
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2003 - 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly

met at 10:20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2003.

PRESENT

His Honour ROETT, G.C.M., B.A.,
Dip.Ed., (Speaker)

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P., (Deputy
Speaker)

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

Hon. Dame BILLIE A. MILLER, B.C.H
(Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign
Trade)

Mr. G.W. GEORGE W. PAYNE

Hon. RAWLE C. EASTMOND, B.A.(Hons.),

Dip. Ed.,

LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of
Labour and
Social Security)

Hon. GLINE A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip.
Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works)

Hon. ROMMELL D. MARSHALL
(Chairman of Committees)

Hon. HAMILTON F. LASHLEY (Minister
of Social

Transformation)

Mr. RONALD St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B.

Mr. DENNIS St.E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H. ELIZABETH THOMPSON,
LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the
Environment)

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

Mr. TREVOR A. PRESCOD, B.A.

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

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

Hon. ANTHONY P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc.
M.Phil., J.P.

(Minister of Energy and Public Utilities)

Hon. REGINALD R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P.
(Minister of

Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Hon.. Miss CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P.
(Minister of State,

Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and
Sports)

Hon. J.X. WALCOTT, M.B.,B.S. (Edin.),
F.R.C.S.,J.P. (Minister of Health)

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., B.M., B.S

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL, B.Sc.(Econ.)
(Hons.),M.A. (Public Finance), (Leader of the
Opposition)

Mr. M.A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons)

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.
(Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade)

Dr. W.F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S.,
FDRCS., J.P.

Mr. R.L. SEALY, M.B.A., B.Sc.

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan
Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday,
November 25, 2003.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the
Minutes for the Honourable the House of
Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday,
November 28, 2003, which Minutes have been
circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to
move that the following Bill be read a first time

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

1.Jury(s Amendment Bill, 2003

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I
beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders, 6, 16,
18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the
remainder of today(s sitting.

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

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

ORDER NO. 7
THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION
OF BARBADOS (INCORPORATION)
BILL, 2003.

Hon. J.X. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this Bill simply serves to incorporate the St. John Ambulance of Barbados as the St. John Ambulance Association of Barbados. As you know, the St. John Ambulance is a voluntary organisation which has been present in Barbados since 1939 and has been active over the years in instructing members of the general public in first-aid nursing. It also trains young persons in first aid and other related activities. Since 1996 they have requested that they be incorporated and the purpose of the Bill, which is six years late in coming, essentially does that.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward matter. The Bill has ten sections and Section 4 deals with the objects of the association. It says among other things that it should encourage and promote all works of humanity, charity, relieve persons in sickness and distress and suffering. It also says to do anything necessary to carrying out the objects specified in this paragraph.

It is understood that the National St. John Council of Barbados will be responsible for the management of the association which will make rules with respect to the management of the affairs of the association. The association is expected to keep a register of its members and all assets and liabilities of the St. John Ambulance shall be vested in the association. Similarly, that income and property of the association should be used solely for the purposes of promoting the objects of this association. The Bill also deals with the Badge and Arms of Order of the association. Mr. Speaker, it is essentially a very simple Bill.

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

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

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

H14/10:20

Sequence 2

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

COMMITTEE

On the motion of Hon. Dr. J.X. WALCOTT, seconded by Hon. R.R. Farley, the House resolved itself into Committee, with Mr. R.D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the separate motions of Hon. Dr. J.X. WALCOTT, seconded by Hon. R.R. Farley, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. Dr. J.X. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the St. John Ambulance Association for the sterling contribution that they have made to this country over the years

On the separate motions of Hon. Dr. J.X. Walcott, seconded by Hon. R.R. Farley, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the St. John Ambulance Association of Barbados (Incorporation) Bill, 2003.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. R.R. Farley, seconded by Hon. G.A. Clarke, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. R.D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

ORDER NO. 9

RESOLUTION THAT THE SUM OF FIVE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX DOLLARS BE GRANTED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2003-2004.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, Head 13 of the Prime Minister(s Office Programmes 040, 041 and 276 in relation to the Direction and Policy Formulation Services, National Defence and Security Preparedness, and Culture, the need to be supplemented in the way in which I would explain shortly. These additional expenses are expenses which were unforeseen at the start of the year and properly form part of what is the proper purpose of Supplementary expenditure.

In relation to one of the Schedules in our documentation, the Explanatory Note to Estimates needs to be amended under the Head 625 where it should be amended to give a proper description of the plant, equipment and furniture which are now contemplated to be purchased.

Sir, more particularly, under the General Management and Coordination Services within

the Prime Minister(s Office, there has been the need to provide an additional \$158 848 in order that the work of the Prime Minister(s Office can continue smoothly. This is the work in the Office of Special Envoy to the Prime Minister as well as an additional post of Advisor. This \$158 848 is required to meet the fees and allowances payable to those officers within the office of the Special Envoy. They are part of the Professional Services which need to be topped up.

Under National Defence and Security Preparedness the National Forensic Centre has been one of the major projects that has been put in place by this Government.

H14: 10.35 a.m.

Sequence 3

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

10:30 a.m.

Continuation of Hon. R.R. FARLEY:

It is intended that this centre would provide for a higher standard in quality of evidence which is offered in a number of cases in our courts. It is by way, Sir, of providing some of the modern testing which, hitherto, we had only associated with television court cases but which, in the context of modern justice, is required to be produced, not on the television screen, Sir, but here in Barbados on a day by day basis.

These things range from DNA testing, to other forms of forensic information gathering, as well, Sir, as tests to verify the accuracy and proper description of various substances which have been collected by the Police and which may form part of criminal cases. Of course, there are many other and wider usage to which the Forensic Centre would be put, which are

not the proper subject of debate today.

Sir, of key importance in a forensic centre is the level of security. Therefore, in order for us to be able to swear properly about the evidence which is there, we need to ensure that adequate security arrangements are in place.

Sir, National, Defence and Security Preparedness comes under the Head of the Prime Minister(s) office, and we require an additional \$164 956 in order to meet the cost of salaries and wages for several temporary posts there. These include, senior security officer, security officer and a security guard, specifically for the Forensic Centre, so as to make sure that the evidence which is kept in that facility, continues to be secure.

