly believe in the expansion of districts and that is a very laudable policy. It is the type of policy that should be practised by any Government that follows the policy of the Democratic Labour Party because we need to keep communities together. We also need to understand that every community is different and we must ask ourselves if through intermixing, we are not changing the social landscape of Barbados by bringing different cultures into communities where they cannot relate to the particular culture.

On this particular point, Sir, I want to sound a warning to those people who come and live in areas that are foreign to them. They must understand that they cannot bring their cultures and want to enforce them on other people, because Barbadians must be able to keep their identity. We must do everything in our power to make sure that when we welcome

people into our community that they can appreciate the culture of that community and not believe that they must come and continue to adopt the policies and cultural behaviour to which they are accustomed elsewhere.

Barbados must be seen for Barbadians and all those who want to come and live in Barbados must appreciate what we have and be prepared to blend in. I am seeing some strange occurrences, Sir, where suddenly we seem to believe that we have to adopt the cultures of other people and move away from those cultures which we knew previously.

I am saying, Sir, that must change, and people must learn to appreciate Barbados for what it is and that we must keep the community like it is so the construction of tenantry roads is very important in keeping people in their districts.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed grateful for this opportunity to thank the Minister of Public Works and Transport who brought this Resolution to this Parliament today.

Mr. Chairman, since 1992, the tenantry road at Redland's, St. George was left in a state of disrepair. In fact, the road was started by the Venezuelans under the previous Administration in 1991-1992. Since then, we were trying to have this road completed so I am very happy that the Minister of Public Works and Transport was able during the last month to have this road completed at Redlands.

Sir, I understand from the residents when I visited there on Sunday that the only thing left to be done now would be a turning bay and a well. The well is still being done but although this is a very small community, it is a well-established community, just east of the Sweet Bottom area. It is a very old community indeed. It is categorised as Zone 1 and many of the residents are waiting for water attachments so I hope that the Minister of Public Works and Transport can address this matter very soon.

Sir, many of the residents would prefer to remain within this community rather than having to be relocated and we would look at that very carefully. We recognise the nature of Zone 1, but we understand that to disrupt a community that has been intact from before my lifetime is a serious matter. However, if the residents have to be relocated, we will have to find land for them at Groves; but some of them would go reluctantly.

I also want to say this about the depot at Golden Ridge which is responsible for the St. George and the St. John areas. I know that they are trying their best. I went to St. John recently and noticed some of the gabion work that is being done at St. Margarets and Glenburnie.

In having discussions with some of the foremen at the depots, I was told that there is a need for carpenters and masons. They have enough artisans and labourers and so on but there is definitely a need for carpenters and masons because over the last year or so a number of carpenters and masons retired from the service and they have not been replaced.

I believe that the various personnel at the depots should be more aware of some of the problems facing the communities, for example, the pot holes that I see occurring from time to time in the roads. A lot of the main roads have potholes and they need to be filled in. I understand that every depot has a patching gang and a weeding gang. We know that there has been a lot of rain in the last month or so and the roads and gutters are in need of weeding. So the officers who are in charge of these depots must find it possible to relocate and position the gang from time to time so as to have ongoing work throughout the constituency. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that if this is done then they would not work the Parliamentary representatives so hard. There is no reason why the Parliamentary representatives should have to be on the back of the personnel of the depots so often but unless we call nothing is done.

I believe that the depots need to be more proactive in their research of the constituencies. They should know the flood areas and they should clean them. I also believe that drainage is a problem. We have a problem of drainage at the Glebe, at the Valley and at Lower Estate. A lot of ponds are being developed because of the rain and they are breeding mosquitoes. There are a lot of mosquitoes now in my constituency because of the ponds at Lower Estate and at the Glebe and I want to thank the Ministry of Health for allowing the fogging team to come into St. George yesterday. I also want to encourage the depots to send their team often to clear the overgrowth of bush and to weed and patch the roads.

There were also a lot of good roads when I was a boy. For example, years ago the road at Applewhaites was a very good road but it is now in a state of disrepair and it would take a lot to repair it. We all know that if roads remain without proper attention, after a while they will become so bad it will take too much to do, so we want to encourage the depots to be more proactive in seeing after what has to be done.

Mr. Chairman, turning to other related matters, it is a fact that there are still a number of tenantry roads which are to be done in the constituencies. St. George, like St. Philip, has the most tenantry roads. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy speaking about tenantry roads but I want to say to him that it is a known fact that St. George has more tenantries than any other parish. St. George has the most tenantries in Barbados and, therefore, we will have the most

tenantry roads. Between St. George North and South we have a number of tenantries and a lot of roads are still being...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that you must have a tenantry to have a tenantry road. In my constituency I have over 70 tenantry roads.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, if you want a tenantry road, you must have a tenantry.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Carry on Honourable Member.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Anyway, Mr. Chairman, we have a number of tenantries and we have a lot of roads. In St. George we still have people who have to walk through tracks and mud and have to carry more than two pairs of shoes to go to church and work.

I am glad though that between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that these roads through a programme will be done over time. All cannot be done overnight. We recognised that the 22 to 25 tenantry roads that were developed over time will be done over a period of time. I understand that roads are to be done at the Glebe and Bridge Cot and I hope that over time in the next five years or so that all of these roads will be done.

