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# THE

## House of Assembly Debates

### (OFFICIAL REPORT)

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FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2004

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#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, May 7, 2002*

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2002.

#### PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., 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 Civil Service)

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. (Oxon.)

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

Mr. G. W. PAYNE

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. (Ministry of Housing and Lands)

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL (Minister of Public Works and Transport)

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Physical Development and Environment)

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)

Mr. M. Z. WILLIAMS

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Mr. D. T. GILL, B.Sc.

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

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of Economic Development, 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: This House is now in session.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, April 23, 2002.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minutes of the proceedings for the House of Assembly for Tuesday April 23, 2002 which have been circulated be confirmed subject to any corrections and or observations.

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

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report to this Honourable House that I am in receipt of the following:

Accounts and Statements for the month of December, 2001, from the Accountant General.

Accounts and Statements for the financial year 1999-2000, from the Accountant General.

#### PAPERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report of the National Council on Substance Abuse for the period April, 1999 to March, 2000.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the following:

Report on the activities of the Town and Country Planning Development Office for the period April 1 to April 30, 2001.

#### 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. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

#### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

##### ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO TAKE NOTE OF THE GREEN PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY (Resumed)

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North for bringing to this Honourable House, a National Sports Policy which is far reaching and embracing. I want to say from the outset that I support most of the recommendations which are contained within this Green Paper.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the West Indies Cricket Team for winning the Third Test with India under Captain, Carl Hooper. I believe that the West Indies Cricket Team is well deserving of that victory. I also believe that the way they played in the Third Test reminds us of when "king cricket" was at the top and the Barbadian team was the premier regional cricket team in this hemisphere.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that at this time in our history, there is a need for us to look carefully at the management of the various sporting organisations to see how they contribute to our development.

I am of the view that the National Sports Policy should help to inculcate an atmosphere, not only of fair play, but one in which the various organisations are properly funded, housed and accommodated.

Mr. Speaker, when we came to Government in 1994, one of the things that we set out to do was to improve the playing facility of the various community organisations. We did it in such a way to encourage the various communities to get involved in selecting, not only the site in which they were allowed to play, but to help in the development of the various sporting facilities.

Therefore, it is on record that the 1994 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party pointed out that in all major communities, we would not only encourage sports, but provide better accommodation and facilities for the various sporting organisations.

One can see that throughout this country, a number of land acquisitions were made for the purpose of providing hard courts and other playing facilities. Sir, so far, over the last seven or eight years, a number of playing fields and hard courts were constructed.

I want to congratulate the Minister of Sports, who has gone throughout Barbados in all of the constituencies and provided new facilities for the residents, including Checker Hall in St. Lucy. It is a fact that these things were done by the Minister of Sports on behalf of the Government.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by indicating that the Minister of Sports has built a pavilion in Checker Hall, St. Lucy. I think he is referring to the one at North Stars and the one that is soon to be built at Grave Hall or Salmond in St. Lucy.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is just pointing out the good work that was done by this Government in his constituency. It shows that there is no divide where sports is concerned, that this Government cares for all. It also shows that we have not

only selected from this Side, but all the constituencies will benefit from this programme.

Sir, I would want to say, also, that the Honourable Member for St. John can congratulate this Government for providing facilities at Gall Hill in St. John. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I must say that we, in the Ministry of Housing, have been able to help in this promotion by acquiring lands throughout Barbados to have recreational facilities for the upliftment of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that in 1994, you were able to point out a small area of land where we have to remove a few homes in order to provide hard court facilities. As you pass through Bank Hall today, you will see a new community facility which does not only have a hard court, but it is well lit.

I think we must congratulate the Ministry of Sports for insisting that most of these facilities are not only to provide the atmosphere for sporting during the day, but you can have these facilities at night.

11.25 a.m.

Sir, I believe that there should be lighted hard courts or playing fields in every constituency where the guys can play their football and...

*Asides.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I do not think it would be possible to put lights at all the hard courts across Barbados. However, I believe that in the near future we should see the major communities with lighted hard courts, so I hope that this could be part of the policy.

It is also important for us to look at the policy as it relates to professionalism in sports. The Caribbean is one of the oldest cricketing regions and the West Indian Cricket Board (WICB) should follow places like New Zealand, Australia and England in developing professional cricket leagues where players can earn a living. It is important for us to do so because our players do not now go off into the cricketing league in England or Australia as they used to. A number of our players went off to South Africa as well but this is not happening anymore, so we need to find avenues for our players to earn an income. Many of our players, after playing cricket for a number of years, do not enjoy the benefit of their occupation, so there must be some opportunity for them to become more professional.

Sir, when the West Indies cricket team plays against countries like Australia, New Zealand and more recently Zimbabwe, we see the level of professionalism that is coming out in the opponents and we need to look at that. I believe that the St. George's College in Grenada has a role to play in this regard. When this College is fully developed,

it can be a regional mechanism to provide some degree of professionalism.

There is also a need for a source of funding. Sports is a very expensive undertaking. There are a number of times when sporting organisations would come around with a hat, or a sponsor walk sheet, or something of that nature to source funds but, to my mind, Mr. Speaker, that is not enough. I understand the Ministry of Sports and the Government have increased the subvention to these sporting organisations over the years. At present, there are over 200 sporting organisations which now benefit from the resources of Government. However, the time has come for us to ask corporate Barbados to put more money into sports.

I understand that the Barbados Cycling Union has been trying to find a source of funding for our ace rider. It takes thousands of dollars every year to send our ace rider to the various events across the world, so I want to encourage the Ministry of Sports to look at funding which would embrace the private sector. The time has come for the private sector to get involved in sports and to get our youngsters involved in wholesome activity.

It is also important to note that this Government, without much fanfare, has made provision for these sporting organisations to bring in their material, sporting equipment and sporting gear duty-free. This Government has put a lot of time, effort and money toward the upliftment of sports.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do more promotion in sports. It is not often known but many of the small sports in Barbados have done well over the years. I speak of the sports like volleyball which five years ago was a very small sport but today our volleyball team is now top in the English-speaking Caribbean and volleyball can be considered to be a major sport in Barbados now. Sports like volleyball, basketball and netball have done well over the years and we need to help with the promotion of these sports. It is also important for us to find a home for these organisations so as to allow them to come together.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago, Government bought land on the complex of the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium and we need to allocate some of that space to these sporting organisations to set up their home so that they can get off the ground. These organisations are scattered all over the place and if they are brought under one roof, at least at the Garfield Sobers Complex, that would do them well. The Barbados Hockey Association, the Lawn Tennis Association and the Barbados Swimming Association already have a home at that venue.

The Dominoes Association is looking for space for a home. The Barbados Volleyball Association and the Netball Association use the Gymnasium but they have complained

that it is very expensive to use the facility at the Gymnasium and I believe that if they have their own home the cost might be reduced. I hope that in the future some of this cost can be reduced through funding from the various lottery associations. I think the lottery associations should put more money into sports. There has been a call for Government to get involved in this lottery but we have to see how it goes. I am not sure if Government has the ability to get involved in a sporting lottery at this time. I think this lottery would be best run by the private sector.

11.35 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Athletics Association has been doing well at the CARIFTA games over the years but I believe we have to do much better. Sir, I recently attended the CARIFTA games in the Bahamas and had the occasion to see the various countries competing. It has been an experience and I admired the Jamaicans, Bahamians and, of course small countries like Grenada and Trinidad have been emerging.

I believe we have to learn a lot from the Grenadians. They have involved the Cuban coaches and it has paid off to some extent. I hope the Minister of Sports who was at that meet will learn that we need to involve our own people in the region. There are too many times in which sporting organisations look beyond the region and I have to ask the question, "if Jamaica has been doing so well over the years, have we involved them in any of the coaching of these athletes?" Jamaica has been doing very well and has motivated the youngsters who are doing well. I believe we have to involve both the Jamaican and Cuban coaches, for they must be doing something right. We have now moved from the number 2 to number 5 position and, therefore, I think more has to be done in the field of athletics.

I believe that, at the community level, more Members of Parliament need to become involved in athletics. I understand the Ministry of Sports is looking at a community programme for athletics and I hope that it comes off this year. Sir, over the last year, we have seen athletics moving to a height in Barbados. We have seen the Senior Citizens' Athletic Association becoming involved in participation recently.

*Aside.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I would like to encourage all other Members to participate in these events but there must be more dedication to athletics. I know I have been criticised for this, that it involves a lot of administrators rather than the players. I believe more money is spent on administration rather than on the players and we need to spend more time and resources on the association.

Sir, for example, in the Bahamas, we have an association called Parents For Athletics. They are very much

involved in raising funds for the athletes. They are involved in pushing for scholarships. Sir, do you know that in the Bahamas, they get approximately 55 scholarships per year to the United States, whereas Barbados only gets one or two and therefore something is wrong. I understand that the Association there is pushing for these scholarships who go to the United States of America and study in various disciplines, which is beneficial to those countries, as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, not only in athletics that we need that help but also as a nation to come together sometimes during the year to reflect on what we have done. We need to continue doing so. There is a National Sporting Day arranged through the Ministry of Sports. I think that sports day should be better organised. I have gone to all three of them. I think the Ministry of Sports needs to publicise this idea better. This Sports Day is held on the first Saturday of November. It is so low-keyed, many people do not know about it because it is so low-keyed.

Sir, I believe that more has to be done in order to promote the various sporting organisations, especially on that day. I do hope that this year it will not only be held on November 1, but that we can embrace other organisations and can allow other persons to participate. I think if this is done it will be helpful.

Sir, over the years we have been encouraging the establishment of various pavilions across the island. Sir, the cost of the establishment of a pavilion is a very expensive thing. I think sometimes these pavilions are only used once or twice per week. There needs to be better use of these pavilions. For example, there may be a pavilion at the Gall Hill, St. John, which may only be used once or twice per week...