Sir, full provision will be made in next year(s) Estimates to cover the cost of this additional staffing, but this is definitely required so that we can have the Forensic Centre fully operational. Of course, part of the requirement there, another \$14 791 is to cover the National Insurance payments, under that particular Head.

In addition, Sir, a number of changes have been made within the Culture section of the Ministry of Finance. First of all, the Culture section was relocated from its temporary location, within the compound of the Ministry of Education to a building on Bay Street, called the Bay House. It is not a bay house in the Barbadian description of a Barbadian bay house, Sir, so that the staff of the Ministry of Culture are not going to a bay house, a cool spot for rest and relaxation at the taxpayers expense.

In all seriousness, Sir, the work of the Ministry of Culture has increased significantly and that is for one very simple reason, this Government(s) very clear commitment to the fullest development of the culture of Barbados. Sir, of course, by culture we are not simply

referring to the performing arts, but to the preservation of our Barbadian way of life. To the extent that the performing arts may help us in looking at ourselves and being proud of ourselves, then that component is greatly expanded.

Sir, we recognise the critical importance of culture, as one of the major defences, in terms of the onslaught which we will face, by way of globalisation. Of course, the chief weapons of globalisation have always been, and will continue to be, the mass media and Hollywood, because much of how our people view the world, in terms of the values that they set for themselves and the aspirations that they have, are driven in large measure by what they see coming out of Hollywood, such as the kind of homes, our thinking and our views on a whole range of issues, but essentially, Sir, because of the expanded role for the Ministry of Culture in national affairs.

There has been, Sir, an expansion in the staff there, so that \$150 546 are required to cover the cost of additional staff in the Division of Culture, and another \$8 243 in terms of the National Insurance contributions, and some \$6 000 to meet additional travel. In addition, Sir, because of the relocation of the office to Bay House on Bay Street, there will be some \$14 548 required for certain items of Plant, Equipment and Furniture, as well as provision to be made for the payment of utilities, telephone, fax, electricity at that new location which would not previously have arisen. These expenses, Sir, are required in order to take the Division of Culture through its expenses to the end of the Financial Year. Of course, in the next year(s) Estimates, full provision will be made for any additional cost associated with the relocation to the new offices at the Bay House, as well as the cost associated with the expansion of staff.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that Head 13

stand part.

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

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

HEAD 31 - MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE
ENVIRONMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$270 096

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, this Supplementary is really not a very large sum. It has three particular components for Physical Development and Project Planning, which will be the Project Implementation Unit. The sum of \$69 394 is currently being required. As you are aware, the Public Investment Unit is charged with the review of Government projects and expenditure and with planning for physical development and capital projects.

The sums being requested as a Supplementary provision, relate to the supplementing of Other Personal Emoluments and National Insurance contributions. Certainly, for the benefit of the Honourable Members of the Opposition who may be new, there is a rule that if you apply for a post to be created by the Ministry of the Civil Service, even though the post may come on stream at the beginning of the financial year, when you do your budgeting, you are not allowed to make financial provision for the post, unless the provision has actually been granted by the Ministry of the Civil Service.

Sir, even though you anticipate that you are going to have new staff, because you have advertised for them and so on, unless you have

your post in place and the requisite permission granted, you cannot make the financial provision for them. Therefore, you will see that during the course of the financial year, where new staff is hired, in the course of the financial year, that we come to Parliament and get a Supplementary which, of course, not only involve numbers relating to basic salary, but National Insurance contributions as well, and travel cost if, in fact, the person is an officer who is entitled to travel.

The second component of the claim would go for the administrative department of the Ministry, as it was then constituted, because I would need to make the point that even though this is so structured until the end of this financial year in March, you are aware that Ministries have been realigned and both the Public Investment Unit and the Town Planning Department, once again, reside in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and fall under the Prime Minister(s) direction.

In relation to the administrative section of the Ministry of Physical Development, as it then was, and now where it would reside with Economic Affairs, once again the sums are for \$47 562 to supplement salaries.

House 14, sequence 4, 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:

This would arise in exactly the same kind of circumstances of which I spoke. You would see this kind of supplementary for Personal Emoluments in a financial year where there has been an increase in salaries or other Personal emoluments. A component of this sum that is being requested is for Plant, Equipment and Furniture because of the move from one physical location, to another and then back to

another. As these ministries were changed and as new staff came on, new furnishing was required to accommodate the staff.

The Ministry of Physical Development has good office accommodation by comparison to what some had before. As you know well, Sir, part of the Government's thrust, because it is not possible to do it all in one fell swoop, has been to incrementally upgrade the physical conditions under which civil servants work. Therefore, there has been an attempt to upgrade the buildings owned by Government or to find rental accommodation of a certain quality. Several Government offices have been upgraded. The Town Planning Department is in a new building. Nearly all of the police stations have been upgraded with the exception of the Crab Hill police station which is about to be done.

There has been a lot of upgrading of the physical plant being used by civil servants. When these buildings are old and derelict or in poor repair, invariably you would find that the furniture is equally bad and often there is a requirement that the staff, not only the new staff that will come on but the existing staff as well, would have to get new furniture. That is part of the general maintenance that needs to go on in the public service particularly when we are in more liquid periods financially than in others. In times of stringency, we tend not to be as careful with our maintenance as we would in times of greater liquidity. We have been in a time of some greater liquidity and have seen the results of the upgrading of the physical plants and working conditions of the civil servants. We are happy to effect those improvements.

I am doing the maths hastily, Sir, and if my maths is correct, I have never held great faith in it, the final sum which we are requesting for the Town Planning Department is \$153 138 which is for travel for the new staff and for utilities.

Their utilities vote would change because having moved from one block to another block of the Garrison, they have a lot more physical space, a lot more equipment, they are using a larger quantity of electricity, water and so on particularly for some of the hi-tech equipment they have been able to acquire, hence their utility vote would vary slightly.