There is the question of the outgrowth of rocks. We have more heavy equipment now being used on the roads. The Transport Board have a fleet of big, heavy, broad buses which take up more than half of the road and another vehicle cannot pass the side of it easily. I have seen Transport Board buses having to stop to allow other vehicles to pass. Can you imagine a Transport Board bus and a tractor/trailer travelling on the Workmans Road, in the Glebe or in the Valley in St. George? That cannot happen.

Even though we are developing that area we need to widen more roads. So I want the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to start advising the Ministry of Housing and Lands to acquire more land to widen the roads. All of the roads in Barbados need to be widened. I have made the point already that we need to acquire more land to widen the roads. Our roads are too narrow and we have to do two things. We either have to acquire more land for road

improvements in order to widen the roads or limit the size of vehicles because this has been causing some problems.

I also believe that the outgrowth of rocks is a problem. The road at Workmans in St. George is a winding road. I have made that point to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and we went on tour there. I am hoping that between this and the next financial year that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport will be able to honour their pledge in cutting down the rocks at Workmans. Gun Hill is a tourist attraction and when the tourist buses come to Gun Hill and they park in the road near the Lion, traffic is unable to pass. Again, I am asking the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the National Conservation Commission (NCC) to do something in that area. So I am hoping that over time within the next year or so that something can be done.

I want to compliment the Ministry of Public Works and Transport for their ongoing programme. I am hoping that they can speed up the programme so that the people who live in the area can find rest and will be able to understand that we are doing something for them. I hope that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport can carry out their public relations programme to make people more aware of some of the things that are being done on behalf of the Government and on the behalf of the people themselves to ensure that they improve themselves. We have seen that when roads are done, people improve their homes and we have seen a number of tenantries that have been improved. I can talk about Poole Land in St. John, Lower Estate and Drax Hall where a number of roads have improved housing. When roads are improved, people improve the condition of their homes and their job conditions. I am glad that this programme will continue. With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Resolution.
6.05 p.m.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, let me thank all Honourable Members who have supported this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber this afternoon. As we stand, Sir, we came to move a Resolution to grant \$5 973 000 from the Consolidated Fund for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to use in the carrying out of its road programme as it relates to those four roads in the tenantry area that have to be rehabilitated.

A number of comments were made by various Members. First, let me start from the bottom when the Member for St. George North spoke. I thank him for his comments and compliments on the work of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport at Redlands. He also mentioned that there were complaints from some of the residents where water is concerned and I would say to him that the area lies in a Zone 1 area and that being so, where water is concerned, that is in an area where Town and Country Planning will not

give permission for water to be run to the houses in the area. He did mention that if they cannot get water they would have to look at relocating those people.

Even so, they are the concerns of a number of people and I do believe that I should have to convene a meeting with the Minister of Physical Development who is responsible for the Town and Country Planning Department to have a chat about some of these areas that people have concern where Zone 1 is concerned.

The Member for St. Lucy asked about more bus stops to serve the Cave Hill, St. Lucy area. This is an area which I will pass on to my technical people, the Chief Technical Officer, who I believe will have a chat with those responsible for traffic in his department and see what can be done for those people.

I must thank the new Member for St. Thomas for her compliments on the work we are doing in the area.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West made mention of the canal at Ferniehurst and this I will pass on to the relevant authorities. I also want to thank him for his kind remarks about the depots and the speedy response made by the depot for the constituents when they complained about signage in the area. He also mentioned the crossing of this new road in Black Rock. The constituency which I represent is contiguous to the one the Member represents and I will be asking about the crossing on that new highway which has become very busy. It is a new road and we know that the traffic passes very quickly on it.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central mentioned drums and holes. Only this morning I had a meeting with the technical officers and supervisors of depots because I am very concerned about the number of drums and signs that I see on these culverts and broken grills. The reason for these broken grills that we see on the sidewalks is because the container trucks park on the sidewalks. It is against the law to park on a sidewalk and I do believe that if the police would do more enforcement we would prevent these people from parking on sidewalks. We know what is happening and the signs are put there saying "Caution – Broken Culvert" or "Broken Sidewalk". There are not enough of these signs and you have drums in the holes so as to warn people that the sidewalk is broken and not to walk too close to the area otherwise they might damage themselves.

As I said, this morning I had a chat with the supervisors and we spoke about signage also. The depots are responsible for their areas and one of their functions is, when they check

on potholes and work is to be done in an area, to make sure that the area is well debushed as well as signs that need to be repaired are reported to the relevant depot and that is corrected.

As I said at the beginning, this money that we are asking for today is for the residential roads and the money for tenantry roads is for materials and rental of equipment. The money for Highways C and N is money to be paid to the contractor. The equipment and material is for the residential roads and not machinery. When I mentioned about the Ministry requiring equipment, no money is being asked for today for the purchase of machinery. I made mention of that and said that we have a tender out there and very soon when the contract is awarded we will be asking that contractor to supply the material for the Ministry and the general good of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I now beg that Head 37 stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.
6.15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until October 30, 2001, at 11.00 a.m.

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

The question that the House be suspended until October 30, 2001 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.
6.19 p.m.

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