*Aside.*

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: No, I am serious. I believe that these pavilions should be more resource-centred. More organisations need to get involved in what is happening. There should be more than sports. I believe that these pavilions are very expensive and we need to look and see how they can be better organised or constructed.

Mr. Speaker, so that if there is need to change these facilities, then there is no need to build them so big. There can just be small enough to accommodate a changing room, recreation room, bathroom.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us not only to promote sports but to help our sportsmen beyond finance. I have spoken about the need for parent organisations to support these various sporting organisations.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has got two minutes more to wind up.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, what about the persons who have gone on like those who have represented Barbados? I think a number of our players sometimes get scholarships or migrate. Very few of them ever return. For example, in cricket, we have players such as the Right Excellent Sir Garfield, Worrell, Weekes and Walcott, Joel Garner, and Senator Desmond Haynes. Surely there are more players who need to get involved.

Sir, I was very glad that this year was held as George Linton Benefit Year by the Barbados Cricket Association. I believe that persons like Linton should be used to help motivate younger persons in the community. If this is done, I think the future will hold well for West Indian cricket. More has to be done at the level of those sport persons who have done well and have gone on. I believe they need to come back and provide that opportunity for younger persons so that they can see them and motivate them so that there can be an improvement in West Indian cricket.

Mr. Speaker, I support the establishment of a Sports Policy and hope that we can implement most of the programmes contained in this Green Paper. I thank you.  
11.45 a.m.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to contribute to this debate on the National Sports Policy for Barbados. First, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North who was Minister responsible for sports and who has put us in this position to express our views on the draft proposals, as contained in the Green Paper on Sports.

Sir, I want to speak from the perspective of sports and its important role in national development. If we want to have a vision for the future of sports in Barbados, we need to look back and see the role that sports has played in the transformation of the Barbadian and the wider West Indian society along with politics, legislative change, economic change and the workers' movement.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often sufficiently recognised that sports was used as one of the means of developing a sense of confidence in the West Indian people. In fact, colonialism as practised in the West Indies was based on the question of racial and national superiority. There was the view advanced that slaves were less than human but that view was altered over time. When it was acknowledged that slaves were humans, there was then the view that they could not govern themselves, that they were not skilled in administration and several other arguments were used to justify what was happening in that given period.

Cricket, therefore, assumed an importance which was greater than the game being played in the middle and the fact

that cricket was a gentleman's game and that we, a West Indian team, were able here and at Lords, the home of cricket, to beat an English team was an important statement and a confidence builder. We also developed some early stars like Sir Garfield Sobers, Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes, and others to give recognition to Barbados and other West Indian islands.

In the same way that we are able as a West Indian nation to gain recognition and admiration for the skills and talents of our people and develop a sense of confidence in ourselves, and are able to take on international competition in sports, that is the same sense of recognition and confidence we need to take into a world which is more fiercely competitive than ever before.

Sir, it is through sports that we can punch above our weight and size internationally. Even today persons such as Ambassador Obadale Thompson and Barry Forde have been able to show that small countries can achieve success. There are many other sports being played that might have a negative impact on cricket but it has opened several other avenues in which the talents of our youths are beginning to be recognised on the world stage.

Sir, greatness and excellence cannot be left to be developed by chance. We need to discharge our responsibility as a Parliament of Barbados, as a Government of Barbados and as people of Barbados to do all that is necessary so that any inherent or residual skill and talent in the country can be identified, harnessed and developed for the benefit and pleasure of the individual and for the honour and glory of our country.

My perspective on a national sports policy is that we need to ensure that our sports base is sufficiently wide so that the pyramid of excellence which we hope to build would be very tall with many people at the top in each and every sport in which we try our hand. In order to achieve that, we need to focus on the schools because this is the area where our young people are found.

The most recent United Nations publication indicates that only 16 countries in their membership of 174 countries can boast of having 100 per cent school enrollment of children under 16 years. Sir, other countries do not know the amount of children they have because the children may be out fighting war or doing something else, but we already have an institutional framework and a mechanism by which we can tap into the talents of our young people.

Sir, where we lose young people in Barbados is in the area between leaving secondary school and going into the mature area. We need to work more assiduously and consciously in this mature area with existing community groups to provide opportunity for the youngsters who have left school with talent to continue to develop those talents.

This is one of the major weaknesses that exist in the development of sports in Barbados.

Sir, I want to emphasise the role of the physical education teachers at our schools and also the fact that because the Minister of Sports is also the Minister of Education, it provides that synergistic linkage such that would ensure that at the level of the primary and secondary school that not one youngster is able to escape the search for talents. Sir, we know that many people are not aware of their talents and it is only by exposure that they become aware of what talents they have.

Sir, when I was going to school, the mechanism used to search for talent was earning house points and long before the athletic season, cricket season, or football season, there were a number of objective standards to be reached in order to earn a point for your house and this provided an opportunity for persons to develop their talents.

Sir, I discovered that I was able to sprint and I was able to win the 100 metre race at my school.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I was not as fast as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, but I was able to sprint and I won the 100 metre race at my school. 11.55 a.m.

Sir, through the work of the Ministry of the National Sports Council and the Ministry of Education we need to ensure that we use the schools before any other facilities.

There are a number of things, in terms of community sports, which we have to pay particular attention. I want to salute the National Sports Council and to commend the Government for the great investment which has been made in sports and sporting facilities across the island. There are some associations who expect the Government to make funds available to them. If you listen to them carefully, you would think that no one does anything for sports.

The reality is, the State provides a wide range of sporting facilities spread across the country. For example, playing fields for cricket, basketball hard courts, lights, *et cetera* are provided by the Government. If you drive around the island at night you would notice a glow in the areas near sporting facilities. This glow is the lighting which has been provided at the various sporting facilities across the island and it is a worthwhile investment.

Statistics indicate that lifestyle diseases and lifestyle conditions account for the greatest drain on the health resources of our country. This means that our lifestyle illnesses such as diabetes, amputations and so on impact

negatively on our activity. The old adage that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation is very true. Time lost from work, time lost in production, time spent in the hospital and time spent on medication results in draining our national resources. Sir, the provision of facilities where people can exercise is a positive investment rather than to wait until people fall ill to correct the situation. This is why we should focus on community sporting activity.

Sir, we have not made enough use of our experienced best known and most talented elder sportsmen. I am rather pleased, in recent times, to see that the West Indies Cricket Board has appeared to have found wisdom by using them making intensive use of our great coaches. Our great coaches had to go to Bangladesh, United Emirates, Zimbabwe and all over the world where people have recognised their talent when the West Indies Cricket Board appeared not to have recognised the talents of Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Everton Weekes and other great individuals.

Sir, what is worse, is the state of readily available information, technologically so that we can make use of those great persons now that they are alive. The West Indies should be leading the world in the services of being experts in providing the kind of service where one should be able to access information on the computer at anytime of the day in schools, community centres or wherever sports is being played. They should be able to study stroke play demonstrated by Sir Everton Weekes, to study bowling demonstrated by Sir Garfield Sobers, and fielding demonstrated by Gus Logie.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, the technology is there and we have not yet made use of the readily available opportunities to pass on the knowledge of these great individuals to our younger generation and that is why I am saying we cannot leave it to chance. The Ministry of Sports can use the opportunity provided by the community technology programme and the Ministry of Social Transformation in the sports pavilions and community resource centres by placing computers in these centres.

Members of the communities can also have access to the Internet and these facilities can also be used by sporting teams in their coaching programme. I am now throwing out the challenge to the national sporting organisations working with the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education to make the maximum use of the talents of these individuals while they are alive.

Sir, I want to make a point which is more of a parochial nature. The strategy that has advanced in terms of developing sports from a community-base upwards is evident in the constituency in which I have the honour to represent, Christ Church East. It would be remiss of me in

making a contribution on a National Sports Policy not to recognise the recent success of the Silver Sands Football Team.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: On April 29, 2002, the Silver Sands Football Team moved up to the Premier League Division in football in Barbados. I am sure that all Honourable Members are as proud as I am.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, here is a team which did not have one of the best playing fields in Barbados, if one at all. They practised on a very small field which is not large enough to be a field at which fixtures can be held. They usually play their games at Blenheim grounds. I am pleased to report that this week the National Sports Council, working with the Member of Parliament for the area, and the Skills Training Unit at Sayes Court, where the Training Unit conducts a course in tractor operations, were able to leverage these available resources between the Government and the community to start laying dirt on the playing field to ensure that by the next football season, this team, which has been able to pull itself up by its bootstraps and rise to the top in its chosen sport, would be able to have a suitable playing field.

I also want to make the point that in addition to focussing on sports within the community and using the community groups for sporting purposes, these groups provide a wonderful catchment for the development of other groups. There is a great opportunity for linkages between the National Development Programme and the development of sports in Barbados.

We have seen, sadly so, a number of talented individuals who would have gone on in their chosen field but who did not have the discipline and the tenacity to last. Sir, with the marriage of the Youth Development Programme and the sporting teams we can be successful. The plans which the Youth Development Programme have for providing training of 600 young persons during the course of this year in sporting activities, including cricket, football, volleyball, table tennis and road tennis is very important.  
12.05 p.m.

The work with the youth groups and other groups, whether informal or not, to help them to develop structures and manage their affairs is very important.

I would want to urge that the planned activity during the summer where they will have some 3 500 young people at youth camps all across the island, and these are young people between the ages of four and 15, provides an opportunity again not only to push sports but also the kind of

discipline which is required to succeed not only in sports but in wider life. Also, it provides an opportunity for sporting activity and the interest of young people in sports to be used to advance another cause.