Sir, when you do utilities votes at the beginning of the financial year, you are in essence doing a guesstimate because you cannot estimate with any accuracy down to the last cent what your utility bill would be and so it can vary from what you project, especially if you move into new accommodation of this sort, you are likely to have changes in machinery, equipment and the physical space that you occupy, and you would occasion greater cost. So the sum we need to supplement the vote is \$23 800 for travel, \$49 644 for utilities and \$79 694 for plant, equipment and furniture.

Part of this expenditure has to do with the fact that the Town Planning Department was in very poor physical condition in which the ceiling was peeling and falling and there were myriad other problems, so we thought as a matter of priority that we needed to put the staff in new physical surroundings. Consistent with that, part of the difficulty we were having at the Town Planning Department was the sheer volume of files, the difficulty in sourcing files, in storing files and in properly storing information.

In the new office, the Town Planning Department has had to put in a completely new and upgraded storage system for its file. It was not an uncommon thing in the past to call the Town Planning Department and be told that they could not find your document or your file and be asked if you could send them a copy simply because of a lack of storage space. The new Town Planning Department has extensive vaults and extensive storage capacity.

The staff has worked very hard since they move in to put their files in proper order to make them easily accessible. A number of other measures have been taken to improve the circumstances not only of the conditions in which the staff work, but to try to ensure that the Town Planning Department delivers an efficient service to the public of Barbados.

Out to tender recently has been a new computerised system which would allow people who make town planning applications - if you make a town planning application now you are given a number - to have a code by which they can access the Town Planning Department and immediately get reports on the status of their application or to send information digitally to the Town Planning Department and receive information by electronic means as well. So we hope that the tracking of files and our level of communication with the public in respect of town planning matters and the status of files would be greatly improved by the digital methodologies that are being put in place. This is important where you have a database in excess of 100 000 files. The kind of physical space that it takes just to store 100 000 files is phenomenal. So it is critical that we move to the electronic format.

If you are in China and you have an application in Barbados, rather than having to consider that there are time differences from one zone of the earth to the other, you would be able to go online and access information relative to your file. That is also true whether you are in St. Peter, whether you are a humble person in Haynesville using a computer in a community centre, whether you are sitting in the comfort of your home or whether you are using your laptop on an aircraft. These are important steps as we try to move the civil service forward and to equip them for doing business in an era where electronic

management and storage of information is a central part of how business is done.

There are a number of other initiatives that were put in place. The whole Town Planning Department was reorganised so that when someone makes a simple housing application, it is possible to get it in three to four weeks provided that it is in an approved development. What the Town Planning Department did was to look at the way they had divided Barbados into zones, the volume of applications made per zone and the physical area that each zone covered and made determinations about the staff they needed to give adequate coverage to each zone from which applications were made, so the number of trained staff was increased. There are three or four new trained Town Planners in the Town Planning Department who can assist with the processing of applications and help to expedite the town planning process.

House 14 Sequence 5

10:55 a.m.

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, the whole division of labour was made more simple to allow people to have a direct relationship with their applications. Mr. Speaker, these officers were also empowered to take decisions at a higher level without everything becoming bottlenecked or without applications having to go only to the Chief Town Planner or to the Deputy Town Planner for them to make decisions. This takes the burden off the Chief Town Planner or his Deputy and reduces the time for the processing of applications.

Sir, one of the challenges with which the

Town Planning Department is faced, is that persons frequently make applications which are not sufficiently comprehensive as to allow the department to make a comprehensive assessment or an evaluation of the application. It seems as though people, including professionals who one would have figured would have interacted frequently enough with the department to have known what is required, far too often the information in applications, even from those professionals, was not adequate.

Mr. Speaker, this puts the department at a disadvantage and protracts the application process. Sir, when someone first makes the application, it is assessed, and then the department would find that because the information was not sufficiently detailed, the process has to be stalled.

At that time, the applicant would have to be written and informed that the application is defective in any number of respects, and that the process would have to be started all over again when more detailed information comes to hand.

Therefore, a workshop was held with contractors, architects, engineers, property developers, land surveyors, quantity surveyors, and that whole core of professionals who, out of necessity, would have to interact with the Town Planning Department, in order to inform them how applications should be completed, what information is needed to process an application, which would depend on whether the individual is applying for a chattel house or for a large and complex development which would require an environmental impact assessment.

Mr. Speaker, that training has had some success and out of that training an Applicant(s Handbook and Guide to Town Planning was published, which has all of the Town Planning

Department rules, and is available to the public at the very cheap price of \$10. Any one who wants to make a Town Planning Department application could assess the guide and could use that very detailed information on what information they need to have, if their application is to be reviewed.

Sir, sometimes when people say that they have an application at the Town Planning Department for a long time, they do not say that it was sent with insufficient information and that the application has had to go through a number of assessments because the first assessment was done and when the remaining information which was necessary was made available, the Town Planning Department was then able to do a correct assessment.

Mr. Speaker, let me start with applications relative to the beach. It is a matter of concern, I believe to the Town Planning Department, that there are still a number of persons who are not observing the correct setbacks for the construction of beachfront properties, particularly in the commercial sector but also in the residential sector. It is a matter of grave concern that persons doing commercial construction would fail to make applications to the Town Planning Department and then write the media and quarrel about being unfaired.

There is a town planning department process that has existed in Barbados since the 1950s. In fact, the early town planning department assessments, before the comprehensive Town Planning legislation which we have today, was carried out by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Speaker, recently while doing some research, I was able to see a large number of developments across Barbados which, in the early days when we were trying to structure town planning rules, the Ministry of Health has performed those functions.

Sir, people think that the assessment of a Town Planning Department application is an easy or simplistic thing. It is not. It is really a multi-layered evaluation process. Thirty or forty years ago, when people were not as environmentally conscious as we are today, they erected buildings anywhere. People were less conscious of issues such as discharges into the marine environment, the impact on the ambient environment, the consequences of environmental damages, et cetera.

Therefore, today, even if one applies for a house, immediately the Town Planning Department, and not the Chief Town Planner but the person in the department who has town planning training, of whom there are several officers, has to evaluate it from a Town Planning Department perspective. The file has to go to the Barbados Water Authority for them to tell us whether it is in an area which could be readily supplied with water. This is particularly true when people want to do \$500 000 housing developments or development of golf courses or upmarket developments of any type. That is one of the first assessments that needs to be made to see if there is the sufficient supply of water for the proposed development.

Secondly, what is the road infrastructure like in the proposed development, therefore, that assessment has to be done by the Ministry of Public Works, who would also make recommendations as to the type of wells, drainage and roads which are required, and not only the type but the quality of the roads, for example, what strength the roads must have. Sir, if a commercial development is going to be done, which is going to have large heavy-duty vehicles passing through, that road has to have a load-bearing capacity which would be greater than if one is building a driveway or a single access to a dwelling house, which might have a number of motor cars.

Thirdly, if it is going to impact on

agricultural land or is in an agricultural development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development also has to make comment and determine whether or not it is land that they are going to allow to be used or what are the implications for agriculture, et cetera.

Fourthly, if it is beachfront land, the Coastal Zone Management Unit must have input and the Coastal Engineers must ensure that the correct setback from the coastal cliffs is observed; that there is no stress on the beaches; that they do not build too far down the shoreline and breach any setbacks or endanger sand or the cyclical movements of sand or wave action; or that cyclical movement of sand or wave action might result in the house not having a solid foundation or that it disappears altogether.

Therefore, when people complain that the Town Planning Department is taking too long in processing their application, the truth is that the application is going through a multi-layered assessment that does not reside solely within Town Planning Department.

Sir, before I left the Ministry, I wrote to all of the relevant ministers in the process, to discuss with them a methodology for ensuring that when files from the Town Planning Department go to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, to the Barbados Water Authority or to the Ministry of Public Works, that some system be put in place to ensure that these files are processed quickly.

House No.14(06)11:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 9, 2003

Continuation of Hon. H.E. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, while town planning bears the blame for the delay, it is frequently the case that the files are at other agencies where a stage

of the assessment process must take place. If we are to expedite town planning applications, the coordination process between the ministries and the respective agencies involved must be improved substantially.

The Coastal Zone Management Unit is usually the first to reply but some of the other agencies take an inordinately long time to reply. The truth is that if we are serious about investment in Barbados, the entire civil service, whether it relates to financial management or the offshore sector, must be more responsive to applications because businessmen who have money to invest do not want to wait for protracted evaluation processes or wait a long time before they get a response on whether their applications have been assessed or not. Hence, the processes in Government must be improved to function in a more businesslike way and to respond to the needs of the business sector and that is true of the Town & Country Planning Department.

Sir, town planning is one of the engines that drive the economy because whether applications are approved for single dwelling houses or commercial enterprises of one sort or another, it can make the difference to economic activity on the ground in Barbados, to jobs and to give genuine impetus to economic activity. Therefore, it is critical that processing at the town planning level be improved.

We also have to be careful of people who use (big-foot) moves attempting to force the Town & Country Planning Department to give approvals that should not be given. Persons scrape off the top soil of agricultural land so that it could be classified as rab land to get applications approved for housing, that is one of the problems we endure. I imagine people will try all sorts of things so we just have to continue to be vigilant. Sir, some people build without reference to town planning at all and this happens particularly with commercial

applications. People know there will not get town planning permission for a particular type of development but they go ahead, put up the structure without reference to town planning and then make the application subsequent to the completion of the work for retention of the structure. They then cry out to the world that they are poor and that it is unfair for town planning to knock down the structure for which they had no permission and for which they knew no permission would be granted.

Sir, town planning wants to give approval and work with people to ensure a quality of development in Barbados that does not jeopardise our physical or natural environment. It is possible for applicants to work with town planning to achieve the kinds of developments they want without breaching the rules and running foul of the regulations by making applications in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member your time is up you may speak at a later time again.

Hon. H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 31 stand part.

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

Dr.D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak with respect to Head 31 under the Ministry of Housing, Lands and environment. If I am somewhat misled that the environment is now part of this Ministry....

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West is correct in saying that he was misled in that the matter before the House is Head 31 which is the Ministry of Physical Development.

Dr.D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, physical

development is a caption that must necessarily have a subcaption in that any kind of housing development, including signs, will fall under this Ministry. Sir, I will not be caught up in any shenanigans this morning.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member knows the ordinary meaning of the word shenanigan. He cannot be accusing the members on this side of dishonesty and the others things that are associated with the word shenanigan. The Honourable Member should learn his craft. He should know that when Ministries change during the course of the year that the Head remains the same in the Estimates as approved by this Parliament. I was trying to be helpful by letting the Honourable Member knows that he cannot say that Head 31 has to do with housing and lands when, according to what has been approved in this Parliament, Head 31 deals with the Ministry of Physical Development. The Honourable Member can speak about what he wants to but he cannot claim a Head to be what it is not.

Dr.D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking to development and I want to speak with respect to the management aspect of it. I also want to suggest that in general there seems to be a tendency that there is no equity with respect to where development occurs in Barbados or whether the various central Government department manage that development equitably or otherwise.

H14/11:10

Sequence 7

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Continuation of: Dr. D.C. ESTWICK

This morning I specifically want to speak to

development as it is used politically to disenfranchise people in this country and specifically Members of the Opposition. Development in Barbados should be equitable basis because every citizen in this country has a right as long as they are paying taxes to benefit from the output from Government on an equitable basis.

I want to charge this morning that this is not happening in Barbados.I also want to say that the Town and Country Planning Department has a role in that aspect of development. Sir, I have a fundamental problem whenever development is used politically as a tool of manipulation, to make sure that Government Ministers and Members of Parliament are given an unfair advantage...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James South is on a point of order.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, these are really very serious allegations of impropriety of the gravest kind which cannot be allowed to stand unless the Honourable Member is prepared to substantiate with evidence that is irrefutable. It cannot be a matter of speculation or rumour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip West, are you going to bring some kind of evidence to the Honourable House on these accusations?