I made brief mention of the direct benefits which sporting activity has on the health profile of the nation by way of exercise. I also want to indicate that I will trust that the National HIV/AIDS Commission will also use the existence of well structured, well organised, widely diffused sporting groups around the island as a focal point for our young people in this activity. All that we seek to do in this National Sports Policy, to have a broad-based sporting culture in Barbados to work and focus effort at building excellence at the top of the pyramid, can be undone if we do not also take the opportunity to teach these youngsters how to preserve their lives and health, particularly as far as the HIV/AIDS Programme is concerned.

In coming to the end of this presentation, I want to end near where I started. The other observation I want to make is that we appear to have become so expert in delivering a diverse range of services and programmes nationally that we have become too narrowly focussed and compartmentalised so that we have sportsmen today who appear to have no sense of appreciation and understanding of the wider issues surrounding sports. Some of the comments you hear coming via the media of some West Indian players, not this current set, thankfully, but we have heard in the past some comments which will suggest that they do not quite understand that cricket as, indeed, other sports, goes beyond the boundary. They do not have an appreciation in all cases for the sociological and cultural history of Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

We, therefore, need to ensure that as we execute this sports policy, seeking to infuse our youngsters with the requisite skills so necessary for success in sports, that we make sure that they understand the history, culture and sociology of our region, that they understand that when they are representing our country and our region that the entire pride, the path and the future of the people, rest on their shoulders. Also, Sir, that we empower and enable them to make the most out of sports.

There are not enough of our sportsmen who fully appreciate the issue of the management of sports. In fact, I would have to be honest to say that there are not enough of our sports managers who understand the management of sports. Everything, from being able to raise the sponsorship to making sure that our sportsmen's image and presence are not exploited, that our sportsmen are able to gain proper economic returns from their stardom. The whole issue of having contracts which are fair and reasonable and also attractively priced is very important in the development of our sports. ..

I am therefore pleased that this National Sports Policy, as articulated, goes in those directions and recognises the wider contribution of sports to our national development. It recognises that sports is more than kicking around a ball or going out there and playing a game. At the end of the day, if after an enhanced performance on the field of sports we are not able to translate some of those benefits into greater success, then we are indeed wasting our time.

The final point I will make, Sir, is that we need in order to recognise the full benefits in that economic sense of which I spoke to ensure that those sports which have a direct linkage with our tourism and other aspects of our economy are pushed. There is, unfortunately, still a reluctance to accept that some of our newer sports such as wind surfing and kayaking are sports. These are areas, Sir, in which there is great potential. In fact, going back to the example I mentioned, Barbados is among the top 10 wind surfing destinations in the world. Of course, you know where wind surfing occurs? Silver Sands beach is the most popular wind surfing location in Barbados.

In fact, Sir, much of the tourism in that area from the three large hotels to the many apartment buildings and even the chattel houses have their tourism guests as wind surfing guests. We, therefore, need to ensure that as part of the sporting policy we address all sports. Cricket is fundamental. That is our legacy, but we need to ensure that we give support to the swimming, diving, wind surfing, cycling, chess, draughts and dominoes, all of them, in order to build excellence across the wider population.

Sir, I want to congratulate the Ministry of Sports for bringing this Paper to continue to state the Government's ongoing commitment to supporting the fullest development of sports in Barbados and to laud the Government for the very generous and substantial investment which it has placed in sporting facilities around the island, and to continue to recognise what the private sector has done and urge that it does even more in developing our sports and our sportsmen in this island.

It is my pleasure, Sir, to support this Resolution to take note and approve this Green Paper on a sporting policy for Barbados. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I am obviously very happy and satisfied to be associated with this debate that sets a platform for sports for all Barbadians as the basis on which this Paper was founded.

Let me begin by giving, Sir, commendations for the Minister and his team who put together this very comprehensive document and this very comprehensive policy on where we need to take sports in Barbados in the next decade or so. The concept that this policy really creates a broad-based and sporting culture, the platform on which we

intend to develop Barbados further both at the social levels and the economic levels certainly is a good thing for Barbados at this stage in our development. I have had the privilege to say in this Chamber on more than one occasion that the issue of sports and culture as tools of national development are tools that we have not laid as much emphasis on in the past as we should have.

The issue is that sports and culture in this new and dynamic age of globalization, levelling the playing field, particularly for the trading of goods and services in any country, is going to be singled out by its ability to be able to create for itself absolute advantages or comparative advantages in particular sectors that make it that strong a country globally so that it can ply that trade anywhere in the world in services and goods that cannot easily be copied or emulated by other people.

12.15 p.m.

In that regard, what the concept of sports and culture will contribute to that base is significant. Sir, what we have done for sports cannot be copied or duplicated by people in other parts of the world. Therefore it is a base that we must continue to foment and project forward. At the end of the day, Sir, sports and culture in a much wider sense, is also the tool that has been used to reform many people in our societies and depressed communities, as we seek to build a newer and better nation.

I believe, Sir, that there are a number of people who owe what they are today, in terms of their own professional existence, to the fact that they have been involved in sports at some level. Particularly so, Sir, in my case, I think I share the distinction with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central as, maybe, being the only two people in this Chamber who would have represented Barbados in some sporting activity.

Therefore, I believe that we start with a sense of having a little understanding of what it takes to provide a better base for sporting opportunities. Sir, in terms of my own tertiary education, I happen to have gone on an athletic scholarship initially, to do my Bachelors Degree. I think that what I am today, in terms of being a professional, I owe a significant part to having been involved in sports at a particular level.

Sir, at the end of the day, the issue is that sports seems to be the tool that most communities use to find their way out of depressed conditions. It is on that basis of being able to move people from a depressed existence to one where they believe they have some self-worth, as sports seems to play, is a very integral part in many communities, as I have been able to observe.

This is not only in Barbados but all over the world and there are many of our sportsmen and sportswomen who can

tell you that they started out in some very depressed conditions, and owe a lot of what they have done and what they are today, to the concept of being able to be involved in sports. Sir, sports creates skills in people and provides a platform for them. Sir, as we talk about the development of sports in Barbados over the years, and what we have been able to achieve, there is an understanding of the promotion of sports, that really leads people to be very good sportsmen or sportswomen.

The basis for the development of sports has to begin with the concept of education and particularly, Sir, in a broad sense, with the concept of how you market.

Sir, I am one who feel very peeved about the fact that our one national television station in Barbados, the one station that we have to actually show our sporting icons participating, is the one that does not show, or shows very little sports in Barbados. Sir, there can be no excuse, in my opinion, for the fact that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation does not show as much sports as they should in a society like Barbados.

Sir, you have the opportunity, even though it is expensive, to actually show sports that we can identify with, and in which we can identify Barbadian sportsmen and sportswomen on television in Barbados. I believe that, over the years, CBC tried and has done a reasonably good job. For example, the issue of cricket that is being played now against India, and the fact that the series is being shown on CBC, and in the recent past the issue of showing test cricket, has improved but, Sir, we have been deprived of seeing people like the late Sir Frank Worrell, Sir Everton Weekes and Sir Garfield Sobers on television, in any meaningful way in this country for a long time.

I do not think that there is any price too high to pay, to be able to see our people whom we should be seeking to emulate. This issue about being able to see more times, Michael Jordan or some other persons, than you can see any of our cricketing heroes, in my opinion, is a sad state of affairs. I believe it is a wrong that needs to be righted.

I know people would talk about how expensive it is for CBC to acquire television programming from the BBC and the cost involved, but I believe we need to go beyond that particular boundary. We need to negotiate with the people involved to see how we can create a basis for seeing the people we can easily emulate in sports that we know.

Sir, there was an argument in one of our main sports bars between young people in Barbados. They were arguing about who is the best quarter back in the National Football League in the United States – not who is the faster bowler or who is the best batsman in cricket – but the issue of quarter backing in the NFL in the United States. Sir, that is the stage to which we have reached. We are not seeing our

own sports people that we can easily understand on our television and I think we need to deal with this matter.

Sir, there was much talk recently about the CARIFTA games and the performance of Barbadian athletes at those games, where we got less medals than some of the other countries in the Eastern Caribbean which, traditionally, we had done better in this particular competition. There was also much talk about the issue of coaching and whether or not Barbados is exposing our athletes to the type of coaching that Grenada and Antigua had recently been exposed.

Sir, the fact is that Grenada, particularly, had Cuban coaches helping them in the field of athletics. I do not believe that Barbados' showing in that recent competition had much to do with the concept of coaching or exposure to coaches, as opposed to some of the other neighbouring islands.

Sir, I believe that Barbados has competent coaches. The IAAF, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, actually had a number of people...

*Aside.*

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Sir, we have had Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 coaches for some time now and about two or three years ago, Barbados had Certificate Level 3 coaches, which is the highest level of athletic coaching that can be achieved in the world. As I said, we had more Level 3s in Barbados than anywhere else and I believe that our athletes are being exposed to these particular coaches.

The issue is, Sir, that our performance in sports cannot only be seen in simple sporting terms. It has to be seen as just a microcosm of the entire society that we are seeking to promote in Barbados. The fact is that Barbados is not doing as well as it should have in the CARIFTA games, as compared to the past. We cannot even get a legitimate Barbadian player, as a permanent fixture on the West Indian team and I am not putting down Mr. Collins or Mr. Hinds. This speaks more of the type of social and economic bases that we are building in this society, than to specific coaching within any sporting discipline.

12.25 p.m.

Sir, as development factors push us into building a very large middle class in Barbados and peoples' social and economic conditions improve, the situation is going to get worse and unless we do something specific about changing the direction in terms of how we market sports, and how we choose talent in sports and bring people into the sporting arena, we are going to continue to have a serious problem.

Many people heard about the accident at Harrison College where two students, one driving a BMW and the

other a Mercedes, ran into each other. Sir, as soon as you move the bar upwards in terms of what people have and what they can achieve, and as soon as their social conditions improve and everybody is driven to school, people would not want to take part in sports like football and athletics to sweat up themselves. Sir, everybody now takes their child up to the pool or to tennis at the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium.

Sir, those sports that we traditionally built Barbados on, and which Barbadians have done very well in are not the type of sports that are being practised now by our people, so to get people into those sports is going to be increasingly difficult as we continue to build a bigger middle-class in Barbados and as we continue to improve the social and economic conditions of all Barbadians. That is why this Green Paper on the establishment of a National Sports Policy is so important at this time because it seeks to address two things; the issue of how we market sports to our people overall, and how to get more of them involved in sporting activity which is fundamental to our progress in sports because it is a push and pull strategy. Sir, sports allows people to push themselves up and as more people move up the social ladder we have to get them involved in sports because sports helps with their socialisation and helps in the concept of being able to create the value systems that people need to move on and to become better.

Sir, we need to pay attention to coaching in sports. It is going to become increasingly difficult as we move forward to be able to attract more people to sporting activity in Barbados unless we put specific things in place to market the sports to people on a wider scale.

Sir, there is also the issue relating to how many sports you can practise in a small society with a small population. Sir, when I and most Honourable Members who are males in this Chamber were going to school, we had very few options in terms of sports. We had cricket, football and athletics in the athletic season and some schools had hockey. We are into a situation now where a whole raft of sports like volleyball, handball, tennis, basketball *et cetera* are being played across communities in Barbados.

Sir, if we want to continue to attract people to the sports which we built our nation on, we are going to have to put specific things in place to attract them to those sports such as the identification of attitudes and aptitudes for the particular sport which fits with our culture, our history, our physical climate and which can be easily practised in Barbados because, at the end of the day, we have to be able to point people to the sports that fit them. If a person is 5' 2", it makes no sense in him trying to get into the NBA because he would not stand a chance of doing so.

Sir, there are some sports which Barbados has done well in and this is not by mere coincidence. The fact that

Barbadians have good hand and eye coordination is what make us so good at cricket. Our stature and our muscle base make us good at bodybuilding because a lot of our people are not very tall but are muscular by nature.

Sir, if we want to continue to use sports as a tool of national development, we have to point people to the sports where traditionally we have done well in and which fit us in terms of our culture, our history and our physical climate.

Sir, we should be using the National Sports Council, in particular, to create a better basis for identifying the talent in certain sports and pointing them in the right direction. That is why the National Sports Council systems needs to be re-analysed and refocused.

There are a number of coaches in the National Sports Council system who go to schools in rural Barbados to coach people. Sir, these coaches have set hours of work and so they will get at these schools between 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock when the schools are going on. The Physical Education teachers at these schools have a formal programme in the schools for all of the students. If he or she identifies certain aptitudes and attitudes for a particular sport by a student, then he or she should be channelling those students, because he is at the border base, to the expert talent that comes to coach in a particular discipline.

Sir, if the hockey coach goes to a school at 1 o'clock in the afternoon when Chemistry or Mathematics is being taught, you can bet your bottom dollar that the fellow who is the best hockey player by aptitude is not going to go out to play hockey when he should be in the Chemistry or the Mathematics class. Sir, if he was your child or my child, we would want him in the Mathematics or Chemistry class rather than outside playing hockey.

Sir, the system, although meaning well, would not work for some people. I have always felt that the island should be zoned into four zones and the coaches should be allowed the option to go to the schools after 3 o'clock in the afternoon until about 6 o'clock so that a student can go to a school near where he or she lives so that they do not have to waste a lot of time after practice finishes at 6 o'clock to get to their home. Once the aptitude of a student has been identified, he or she should have the option of being exposed to that particular coach in that centre in the north, south, east or west when he or she has the opportunity.

Sir, if we send coaches to the schools during regular school hours, the students are not going to get the opportunity to be exposed to expert coaching in a particular discipline, so I believe the system needs to be revamped. Sir, many of the PE teachers in the schools are not trained coaches in any particular discipline. They are broad-based in terms of being able to create a form of physical education.

Sir, Physical Education is just as important as Chemistry, Mathematics and English. When you start to deal with specific disciplines and specific training in a discipline, it means that you have got to move that outside of the regular school hours whether it is at the primary or secondary schools, so I believe that the whole system needs to be relooked and be revamped.

12.35 p.m.

Sir, the issue of a sports school in Barbados has long been discussed and I think it is something we need to put back on the front burner and, Sir, not only a sports school but some level of a sports academy. Barbados needs to be able to identify those persons with exceptional talents and aptitudes in sports and have them do a course in academic study while, at the same time, be exposed throughout the day how they deal with sports, whether it is early in the morning, mid afternoon or late afternoon.

Sir, what is important is that they are allowed to study their academics while, at the same time, being able to mesh that with the other sporting practices and disciplines at the highest level. Sir, there needs to be a sports academy in Barbados for those persons who have already left school. From the time I was a boy at school, I was hearing about a cricket academy for the West Indies. I believe there is some concept of that in Grenada, or in one of the neighbouring islands but up to now, Barbados really needs a sports academy for persons who have already left school, but who are still into sports at the highest level, who need that extra push to be able to get them over the edge.

In addition to that, it will also help them in being able to create a type of finishing school context for them. I believe that all West Indian cricketers should be exposed to such things as media training and such concepts of etiquette, so that when they are speaking to the media, they can understand and be exposed...

*Asides.*

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Sir, because at the end of the day when we take a man or woman and in a flash this person becomes a sporting icon, and one does not even know if this person has been properly exposed to the etiquette of speaking to the media, *et cetera*, I believe it is time we create a sporting academy that exposes some of our people who have already finished school.

Sir, we do not have any movie stars in the Caribbean. The only stars we have are politicians, cultural artists and entertainers, therefore, we need to expose them to the right level of training. Sir, whenever we see an American baseball player speaking so well to the media, this is not by coincidence. It has a lot to do with their being exposed through the foreign system and being taught well the various

forms of etiquette. Sir, I believe that is where Barbados needs to go as well.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East boasting of a football team from Silver Sands. Sir, everybody who follows sports in Barbados will know that the greatest football team in Barbados is Notre Dame from the Bayland, the home of the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. It is a community that has been producing sportsmen for years and, therefore, the opportunity now for Notre Dame to be able to play football into the wee hours of the night has never been afforded them by any other representative and the fact that they can now practise, I believe that they now have more lights on the pastures, they can win more games. The fact is it will help to keep persons out of trouble and also improve the skills of a team that we know has the best footballers in Barbados.

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

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, the funding for sports in Barbados that goes way beyond the present funding is the issue of the national lotteries. I think it is a shame that, at the present time, when the Olympio and the Barbados Turf Club (BTC) Lotteries were formed, we were told that would end the days for sporting teams having to walk around Barbados begging for funding. We have not seen an end to that. Sporting teams and national associations are still walking about and using all types of fund-raising methods, begging corporate Barbados for money, in order to acquire these fundings.

I believe this is an opportunity and that the Minister of Finance has moved in the right direction in trying to create one lottery for Barbados. Sir, the existing lottery system in Barbados is not helping Barbados and Barbadian sportsmen as they should and need to be revamped and reformed.

Sir, I have never been in favour of having so many lotteries in Barbados and am still not in favour of it. The issue of having one national lottery in the form of direct taxation can contribute significantly to moving our sportsmen forwards, but it will never work in the same pool, if there are so many lotteries competing against each other.

Sir, in addition, there is need in making more funds available because we have moved to a stage where administrators in sports not only need to be trained well, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East would have said, but there is also need to better compensate them and, Sir, not only by giving them a trip but also to pay them.

Sir, I wanted to mention something about sports tourism but I did not get the opportunity. Let me conclude by commending the Minister of Sports for the job that he has done in bringing this critical Green Paper to the House

and to our attention at this time. I think it will increase better opportunities for Barbados in the long term.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to compliment the Minister of Sports in his introduction for recognising the inadequacies of the Report needed to be supplemented by the information which he gave in his address. By that I mean that many of the issues that have flowed from this debate do not flow from the Green Paper itself but from the presentation of the Minister which reflects the fact that what he said was more realistic than what was contained in the Green Paper.

In other words, to my mind, the Green Paper is being used very loosely by Members as a reference point for what is not in the Green Paper. Therefore, against the background of what was said in this debate, and what was said by him in his opening presentation, I would urge the Minister to revisit the Green Paper as a document while seeking to incorporate some of the suggestions, for we do not know what happens to these Green Papers once they are completed. It is clear that when I match what has been said in the Green Paper, the Green Paper does not effectively cover a sports policy. Sir, if we were to talk to any of the leading physical education specialists in Barbados...

*Aside.*

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I will not name any but there are some in this House. There is, perhaps, too much of a focus on the question of sports or games, *per se*, rather than focus on the question of fitness. In other words, many of the complaints that Members speak about – the Honourable Member spoke about certain persons not wanting to walk around at certain events looking sweaty, or that they have attitudes towards sports that are negative. Many of those attitudes are, in fact, rooted from a lack of appreciation or understanding from the connection between their overall mental and other well-being and their fitness. 12.45 p.m.

Sir, I do not mean fitness for the purpose of performing in a specific sports, so the National Sports Council should not be speaking about sports for all in the Green Paper but about fitness for all. To my mind, that is at the heart of the problem in Barbados.

There has been a study recently about attitudes of young people to fitness which I understand the Ministry of Education has in its possession. Therefore, the focus of the Green Paper should be to redirect Government's overall sports policy and also redirect the energies of schools, communities and sporting associations to the importance of good health and fitness for all because there is enough information available to the Minister to do this.

What should be the focus in sports management more than the question of individual sports and access to facilities is a more broad-based programme in Barbados which will cause individuals to reflect on their own lifestyles so that even though there may be access to facilities, it is more important that people have access to information and that they are inspired and motivated in some way to be involved in fitness programmes and the maintenance of general healthy attitudes.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South made the point, even though he did not make the connection, that Government is spending a significant portion of their budget attending to health problems that occur later in life as a result of failure of citizens to be more involved in prevention of disease and protecting their own health, so we are actually paying at the opposite end of the scale.