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: I intend to make this document a document of the House. This is a document which I will read slowly. It is from Senator Lynette Eastmond of the Barbados Labour Party, St. Philip West Constituency Branch, Four Square, St. Philip, dated November 14, 2003.

(Dear Constituent

I have been requested by the National

Housing Corporation to draw to your attention an offer for you to purchase your own terrace units. I have been advised of the facts set out below...()

Sir, I will not read the other parts because there are not relevant. The point is, the National Housing Corporation in collaboration with the Town and Country Planning... Any activities that are going to be executed in St. Philip West, I believe that the duly elected representative for that area has that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The portion of the letter read by the Honourable Member bears no relationship to the accusations made before of impropriety, the misuse of power and the disadvantage of individuals. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West, if he wishes to be honest could say that I have written to every sitting Member of Parliament on that side, who has terrace units to be sold in their constituencies and ask him to go to his constituency and make an effort to apprise of what is available and at what price.

I am sure Honourable Members on that side can all say that they received letters. Equally, I wrote to persons who I knew had an interest and said to them that if they knew people who were interested in purchasing their terrace units to go out there and apprise them also. The Government cannot be held responsible for the individual letters sent out by a person. That has nothing to do with the Government, that is not a misuse of Town and Country Planning nor is it a misuse of the National Housing Corporation. It cannot be allowed to stand especially in the context where I as Minister of House and Lands, wrote personally to every Member of the Opposition who has terrace

units in his constituency, which politically people do not normally do. Sir, people normally ignore the Opposition, but ignored but I wrote all of them and told them what was available.

Sir, Senator Eastmond would have received a similar letter, as a person who ran in the last election. What she chooses to say in her letter has absolutely nothing to do with Government, National Housing Corporation, the misuse...

Asides

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member has totally misled the House and said something which he knows to be inaccurate. I cannot be responsible for what she writes.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: I will hold my view that the National Housing Corporation cannot request Lynette to do anything in St. Philip West. I am going to reiterate that position again. The National Housing Corporation, as an extension of central government working under the Ministry of Housing and Lands and The Environment, cannot instruct an individual who is not even a candidate in St. Philip West, because there is no election, to function in a capacity with respect to giving a directive on behalf of constituents in St. Philip West. I will hold that position, Sir.

If Honourable Members on that side feel that it is proper, then I am going to say to them that they need to understand what ethics are and what morality is because they are so confused that the only thing they know is how to practise the politics of spite, deceit and manipulation. I am not going to let that happen with St. Philip West and I will hold that view from now until the next election comes.

Sir, as far as I am concerned, that should not have happened and I am going to say unswervingly that it should not have happened.

Central government and its departments, if they are going to execute a responsibility to the constituents in St. Philip West, it must be done through the office of the duly elected representative. That is what is proper, Sir. That is what smacks of decency and good politics.

Sir, the politics of underhandedness, trickery and manipulation, I will not be part of that, Sir. If this Government is going to develop Barbados, it must use the Opposition(s duly elected representatives of the Opposition, as well as Government(s duly elected representatives of the Government, that is what it must do.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Relative to the sale of the terrace units, and I think that if Honourable Members in this Honourable House wanted to be honest... I cannot accuse any Honourable House of beginning dishonest, regrettably.

Sir, with the sale of the terrace units, in every constituency, the Sitting representative was invited to the Town Hall Meeting for the sale of the terrace units in his/her area. Mr. Chairman, the accusation was that we were not using or respecting the elected representatives. For every Town Hall Meeting Opposition members were invited. Not only were they invited, they were put to sit at the head table and they were given an opportunity to address the audience. That is clear and it showed a completely transparent process which sought to involve every elected representative. In fact, the photographs in the press and the media coverage on Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reflected that Opposition

Members of Parliament sat at the head table at every Town Hall Meeting. Even those who came to the meeting late were allowed to come forward to the table and speak.

H14: 11.25 a.m.

Sequence 8

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

11:20 a.m.

Continuation of Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON:

There is great duplicity going on in here. dishonesty is on That Side.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, before I sit, I want to read that line again.

Dear Constituent:

I have been requested by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to draw it to your attention...(

I am saying again, most emphatically this morning, the National Housing Corporation, a department of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, cannot instruct, Ms. Eastmond to do anything on behalf of the Constituency of St. Philip West, when there is a Sitting representative. It is improper, it lacks propriety, it is deceitful and wicked and I will not be part of it. I rest, Mr. Chairman, and I will make this letter a document of the House.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, you will find out, Sir, when you have to be dodging the next election.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I believe very strongly that if we are going to develop Barbados, we cannot develop Barbados by developing half of the country. It is necessary that when we speak of

development in this country, we understand that every taxpayer in this country must necessarily have an equitable output of the Government(s largess, actions and activities. It is from that premise that I hold my view.

Sir, anytime I see an event which smacks of giving an advantage which is unfair to any individual, and it comes out of central Government, I will stand up and speak against it, time and time again. It does not, and cannot be supported by any ethical premises, based on philosophical dynamics that Honourable Members on the Other Side do not understand. Sir, I will purposely introduce three of them so that they will learn them. The three that premises behaviour which are considered to be moral, just and ethical, are:

The principle of utilitarianism, tell them to look it up.

The principle of the hypothetical imperative, tell them to look it up.

The principle of the categorical imperative, the supreme one, tell them to look it up.

Sir, when they understand what I am talking about, then they would understand what good governance and good developmental practices are about.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this Supplementary and to say that we have to recognise that the Town and Country Planning Department has been asked, within the last few years, to more than double their effort and they have responded to that request from the Government. The truth is, Mr. Chairman, I am not seeing the request from the Town Planning Department to the Government being acted upon.

Sir, they have been requested to more than double the work load that they previously did and the appropriate compensation has not been passed to this particular department. It is that the Government does not understand the importance of the amount of work which has been requested by this department. Sir, the work which has been done has allowed the Government to develop an industry called, Land. A lot of land that was previously in agriculture, has now been converted to land for development, and the Government has been able to boost its foreign reserves, by selling large portions of land across Barbados, to people who have no connection to Barbados and who have been able to utilise the lands of Barbados to amass large sums of money.