I would bet that the vast majority of education teachers in Barbados would like to spend more time in the classroom encouraging young people and motivating them to maintain a high level of fitness and focus on how best it can be achieved rather than to be out in the sun all day trying to engage them in a focus on a particular kind of sports.

Mr. Speaker, no sports programme in Barbados is going to be successful if we do not spend time with those persons who deal with young people from ages 5 to 10 before they go into secondary school, and then deal with them from the age of 10 until 18 when they are going through their physical changes and are inculcating the values that would sustain them for the remainder of their life.

Sir, we have been talking about access to playing fields, about who have lights and how great the Government is doing, and because Government is providing these facilities and is focussing on a minority of persons who may be involved in a single discipline, we believe we are making great strides.

Alternatively, people then start to look at the question of promotion of sports as distinct from the promotion of fitness or good health which is the ultimate objective of any sensible Government's policy. Then they moved into esoteric discussions about sports tourism and on the economic benefits to be derived from bringing people here to be engaged in a particular sport rather than focus on the fitness and health of Barbadians as a whole. 12.55 p.m.

Sir, the focus of the programme outlined in the Green Paper does not achieve any of the very lofty objectives which have been set out in the document, unless the focus is involved, not so much on access to facilities which the Government provides, and the promotion of individual

sports in relation to exposing Barbadians to the right information and the right lifestyle choices about health.

Mr. Speaker, we would have heard in this particular debate reference being made to cricket, football, basketball and all the many disciplines in which young people are involved. In some communities in Barbados young women are involved in netball and basketball in the same district. Then you have road tennis, volleyball, cricket, two or three divisions, where all of them use similar facilities.

In some cases, you may have a community in Barbados where you have large numbers of young people and we are not talking about those people who should now be getting involved in physical activity, for example the elderly, the disabled and some other groups that are not now involved. Sir, you may have a large cadre of young people involved in activity within the same area but with no support other than the provision of those physical amenities which are provided by the Government.

Therefore, it seems like a pointless exercise that you can have a national lottery in Barbados which is raking in millions of dollars to support the major activities of the national organisations in these key disciplines, but very little of that money is filtering down to the individual sports teams in our communities which is going to be critical, to my mind, to maintaining a healthy style.

Sir, there are sporting groups that have to walk around, almost cap in hand every year, begging for support from the private sector organisations. There are the politicians who have to spend a lot of time trying to raise money, a breakdown of the red tape in Government, sponsor competitions and assist people in relation to overseas tours. Sir, there is never a shortage in the demand for sponsorship. Sometimes you have to wonder where are all of these individuals who are supposed to be involved in community development and the promotion of sports. Where are they?

We accept in this country that the people who apparently work the least hardest but have the greatest burden in terms of having to raise money, stand alongside the organisers of these sporting organisations and provide the impetus and support. Sir, by this I mean politicians are the people who, at the end of the day, would be the lowest on the level of favoured individuals in the society. In other words, their standing in the community is not as high as the persons who are paid to go out into the community to do that work and who are off work on the weekends, cannot be found, have no idea how to raise money and who are only interested in one aspect of the sporting activities of communities in Barbados.

Sir, that has to be addressed because at one level the lotteries are providing some money for the work of the national organisations but that is at a level that is so high and

enough attention is not being paid to the work that is being done to raise the standard of football, basketball or the development of cricket in community competitions in the various parish leagues. The Minister of Sports knows about these things because the most that can be said in that regard is that in his parish, there are parish competitions in almost every discipline between St. Philip North and South and St. John. Those competitions are not very often given the kind of sponsorship and assistance.

I have never seen any assistance being rendered by any lottery in Barbados to any sporting group. I have seen a football team moved from a third Division position to First Division position in a short space of time, almost reaching the Premier League, and every year they have to walk around and beg for football boots or cricket gear. The same could be said of some of our community cricket teams and our basketball teams in Barbados.

Sir, that is not the only focus that I am speaking of. I believe that at the end of the day what is going to make a lot of difference is not access to those facilities but the extent to which we can encourage Barbadians, even those who are not involved in formal sporting activity, either in community teams or otherwise, to have an appreciation for the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyle and fitness.

In a recent address on the subject of cricket, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, John Major, lamented the fact that politicians themselves are their own worst enemies in this regard. Also, that the amount of money and resources that should be devoted to sporting activity needs to be increased significantly because it will have a spin-off benefit in terms of reducing crime by young people; in terms of reducing later expenditure in our health care facilities, promoting the identity of communities, promoting the culture and the nationalism, which is so important to our young people and our citizens as a whole.

I did not reflect on it as much as I did after I heard him say that and having admitted that he was a victim of the failure to provide the kind of resources that need to be provided to the development of sporting programmes in his own country.

I think there are also some very important benefits to it, one of which is sports that may allow many young people in Barbados who are otherwise out of the mainstream, in terms of developing skills which the traditional system acknowledges, to find their forte by being involved in competitive and noncompetitive sports. Sir, if they are able to do so, I believe that many of them will be marginalised and will find themselves back into the mainstream.

The importance of young people being able to use sports as a means of harnessing a lot of their creative energy

and providing an outlet for that energy which is vital, particularly for those who are not in care during extra-curricular hours before school begins and before their parents return home in the afternoon, it is vital for us to have those kinds of activities that will harness that energy. They understand regular physical activity is a habit which they need to take with them throughout their entire lives and Government's National Sports Programme has to have that as the centrepiece of its focus.

Sir, what is also important is something that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke about but did not clarify. That is, how is this sports policy and a national fitness programme going to be able to target young people who have great potential in individual sports and then hold their hands to basically give them the resources that are necessary for them to excel in that particular sport? It is the question of identifying the talent from an early age and standing at the side of those young sports persons to ensure their success.

Mr. Speaker, I notice this year that the Government has made an attempt through the National Assistance Board or the Ministry of Social Transformation to have sports for senior citizens. Recently, we had a Special Olympics programme in Barbados but a lot of people would not realise that a lot of the sporting facilities in Barbados do not cater to senior citizens or to persons who suffer from disabilities. I think that a lot more needs to be done in that regard. I cannot think of many pavilions that can be accessed by people using wheelchairs. Very often older people cannot climb the steps in pavilions. There is a lack of handrails or defective facilities. We do not have proper rest rooms in many of the pavilions for the public as distinct from those that are available for the sporting teams. Those are things that need to be looked at in terms of designing new pavilions. 1.05 p.m.

I will say to the Honourable Member for St. George North that I disagree with him about the use of the pavilions because I believe that in many parts of rural Barbados cricket pavilions are used, those pavilions in particular that are run by clubs like St. John Cultural and others which all have active social programmes and activities, or used to, in which pavilions are used as centres of social activities in those communities. I presume that is also the case in many other rural areas.

In St. Lucy there is North Stars and St. Philip there is St. Catherine. You can go throughout communities in rural Barbados and see the extent to which pavilions are being used. I believe that it is a case not for making the pavilions smaller but adding facilities that are available.

Many of those pavilions can also be run to make money. They have bars and other facilities that can be used, tables and all kinds of other ways in which money can be generated to assist in the employment of persons, to the resources of the sporting teams and to maintain the buildings at the same time. This is another aspect of the sports programme. While it has not been focussed on in this Green Paper, I believe that it was the intention of the entity that is responsible for maintaining the pavilions and I know the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central will be interested in this aspect of it.

I believe that the Green Paper needed to focus a little more on the question of athletics because I understood this is an area of important emphasis that the Minister had identified because of the improving fortunes of Barbados as a country and that athletic focus should be on a development programme that would identify the talent that is there; provide a central body to facilitate access to the facilities that the young athletes need; sports medicine and health and fitness advice from professionals; to coordinate the educational experience of athletes, coaches and mentors; to bridge the gap between corporate sponsors and athletes; giving financial assistance and assisting in the total physical education and social developments of the athlete.

The Cricket School in Grenada has been modelled on that and I presume that there are other parts of the Caribbean and of the world where particular disciplines are given to the establishment of these institutions or centres which focus on the participants from a young age to build up their skills and their competence so that those skills are not only skills in relation to the specific discipline but also to seek to improve the total individual and put them on a path to success in the particular area of involvement.

I believe that there need to be, and the Government has spoken about mini-stadia throughout Barbados, but we need to have sporting facilities equivalent to that in at least three parts of the island in the north, in a central location and in the south, where these stadia can accommodate a wide variety of sporting activities. That is very important. I think that the choice of location has to be based on the catchment from those particular regions in Barbados.

It is important for the Government to move very quickly from rationalising the situation relative to the lotteries. Despite the warnings and the talk, it does not seem that we are any closer to the establishment of the ideal situation, the single lottery in which the resources are going to be applied to development in sporting, cultural and other activities of that nature. What we are allowing in Barbados is for a few individuals to benefit at the expense of everybody else. Grenada has a national lottery and St. Lucia has one.

In this country there are people who are able to take millions of dollars out of Barbados and there are people who rake in money from lotteries and do not pay the taxes. Yet we will get vexed when a youngster whose hair is not combed has to walk around with a sponsor sheet harassing people to get a dollar for a sponsored walk and other people in this country are able to cream off the top from our lotteries without the benefit going to the development of Barbados.

We are probably the only country in the Caribbean that has allowed this iniquitous situation to continue and it needs to be dealt with. Millions of dollars are being spent by Barbadians in lotteries. My problem is that the vast majority of Barbadians do not seem to care where the money is going and therefore somebody needs to wake up this country to recognise where that money is going and find out what percentage of the money is spent minute by minute in this country by poor people putting almost half their wages into a lottery. They have to start to think about their own best interest.

As I say, there are thousands of young people in this country who need access to sporting facilities, who need gear, who need to do a little overseas tour every now and then to another Caribbean country, who need to go on a retreat somewhere, sit down and get in touch with each other to improve their sporting skills, who need a sports medicine specialist, who need a first aid kit that costs about \$80, all of these little things that people do not think about.

A pair of football boots cost \$100 and four weeks later they burst. They may not have been of the best quality but the guy cannot take them back to the store and ask for a new one. These things happen and yet our young people do not have access to these things. They themselves are putting money into lotteries. Their parents and grandparents are putting money into lotteries and they have to walk around begging for alms to get assistance for the things that are so important to their physical wellbeing in the future.

It is on that point, Sir, that I believe that something forthcoming from the Minister relative to the lotteries would be very helpful in this particular debate and I think that what I said will make some small contribution to a review of the content of this Green Paper.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.30 p.m. today.

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

*The question that the Sitting do now suspend until*

*2.30 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

1.15 p.m.

#### RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. Honourable Members I am appealing to you to make an effort to be on time. I have noticed that in the last few Sittings after lunch we are always late so I am appealing to you to be here on time. When the bell rings that means you have to return to your seat and you must be in your positions for us to start.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Sports for bringing to this House, a debate on this Resolution for the establishment of a National Sports Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has been a very keen sportsman. Though not devastating, he somehow managed to get some balls up the wicket or down the wicket. I do not know how many runs he conceded or how many wickets he took but he puts on some whites...

*Asides.*

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: He has made a significant contribution.

Sir, sports in any area is good for a nation. In Barbados, if you look at one of our oldest sports, of which many Barbadians have contributed and have excelled at the highest level, you can see people like Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Everton Weekes, the late Sir Clyde Walcott and Sir Frank Worrell, all contributing at the international level. We had Seymour Nurse, Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith and all these people brought recognition to this country.

In the area of body building, we had Earl Maynard, who went on to be a film star in Hollywood. As I said, our country has been seen internationally. Recently, we had Obadele Thompson winning a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Australia.

Sir, we can see something coming to this country through our sportspersons, who have contributed very well in this area. At the same time, we can say that many sporting activities do the human body very well by way of health.

Traditionally, as I said, cricket and football were two sports that all young boys played at some time and even at that time, Sir, we had the game of lawn tennis. It was not a game that was played by every and anybody. I remember when I was a boy, living in the Bank Hall area, having to go to school at Wesley Hall and passing through Strathclyde, there was a big lawn tennis court. At that time we did not

have black people playing there, but white people playing in that area. As I said, it was a sport for middle class people.

There was also a lawn tennis court located where the National Housing Corporation just erected a building. As I said, Sir, it is a sport that attracted not the people from the bottom but the middle-class and upper middle-class people. It is only now that there are poor people and some who have been elevated from the lower class to the middle-class, getting involved in this game of lawn tennis.

I would like to promote this game. I know one of the coaches, Mr. Paul Stewart. He runs a coaching clinic for many young people and going to his clinic are a number of what I would consider, poor children. I know that Mr. Stewart at this present time is looking at having available to him some piece of land where he would be able to put up some courts, prop his name on the same property and would be able to expose a lot of our children from poor homes to the game of lawn tennis. I am talking about taking this game into the primary schools of Barbados, so that the young people in Barbados from any walk of life can be exposed to this game, lawn tennis.

I would like to go back and speak about Sir Garfield Sobers. Two weeks ago, I was at the launch of this new statue in his Honour in Barbados and what I saw that night was quite reminiscent of when we had our Independence celebration. I think it was something that all Barbadians felt very proud to see, the heights to which Barbados has come.

Sir, at this moment I would say that as a community effort, this Government is trying to expose all the communities of Barbados to some kind of programme where sporting facilities for night playing would be provided for all types of sports, including cricket and football. One area that will benefit from this venture is the Belfield area.

I also spoke to the Prime Minister and he assured me that he would gladly engage the Belfield Club in a night cricket match with a team of celebrities. We also have an area that supports two areas in St. Michael. St. Michael North East, where outside of the Lumber Company, there is a field that has the facilities in place for not only day sports but also night cricket. These night games attract large numbers of people.

Sir, there are many Barbadians who are now being exposed to the game of golf. I would also say that as we get more and more golfing facilities on the island, many more Barbadians would be exposed to the game of golf. At the same time, we can see these facilities bringing international players into Barbados and other people who are interested in golf, especially the Japanese. This also will be further exposing Barbados, and at the same time bringing foreign exchange to the country.

Mr. Speaker, I said that any sporting activity is good for a nation and I would hope that the Minister responsible for Sports will continue in this vein of promoting sports and exposing our young people to all sporting activities in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I thank you.

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to be very long in this debate but it would be remiss and unappreciative of me, if I did not begin my contribution by acknowledging the excellence of those persons who reside in the constituency, which I have the honour to represent, and the contribution that they have made to the development of sports in this country. Sir, what distinguishes my constituency from many others is that while some may be able to boast of a large number of persons excelling in one particular discipline, St. Michael North boasts of those who have excelled in a large number of sporting disciplines.

For example, Mr. Speaker, in our constituency, which you are a part of, in the area of cricket we have David Holford, former Barbados captain and West Indies player.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you naming me among the outstanding sports persons?

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Of course, Mr. Speaker, you head the list.

Mr. Speaker, just to name a few, in the area of table tennis, we have T. Moseley. In the area of volleyball, we have Kenmore Bynoe, former national coach and player. In badminton, we have S. Jordan who is Barbados' number one. In body building, we have Mango Phillips and in football, Michael Seale who is the former national goal keeper. In cycling, we have Esther Ramsey, the Barbados cycling queen.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, St. Michael North has really excelled and, speaking on behalf of the entire Parliament, I express my congratulations to those persons from St. Michael North who have really contributed significantly to the development of sports in Barbados.  
2.45 p.m.

The constituency of St. Michael North is a very talented area. Some may well know and appreciate that it is the Mecca for tape ball cricket. We are now hearing much talk that the Barbados Lumber Company is picking up now from where Cave Hill has unfortunately left off, but Cave Hill was the area where tape ball cricket almost originated and where the top players of Barbados gravitated to every year for the annual Easter tournament which is organised by persons from the constituency of St. Michael North.

With the reintroduction of the lighted facilities, which will shortly be fully operational in the Cave Hill area, we are going to see it becoming the centrepiece once again in relation to a large number of sports not only tape ball cricket but football as well for which the area is also very distinguished. I will say more about that, Mr. Speaker, at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those who congratulated the West Indies Cricket Team for their recent performance. Under the very astute leadership that it currently possesses, the West Indies Cricket Team is destined to go places, but I want to add one very serious caveat to that, that is, that unless the West Indies Cricket Team is once again possessed of three or four Barbadians, I do not believe they can ever be rated as genuine world champions. I say that without any fear, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that Barbados is the Mecca of cricket in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, the Minister of Sports, for bringing these proposals in the form of a Green Paper to this Honourable Chamber. It is something that was long overdue and something which we welcome and embrace totally. I want to congratulate him for the fine work he has done in ensuring that this matter has now been brought to Parliament. I am not going to comment on his sporting ability. I never had the opportunity to see it firsthand and I can only go on hearsay, but I do not intend to operate on hearsay in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, any society that wants to say it is truly developing has to begin to cater to the needs of its citizens. In the development of this sporting policy, Government has recognised that persons are possessed with different abilities and, therefore, is responding to their needs and their talents.

A little while ago, Mr. Speaker, we had a debate on the restoration of the Empire Theatre in the area of culture. Of course, I gave my full support to that Resolution when I came, likewise I am giving my full support to this Green Paper on the establishment of a National Sports Policy which is before this Chamber today.

Mr. Speaker, we have to cast off certain snobbish and traditional attitudes towards what constitutes development and what constitutes success. We have to recognise that a society has all types of persons and persons are differently talented. Some people can only perform and excel in an academic environment while others excel in a sporting and cultural environment.

The time has come for us to recognise that there are no longer only two or three professions. As recently as in my time there is the view that in order for one to be recognised properly in a society, one needs to be a doctor, a lawyer, an

engineer, an economist or some such qualified person, so we need to cast off that very narrow focus and recognise that sports and entertainment are the direction in which the world is going. If we speak strictly in monetary terms, Mr. Speaker, there are many people who have gone the route of sports and entertainment who can put many of us in this Chamber who took seven or eight years to go through university in their pockets when it comes to financial matters who are better off than us financially.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. St. C. TOPPIN: Not the Honourable Member for St. George South or the Honourable Member for St. John but certainly many of us in here. It is a fact that many persons who have gone the route of sports have been able to excel financially.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give the House the benefit of certain historical information about myself. I was in my youth, which is some considerable time ago, and I remember very clearly playing in a trial match for the Barbados Youth Team. At that time I was doing my 'A' Level exams. I was on the same team as Malcolm Marshall but I would not tell the House about my performance where I played to excel, and I was selected to go through to the second round of the youth trial tournament, but I made a conscious decision to forego going forward to the second round in order to study properly for my 'A' Level exams.

Clearly, I made the wrong choice because had I gone on to prepare for the cricket I would, more than likely, have excelled. Malcolm Marshall then went on to heights that few others could ever hope to attain, so the narrow view that we have of sportsmen, and what they contribute to society, and how they can make a living for themselves is something that we need to desperately change. I fully support this National Sports Policy and give my full encouragement to those who would.

People in the society as well should encourage the sportsmen and should change their attitude towards them and not think of them, as unfortunately they do, as inferior creatures to the more academically inclined. That, Mr. Speaker, is the major point I want to make in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I once had the honour of being the Vice President of the Barbados Cycling Union. Sir, cycling and athletics on the whole are very dear to me. I recognised very early, and I would hope that this national policy will address the matter, that the awarding of scholarships is mainly given to athletes. I find that the term athlete is too narrowly applied and interpreted because I daresay that the large majority of those sportsmen who have received scholarships to date to go overseas were from the track and field aspect of athletics.