Sir, one must ask, what are the gains to those ladies and gentlemen who work in the Town Planning offices who have been asked to stay on for many hours, and some of them have not even been compensated for the overtime. I am also saying, Mr. Chairman, that we have to understand that there are other departments in this country which have been requested to work overtime, et cetera, but they have not been adequately compensated.

Sir, if one looks at the Estimates and the section that deal with revenues, one would recognise that the Government has been able to increase its revenues by more than 70 per cent, but the workers who have been asked to accommodate the Government, in increasing its revenues like the workers in the Town Planning Department, have not been able to move their wages as much as 20 per cent for their time.

I am saying, Sir, that we cannot only look at physical development, we have to look at the development as it relates to workers and development as it relates to the masses of people in this country. It is clear to me, Sir, that the dictate from this Government is one which states that once you see a large project

and you believe that you can add something substantial to the foreign reserves up-front, once it can be seen clearly by the eyes, that priority must be given to that particular project.

I am saying that policy is wrong and the policy must be practised that any project which is applied for, especially one that involves community tourism, must be given priority, for the simple reason, Sir, that the multiplied effect of that particular project, as it relates to community tourism, impacts more on the economy, in terms of retention and everything, than those large projects. Sir, when one looks, most of that money stays outside of the country but the money from community tourism remains within the country.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: If people want to argue about it, let us have an argument on it.

I do not want to be a tourism Minister. If at anytime I cross over there, you could not be a tourism minister because you do not understand anything, as it relates to modern Governance in this country.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that this country is now poised to have development, but the present policy that is being practised is not the policy that I would regard as proactive. We seem to believe, Sir, that we should be still across Barbados looking for large hotels to be built and turned into all-inclusive tourism products. In fact, Sir, the Town Planning Department should be told that the emphasis should be given to those projects where people want to expand, or get involved in community tourism.

Sir, community tourism is the project that is going to take Barbados where it wants to go,

and any minister who understands community tourism and the tourism sector, would understand exactly of what I speak. Sir, any minister who does not understand that, and cannot speak about it, is not deserving to be a minister in this modern age.

Mr. Chairman, at this stage of our tourism development and our physical development, it cannot be that we are out fishing, hoping to land a large catch, when you have some small fish in the net and we do not know what to do with them. You have to utilise them because it is from there, you could decide if you want a meal or you want to use them as bait.

Sir, it is foolishness to say that we do not want \$20 tourists. We must have physical development to accommodate the \$20 tourists, the \$300 tourists and the \$1 000 tourists.

House 14, sequence 9, 11:3514

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

In the same way that Jamaica can use physical development to maximise tourism, we can use it here in Barbados also. Mr. Chairman, we should not allow anyone to come and lead us because we have always led the Caribbean. Suddenly now we seem not to understand the meaning the physical development. We believe that physical development means setting up the Security Exchange of Barbados, which I feel should be closed at this time because it is not impacting positively on the physical development in Barbados in the way that I would like to see it doing.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is right, a loose cannon, not a scud missile. You do not know where it is coming from. That is not an

insult because no lesser a person than the Chief Justice has branded me as that and I have no...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Lucy, let us get back to physical development, please. Do not let us go into scud missiles, loose cannons and the Chief Justice, let us get on here...

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, you cannot hear those comments, but I can.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should not be hearing anything. Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN You are not allowed to hear asides, Sir, I am allowed to hear them and when I hear them, I can use them effectively to build my debate. I need no protection, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot at this stage in our development be bragging about \$2 billion in savings if we cannot equate or match that by the equivalent investment. There is no where in the world where you can have that type of money in a banking system and allow other people to come and buy your fixed assets. We brag about how developed we are and how we are going to improve the physical development of the country, but for whom are we improving the physical development of this country. It cannot be for the people of Barbados, it has to be for people outside of Barbados even if they are in Trinidad and Tobago.

I want to see policies in this Parliament as they relate to community tourism. A strong message must be sent to the banking system in Barbados to stop calling Barbadians on weekends to borrow money to buy refrigerators, cars and so on and ask them to come and borrow some money to build rooms onto their houses, so that if the English tour comes off as we expect, they can get involved in community tourism and in the year 2007 the physical development of Barbados would be such that they too can share in the World Cup.

Every advertisement on our television now is about buying refrigerators and looking for work for other people outside of Barbados. Suddenly Barbados is a country that is looking for work for other people and not for its own people.

In the sugar industry there is physical development. We have mechanised the sugar industry, but what we gained from the mechanisation of the sugar industry is larger losses and less work. We need to get back to the drawing board and look at the opportunity cost of what we are doing in this country. If we want to talk about physical development, it must be physical development that will impact on the masses.

Mr. Chairman, parliamentarians have not entered this House by accident and they must be respected. They have been elected by the people of Barbados and they have a right to be informed about anything as it relates to their constituency.

Mr. Chairman, I want to see some compensation for those productive sectors within the civil service. I also want the unions of Barbados to understand that as the physical development of Barbados increases, the masses also need to feel some increases in their pockets. In the same way that the economy of Barbados and the revenues of Government have been growing, the workers need to feel their income growing as well. The policemen are fighting increased crime all across Barbados, but they cannot feel increased salaries in their pockets, still they are expected to increase output. If you drive your car longer than you should, you have to go to the gas station and put in some more gas, so if the policemen and the civil servants are working harder, they have to get the requisite increases to compensate for the output. So we need some input on behalf of the masses of people in Barbados especially the civil servants at this time.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing on the Order Paper, so nobody can tell me that it is on the Order Paper and I cannot talk about it. When it comes on the Order Paper, I cannot talk about it. Let me say this now, I will not be supporting anybody coming to this Parliament and passing any laws to accept the foolishness that the unions agreed to for the civil servants in Barbados. The legislation of salaries will not be supported by me. This is not on the Order Paper, so nobody can get up on a point of order or anything and tell me that I anticipated the debate...

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: It is not on the Order Paper, so I have a right to speak my mind.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member understood that something happened in this Parliament previously that should not have happened and that there was a ruling that was wrong, he is free to say so. I know, Sir, that you understand the rules of the House and you would not charge me for doing anything like that.