Sir, when I was the Vice President of Cycling, one thing that concerned me greatly and the body as a whole was that no cyclist at all has ever been awarded a national athletic scholarship to go overseas to study. In those days we had people like Ricky Fergusson who was excelling at the regional level. He had swamped all the awards at all the events in the CARIFTA Games in Barbados, I do not remember the exact year, and it was clear that he had the potential to be a world-class cyclist. We all know that one cannot, within the narrow confines of the competition in Barbados, excel on the world stage, so it was necessary for him to go on. In fact, I argued very strongly with the Union that we had to ensure that he got a cycling scholarship but when we checked all avenues were closed and we all know the history of Ricky Fergusson today that as good as he was, having to stay in Barbados stymied his growth and he is no longer cycling now, not even on the local circuit.  
2.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is the application of the term “athlete” and who will benefit in that tangible way by way of scholarships. We have to broaden the horizon from looking just narrowly at the track and field aspect where scholarships have, by and large, been awarded. That apart, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has put the country on a solid footing with the programme.

I am expecting, of course, the setting up of adequate sporting facilities around the island, which is a process that is well underway. I know the Minister is very, very clear in his plans for the implementation of these facilities. Mr. Speaker, it is only that sometimes while the policy and directives are very clear, those who have to implement the policy directives sometimes leave us in wonderment. Some projects tend to get started, sometimes they just drag on longer than one would expect and some are not done in a satisfactory manner, but this is the way of life. I hope the Minister is clear in his vision to ensure that the technocrats who have to execute the policy are mindful of the needs of those who stand to benefit more from the policy directives given.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that, in some small measure, I have contributed to this debate today. Once again, I would like to reiterate my full support for this Resolution before Parliament.

I thank you.

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Mr. Speaker, in wrapping up this debate, let me first of all begin by saying that the real aim of the National Sports Policy is to give current to what we see as being important for Barbados. Mr. Speaker, we need to have a sports policy out there to make persons understand that things were, indeed, happening in sports and to bring them on board with what we intend to explore

further in the area of sports. Sir, we thought it would be an excellent idea to get this Green Paper out to the public because we generally wanted to hear and read their comments. Sir, I think that in doing so, it has given us an excellent opportunity to hear what our Parliamentarians have had to say about sports because we honestly wanted some feedback.

Sir, in this regard I want to thank all Honourable Members who have spoken for their contribution to this sports policy, Sir, contributions coming from persons such as, the Honourable Members for St. Lucy, Christ Church East Central, St. Thomas, St. Michael North West and St. James South. These Members spoke on the first occasion when this topic was debated on December 4, last year. Equally today, I also took copious notes of what other Honourable Members had to say. These include the Honourable Members for St. George North, Christ Church East, St. Michael South, St. John, St. Michael West Central and St. Michael North. Sir, those Members knew what they were talking about because clearly they were Honourable Members who were personally involved in sports at some time or other. Sir, I am very pleased for their support on the National Sports Policy because this support is absolutely necessary.

Sir, during the course of the debate Government has been thanked for its investment of lights to the playing fields. Some Members obviously wanted more for their own constituency but let us face it, when Government comes face-to-face with these tough economic times, the social services, including sports, are often the first ones to feel that painful and cruel cut. Sir, this cut in the budget often impacts on the opportunities open to our young and aspiring sportsmen.

Sir, the point I want to make, is that youth sports is worth every minute, every cent, and every effort that we, as a Government, put into it. Sir, as Honourable Members spoke, I could not help but reflect of the benefits and the powers of sports. In Barbados today, no one seems more aware of the benefits of sports than Barbadian parents. Parents today openly encourage their children to become involved in sports. It is my firm belief that more children are becoming involved in sports today than before.

Sir, I have to say too that our society responds by regarding you as a good parent if you can account for the full 24 hours where your children are at any given point in time. Sir, if they are involved in sports, then that is even better. Mr. Speaker, sports today means character building and that the children are being involved in clean acceptable fun. This is a sharp contrast with how parents view their children being on the block.

Mr. Speaker, parents in Barbados today are also very much aware that once their children are involved in sports

at the highest level, then the status of the children in the community and their status at school improves. It may even positively affect educational and work opportunities and, therefore, I find parents are extremely supportive of their children when they become involve in sports.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, sports is more important than matches or athletic meets. It is a lot more than games. It has a meaning that goes beyond the number of goals one scores, the number of innings one bats. Sports is about our story, our image, our history and our cultural life. I think that nothing epitomizes this particular point more than the recent unveiling of the statue in honour of our Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers.

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, no other aspect of our Barbadian culture attracts the attention of the media in the same way as sports. Sports is powerful enough to command its own section in the daily Nation News, The Advocate, CBC and Starcom Network in a way that law, health or education can do and today, Sir, sports will be the topic in a number of boardrooms and at many of the coffee breaks.

Mr. Speaker, another phenomenon worth noticing is the visibility which sports provides which enables many sportsmen all over the world tremendous popularity and provides them with the opportunity to enter the arena of politics and make a contribution.

As other Honourable Members spoke, I reflected on the number of sportsmen who used this avenue as a means to step into the politic arena. The British middle distance runner Sebastian Cole later became a politician; the well-known Pele of Brazil became the Minister of Sports; the late Roy Fredricks became the Minister of Sports in Guyana; Jean Pierre, the best netballer in the Caribbean later became a Minister in Trinidad and Wes Hall of Barbados was the Minister of Sports. Sir, sports allows you visibility and gives you the popularity to get into the political arena and make a significant contribution to political life.

Mr. Speaker, sports is often the only thing that some Barbadians read in the newspaper daily. Sir, sports literally sells newspapers although I have to admit that the actual writing of sports in the newspapers leaves a lot to be deserved. The articles about sports are far too ordinary and that picturesque description, the apt metaphors and appropriate similes are often missing from our sports articles. Sir, I have an eye and air for this type of writing and I think that a simple change of a phrase would do so much for the sports writer. Barbados could do with an injection of metaphors and similes in our sports writing today.

Mr. Speaker, our sporting associations must be made aware that if sports is to have a good image we have to try

our best to keep sports out of the courts, free from disputes and the rancour that has quite recently characterised so many of our sporting disciplines.

Sir, a lot of clubs and members often complain about the lack of accountability on the part of the national bodies and these are the things we have to try to rid sports of. We have had instances in the Barbados Cricket Association where they were threatened with court action and were actually taken to court by Melrose Club of St. Thomas.

In cycling there was the incident about whether elections were properly constituted at the Annual General Meeting. In football there was the question about how teams were promoted, how the season was not concluded properly and how prizes were not being paid. Sir, sports can do without these conflicts. I am appealing to the players, members, clubs and the national associations to do whatever they can to keep sports from these disputes.

Mr. Speaker, it hurts when you are as close to sports as I am and people call to say that they are going to court with a matter, and I persuade them not to go, but the next morning I read in the newspapers that they are on their way merrily before the law courts.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North made the point about parents in the Bahamas having a support group for athletes and they are able to monitor what is happening to their children even better than the athletic association. It is an excellent idea and I urge parents here to do this as well.

3.15 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. John commented on the style of the Green Paper and I can see the point he is making. Sir, in a Green Paper you do not want to go into detail in the same way that you would want to do in another document.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and laud the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers for what he did recently. I am not referring to the statue. A lot of Barbadians are not aware that the West Indian team that won the Test Match here in Barbados a few days ago, that when that team was in camp, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers visited the team for about three or four days and spoke to them. He met the team as a unit and spoke to them. He told me that when he met them and spoke to them he was sure of one thing, they listened. Sir, that meeting took place before the Test Match. He told me that he is sure that they listened to him.

Mr. Speaker, it did not surprise me a few days ago when I heard the Manager of the West Indies team say that one of the main factors of that victory was the part played by the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. I think that we

have glibbed and glossed over it and have not realised the tremendous contribution he made to that team.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make the point that Professor Hilary Beckles, Principal of the University of the West Indies, did all of the leg-work and networking of all of the campuses and tertiary institutions connected to the University of the West Indies for the playing of regional cricket competition for the first time. I think that is an excellent move.

We may not realise it, but even at the level of our Barbadian cricket, there are a lot of youngsters who are playing first division cricket in Barbados who are students of either the University of the West Indies or one of the connected institutions, the same thing is happening in Jamaica and Trinidad. I believe that the University of the West Indies, coupled with those other institutions, can produce a team good enough to give a good account of themselves at the regional level. I look forward to the day, in my lifetime, when the University of the West Indies actually wins the regional competition.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that when we were students of the University of the West Indies, I represented the University of the West Indies Combined Team and played against India.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I remember that there were some excellent cricketers on that team. There were people like Vance Amory, who opened for the Leeward Islands, Keith Mitchell, now Prime Minister of Grenada...

*Asides.*

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: Sir, Arlington Hunte also played on the team. The point is, we had very good players on that team. Mr. Speaker, you did not make the team.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. N. GREENIDGE: I am sure that today you can still find an excellent UWI team that will give a good account of itself in regional competition and I look forward to the day when the University of the West Indies wins the regional competition.

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I learnt of the passing of the Nigerian Minister of Sports. He was a member of the WADA Foundation Board (the World Antidoping Board). He represented Africa on that Board and Barbados is also a member of WADA. I knew this Minister quite well. He was always strong in his viewpoint against drugs in sports. It is with regret that I learnt of his passing. The Ministry of

Foreign Affairs will be sending a note of condolence to the Nigerian Government. This Minister worked tirelessly to confront sports and the solution of drugs in sports.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all Honourable Members who have made a contribution to the debate. Your recommendations and ideas will be taken into consideration.