I thank you very much.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, in respect of the salaries, and I am responding to the issues which came up during the course of the debate, I cannot tell the Honourable Member for St. Lucy whether or not to agree to the salaries because I do not imagine that even his Party leader could give him a directive in respect of what he is supposed to do, I imagine he would do pretty much what he wants irrespective of what the Party's position on it is.

There are other issues which came up which troubled me. I do not believe that parliamentarians should always attempt to exploit the salacious. I am truly concerned about the context in which the Honourable Member for St. Philip West framed a letter from Senator Lynette Eastmond. I trust that these comments would be carried because I know that his are going to be carried. I doubt very much that the National Housing Corporation wrote to Senator Eastmond requesting her to do anything. I think that was very unfortunate framing on her part. What I can say is that I, as Minister of Housing, wrote to parliamentarians, both Government and the Opposition, whose constituencies fall into the first phase of the sale of the terrace units and gave them the information relative to the sale of the units; the price the units are going to be sold at; the various concessions; the advantages; the disadvantages; the benefits and the discounts; and asked them to meet with their constituents and make them aware of the information since it was to their benefits to buy the units. I did not write to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West because the units in his constituency do not fall into the first phase.

House 14 Sequence 10

11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, if housing units of Honourable Members of Government did not fall into the first phase, they did not receive a letter. If units of the Honourable Members of the Opposition did not fall into the first phase, they did not receive a letter. Sir, if Opposition Members of Parliament wanted to be honest in this respect, they would have to say that there has not been no manipulation, unfairness or

inequity because as Honourable Minister, I personally wrote them.

Mr. Speaker, what the Honourable Senator should have said - and she mistakenly said the National Housing Corporation, she should not have - is that the Minister of Housing has asked her to make an effort to sell.

Sir, we are missing a fundamental point. While the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is making it appears as if the Honourable Senator has done something wrong...

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: The truth is that the National Housing Corporation has not done anything wrong.

What I think is to the Honourable Senator(s) credit is, even though she was rejected at the poll, she continues to take an interest in those constituents. I am sure that she has done more than many Opposition Members because even though Opposition Members have received letters, I bet that they did not bother to write to constituents, to give them any support, or to try to make them property owners. Sir, to her credit, Senator Eastmond, even though the people had rejected her, showed a continuing interest in them and made an effort to say to them that they have the opportunity to become property owners and that they should take that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, for there to be a suggestion that there was manipulation, underhandedness, dishonesty or inequity, is a falsehood which the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, at the time of uttering it, knew to be a falsehood.

Mr. Speaker, while the language used by the Senator is unfortunate, her intentions and desires are perfectly in sync with those of a

person who desires to represent people, who wants to see improved conditions, and who wants to see poor people becoming property owners in Barbados. Sir, for that effort, I give her credit. She did make an error in the framing of her letter, and there is no denying that, because the National Housing Corporation, I am sure, did not write to her but that her intentions were perfectly honourable.

Sir, many persons who lose at the polls turn their backs on people and do nothing further to assist them, therefore, it is to her credit that she continues to show an interest in that constituency and, in fact, has done more than the sitting representative and Honourable Members on that side have done, in respect of getting information out to their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to defend staunchly the National Housing Corporation which is being accused of impropriety, inequity, et cetera. There is none. I have written those letters, of which I have copies, because every Member of Parliament who was involved has received letters. I can also make copies of those letters available to the Press because this is not a matter in which there has been any dishonesty or impropriety.

Sir, as Minister, I took the responsibility for inviting all Opposition Members to the Town Hall meetings and putting them at the head table with me. After the meetings, I took the responsibility of writing to every Sitting Member of Parliament who is in the first phase, giving him or her the information and asking that the information be passed onto their constituents.

If some of them are embarrassed that someone who was rejected at the polls is making more of an effort to create property ownership in Barbados than they are as sitting Parliamentarians, that is their problem. Some of them are not looking back at their constituents

and explaining to them how they could benefit from this policy. If they are embarrassed by her work, they too must learn to write letters to their constituents, to get themselves out into the field, and to work with them and to say to them that this is an opportunity for them to own property.

In fact, it was really annoying this morning to watch them laughing, in a situation in which they know is not normal. It is not the practice nor convention in politics for ministers to have the kind of openness, transparency, dialogue and communication that I have initiated.

Sir, I remember when the Democratic Labour Party were in office, they held meetings and the Opposition Members of Parliament were not invited. We, the Opposition Party at that time, never got the opportunity to speak at town hall meetings, furthermore to come to the head table. We have never received letters from Sitting Members of Parliament saying that our constituencies were involved and that they wanted us to be part of that process. We were not given such information to assist us.

Mr. Speaker, I am finished writing Opposition Members of Parliament, if this is going to be the result or if this is going to be their attitude when they are written to and given information, that they are going to misrepresent it in the public. What would be the point? As I have already said, I have written to everybody who are in the first phase of the project.

Mr. Speaker, the Town Planning Department has done a tremendous amount of work to change its negative public image, to expedite the processing of Town Planning Department applications and to ensure that the public understands the process for applications. I believe the only outstanding thing to be done, is for the collaboration required by the various agencies and ministries in respect of an

evaluation of a Town Planning Department application, to become a more efficient process and to be done with greater alacrity.

I believe that many people could say that they have seen an increase in the rapidity with which Town Planning Department responds to applications, whether for approval or refusal. I think that it is imperative that persons who are seeking to make developments of one kind or another should observe the necessary Town Planning Department regulations and laws and make the application prior to doing so, and let the application fall within the ambit of the rules. Once that is done, people would have no difficulty with the Town Planning Department.

Sir, I would wish to salute the work of the Chief Town Planner and his Staff who have done a tremendous amount of work to help to fuel the economic engine in Barbados. Sir, the Chief Town Planner is one of those civil servants in Barbados who is much maligned. He is cursed by Parliamentarians, as we have heard only a few weeks ago, by large developers and by all kinds of individuals but in my professional contact with him, I have found him to be a fair officer who tries his utmost to do his job.