I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

#### ORDER NO. 12 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT JACKMANS, ST. MICHAEL

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution before this House pertains to the compulsory acquisition of two parcels of land at Jackmans, St. Michael. The first parcel measures 998 square metres which is the property of Jeffrey Fields. The second parcel of land measures 83.03 square metres, the property of Beatrice Belle. These parcels of land are needed to be used as access to a housing development which is currently under construction. There are approximately 80 lots varying in sizes, 3 000 – 4 000 square feet.  
3.25 p.m.

Out of the 80 house spots that are being constructed, 25 of these lots will go to the residents of Lewis Gap in St. Michael. These are the residents who now cannot obtain water because they live in a Zone 1 area. Government will be relocating these 25 households which do not have water to their homes.

The original access was not approved by Town and Country Planning Division so Government had to find another opening and therefore we have looked in the area for one that would pose the least problem and we have approached the owners and they have agreed to allow Government to acquire these two developments. The owners of the lots will be accommodated in the development. They will not be disadvantaged at all. We have taken the concerns of the Member for St. Lucy who felt that whenever we acquire a person's only property then you should either swap or give back that person an equal amount of land. We will definitely look at that solution.

The development under construction is being sold at the concessionary rates for first-time home owners. The price for those who have lost the right to purchase will be \$2.50 a square foot and \$6 for those who are buying for the

first time and whose income is below \$3 000 a month. The lands have been properly surveyed and plans are available for Members. This development has also been examined and certified by the Attorney General.

With those remarks, I would ask the House to agree to the compulsory acquisition of these two parcels of land totalling 1 481.92 square metres and beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this Resolution and to inform this House that this will be the second time that a proposal put by me on housing has been implemented. It was first implemented in the constituency of Christ Church East where all the property owners in the flight path to the Airport have been considered under the proposal which I have made for an amendment to the Land Acquisition Act. I think it is right for me to call again that instead of dealing with this particular proposal on a piecemeal realisation pattern that the Minister of Housing consult with the Attorney General and bring the appropriate amendment to this Parliament.

We cannot have a land acquisition policy where a Minister thinks that he can bring it when it suits certain constituents when they are prepared to exchange land for land or offer money as an alternative. If that is allowed you will have a situation where in some constituencies you get a swap for land for land and in other constituencies you will get a situation where money is placed in the Treasury for the landlord and they cannot use that money to buy an alternative piece of land.

I am calling for the Minister of Housing to speak to the Attorney General and bring the necessary amendment to this Parliament so that we will not continue to have a piecemeal approach to land acquisition in this country. If we continue to have a piecemeal approach what you will find is that this allows for political victimisation and can be used against people. What is needed is not for the Minister to get up in the House and say he agrees with what I have said before. I am calling on the Minister to make it law.

I have witnessed in Christ Church East that every single person was given the right to have an exchange of land, which is good, and I have no problem with that, but what I am saying is that this policy needs to go throughout the island. I am totally against taking from the poor to give to the poor. That is why it is important that not only you give the option but make sure the Government has the necessary land to make sure the previous owners can get a piece of land from the Government.

I am also against this double policy where one set of residents are offered \$2.50 a square foot and the other has to

pay \$6. I have already said in this Parliament that there is a need for an enlightened policy. The same way a Government is prepared to put water, lights and other amenities into a district that are in assistance already, they should do that in new land and I do not agree with selling one section at \$2.50 a square foot and the other people who want land must pay \$6. They all have the same need and the price should be the same.

You have to remove the \$6 because both of them have the same requirements. All of them want land and you cannot have one set paying \$2.50 and the next set paying \$6. I am calling on the Minister of Housing to withdraw this and take it back to Cabinet so that all the land will be sold to the residents at \$2.50, or I will have to wage a war on this matter. It runs contrary to the policy dictated by me. I cannot accept this in the name of the masses even though that might now be an offence to speak about masses or poor people, but I will continue to speak for them.

You cannot have two sets of people all in need of land and you tell one set they can get it at \$2.50 a square foot and the next set has to pay \$6. I cannot understand that argument. We are supposed to be progressive people but instead of being progressive we are being regressive. It is time to stop this foolishness and stop playing politics with poor people.

The biggest headache in this country today is not housing but land. If you go through Barbados every stone structure you see there is a chattel house next to it looking for a buyer because somebody has the money to buy the house but they cannot find the land to put the house on. So if we are for the interest of the masses we have to find the land. This foolishness about Government having a land bank is creating a headache for Barbadians. What they have done in the removal of a thousand acres of land from the market, holding it in a bank creating a scarcity and highjacking the prices.

The Minister must understand that land that was passed in this Parliament for the masses of people in Barbados must be placed in the market now. Once those lots are placed on the market it will drive down the price of the lots.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House when he said that Government is holding land in a bank to jack up the price of land. That is not true. The truth of the matter is that the plan is being developed and the site we are talking about, the Jackman site, is one of the sites that was bought over the years and we are now developing it to put it on the market for people. We are also doing other developments across Barbados where lands were bought previously to put on the market. I think Government is putting land on the market rather than taking land out of the market.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: These lands that I speak of were compulsorily acquired since 1994 and I am saying that because Government took that amount of land off the market and held it in something called a bank, it created a scarcity of land available to be purchased which automatically allowed the private sector to use the scarce resource to highjack the price and have large demands on the masses of people in this country. Anybody with a training in economics would understand what I speak of.

3.35 p.m.

Sir, no Minister could contend with that particular argument. If the Minister does not understand what is happening because of the land bank that the Ministry of Housing is holding, I say to the Minister, get the money and let those lots go on the market so that they could bring down the prices.

Sir, instead of the Government doing what I thought they wanted to do, and that is, developing those 1 000 acres and putting them on the market at the right price – so that the private sector could understand that they have competition – the Government compulsorily acquired the land, put it in a bank and allowed the private sector to do whatever they wanted.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I was not the one who introduced the land bank. I am saying, Sir, that this land must be given to the masses at the same \$2.50 per square foot. Along with the 25 lots that are going at \$2.50 per square foot, the other lots must go at \$2.50 per square foot, otherwise, it runs contrary to the Democratic Labour Party policy. It shows that the Democratic Labour Party is progressive and the Barbados Labour Party has to be seen as recessive. Sir, we are serious about the masses getting land and the Barbados Labour Party has to be seen as trying to exploit the masses, using a land resource at a price of \$6.00 per square foot.

Sir, I know that the Honourable Member for St. George South would have no problem with this particular policy of selling everybody at \$2.50 per square foot. I cannot see how the Honourable Member for St. George South can sell land to one set of people in his constituency at \$2.50 per square foot, and another set at \$6.00 for the same land and they are all poor people. I want to know the criteria used in working out these prices. I would like to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East speak in this particular debate, because I find it strange that in her constituency that the Honourable Member for St. George North can have two different prices for the same type of people.

Sir, I am not aware that the poor are supposed to subsidise the poor. I can understand why the land at Husbands was sold at that price but not these lots, and the

same type of housing is going on these lots. What is the criteria being used, to have a price of \$2.50 and \$6.00 for the same lots? Can you please tell me, Sir, because I would like to be enlightened on this particular issue.

Sir, I would like to hear all of those people who talk in the name of the poor, speak on this particular issue. The Minister said that he is against price gouging on land. I want to know if \$2.50 is a fair price, why the \$6.00? Something would have to be wrong. Is it BDS \$2.50 for this land and \$6.00 Jamaican or Trinidadian currency? I believe he meant the same currency. I hope that when the Minister gets up to speak, he would explain this to Parliament...

*Asides.*

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: He is saying now that it might be US \$6.00.

Sir, I hope he can explain to this House, how you can get the same land with the same amenities and yet still you have a \$2.50 and \$6.00 per square foot, in the same area. I would like the Minister to work out the calculation of that costing.

I thank you very much for listening to me.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I just want to explain to the House about the price of the land that they sold at Jackman, St. Michael. When the National Housing Corporation Board looked at the land and considered the development cost, the land was estimated to cost approximately \$5.00 per square foot or even more. Sir, because of the development cost, the National Housing Corporation is selling the land at \$6.00 per square foot, which is below the market price at this time.

I have to make it clear today that the Government has a policy whereby those residents who have lost their right, can buy the land at \$2.50 per square foot. The residents of Lewis Gap have lost their right and are buying their land at \$2.50 per square foot.

In other words, if you were living on a tenantry and were able to buy your land at \$2.50 per square foot, and you cannot buy the land at \$2.50 per square foot because you have lost that right, or because you are being removed from your land, you will still enjoy that right of \$2.50 per square foot.

Mr. Speaker, let us suppose you were living on a plantation tenantry and you had the right of buying your land at \$0.10 per square foot and for some reason you had lost that right, you still carry that right with you at \$0.10 per square foot and that is all the Government is saying. A person will not lose that right, so the 25 households here will forward their rights.

Similarly, those persons at Carpenter Trust in St. Philip who have enjoyed some measure of security over the years, since it is a plantation tenantry, they can buy their land at \$0.10 per square foot. If those persons had to be moved, wherever they go in Barbados the Government is saying that you carry that right with you.

Sir, if you are having a development in Husbands Heights, St. Michael or in St. James, that person will carry their rights with them. Therefore, the 25 households here are carrying their rights with them.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House by trying to give the impression that if you have a piece of land to buy, and you lose that right, you can go into Husbands Heights or any of those Heights and buy the land at \$0.10 per square foot.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. That is no point of order, please.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, what we are saying is that the Government will not unfair persons who have lost that right and those 25 households in Lewis Gap cannot get water because they are living on Zone 1. They have a right now to buy their land \$2.50 per square foot, but because they cannot get water, as Town Planning will not give them approval, we are giving them the same option.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: With the House's permission, we will now revert to First Reading of Bills.

#### FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Tourism Development Bill, 2002, be read a first time.

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

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for the day, I beg that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at 11.00 a.m.

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

*The question that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at 11.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*  
3.45 p.m.

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