Sir, anybody who receives a Town Planning Department refusal feels personally aggrieved by it but I am satisfied that the Chief Town Planner makes his decisions based on professional consideration, even though I do not always agree with his decisions, he takes them while using his best professional judgment and discretion.

Sir, in that regard, he and his officers who work very hard must be saluted. Sir, on the question of salaries for improved terms and conditions for the Town Planning Department staff, one of the major improvements which we effected was to ensure that they work under less stressful conditions and that there is an

increased number of trained staff to carry the workload.

Secondly, we ensured that they were moved into an improved physical environment, where they could be more comfortable.

Thirdly, the Town Planning Department and officers working there will receive salary improvements and increments as part of the improved terms and conditions which I believe, would shortly come before the Honourable House, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying. Sir, but there is no process to pull out only one department in the civil service and to give it a preferred remuneration rate which is above other departments that also work very hard and make sacrifices. The process of salary increases is done in a comprehensive way, with all of the grades being evaluated at the same time and recommendations made, therefore, the Town Planning Department will benefit from those improvements. Sir, I do know that this department does deserve proper remuneration because they do work hard.

I beg now to move that Head 31 stands part.

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

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

House No.14(11)11:55 a.m.

Thursday, December 9, 2003

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT - \$4, 830,072.00

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary before us is to pay this money to Rayside Construction Limited for works done on the Bridgetown Road and Safety

Improvement Project.

Mr. Chairman, this project was started in March 2001. The contractor was awarded a contract in the sum of \$53,176,986 to complete the Bridgetown road which stretches from the bottom of Black Rock to Eagle Hall; from Westbury Road to Roebuck Street via Passage Road; from Tweedside Road to the Garrison via Pine Road to Culloden Road to Dalkeith Hill to Highway 7.

It comprises more than 7 kilometers of road. One can say that this stretch of road has improved the physical structure of Barbados. It has enhanced the areas and it is important for us to know that when these roads are completed by the end of this year they will take much traffic off Bridgetown.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to look at how these roads were constructed. Sidewalks were constructed to separate pedestrians from vehicles. The drainage in Black Rock, Roebuck Street and Tweedside Road were improved. The money being requested is to pay for valuations already committed to the contractors.

This sum will not complete the project because we believe there will be cost overruns due to unforeseen challenges. For example, design work had to be done to upgrade the utility underground structure. There were late requests from the Barbados Light & Power Company to install new ducts at Dalkeith Road and Culloden Road and the National Petroleum Corporation has also installed new gas mains throughout the length of Section B and C from Welches Road to Hastings.

Sir, a number of things have been done which were unforeseen and we believe we will have to come back to Parliament in the new year to look at other costs which are currently being negotiated by contractors and engineers.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to say this project was done in collaboration with other improvements to Baxters Road. We had a supplementary a few weeks ago for utilities to the Wharf Road as well as Swan Street and Baxters Road. Sir, this Government has spent substantial amounts over the past years in improving the structure of urban Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, in total over the last ten years from financial year 1993 to 2003, the Government has spent in excess of \$195 million on special projects, subsidiary roads, residential roads and \$22 million in the Scotland district. We have also upgraded Clermont Road and Cane Wood Road and Highway 2A, at a cost of \$22 million. We have spent \$92.8 million on Rendezvous Hill to the Highway 7 junction, on Codrington Hill and the Searles to Six Roads projects.

Mr. Chairman, Government recognises that it is necessary for us to upgrade the infrastructure in Bridgetown and the suburban areas. In the next financial year we have to spend in excess of \$250 million to upgrade roads in the islands. There are more than 150 tenantry roads that must be upgraded and we are preparing a full Cabinet paper to alert Government as to what is needed to upgrade these tenantry roads.

Sir, in urban Barbados we have to upgrade Martindales Road. We recognise that there will be a lot of relocation and we hope to minimise it but the road to the east of the hospital is in a bad state and the silent zone must be enforced in this area. We will have to look at the traffic flow in that area, particular at the public service vehicles which travel on that road.

Mr. Chairman, Bank Hall Main Road must also be improved and Bridge Road has to be upgraded as well because the bridge was reopened since 1995 but this will be done in the

next financial year.

Sir, Highway 7, from Bay Street to Oistins will be done as a special project and repairs are to be done to the Wharf Road. Sir, Fontabelle to the Spring Garden Highway will also be looked at in terms of drainage.

H14/12:10

Sequence 12

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Continuation of: Hon. G.A. CLARKE Mr. Chairman, it is also necessary to look at the Green Hill road, from the top of Green Hill down to Codrington Hill. That stretch of road is in very bad condition. On mornings and afternoons there is a lot of congestion from the junction at Warrens. We have to be able to construct some bus laybys in that area.

Sir, anybody travelling that area would agree that we have to do something about that area. We cannot sit idly by allowing the congestion to remain. We have to be able to acquire parcels of land to construct some bus laybys in the Green Hill/Codrington area. We also have to do some work on Highway 7.

The Honourable Members have been talking about traffic management. It is important for us to manage the traffic at this time. We have over 140 000 vehicles on the road, an increase of approximately 60 per cent in the last 10 years. The time has come for us to put a proper traffic management system in place. We were thinking about the synchronisation of lights in Bridgetown and not allowing too much traffic in Bridgetown. However, Bridgetown is a commercial zone and for years persons felt that to come to Bridgetown they must bring their vehicles.

I think that we can agree that our bus system needs to be overhauled. In modern Barbados all bus services still come to Bridgetown.

When the ABC Highway was envisaged, I believe at that time the mode of transportation should have been upgraded. When the ABC Highway was construction, I always contended that a bus service should have been instituted from Worthing traveling up to Rendezvous, the Bussa Roundabout and down to the Deep Water Harbour. Sir, persons coming from St. Lucy do not have to go Bridgetown but disembark at the bottom of the University Roundabout. Persons coming from St. Philip can disembark at the Bussa roundabout and take a bus going into Bridgetown or St. Lucy.

I am convinced that we need to change the mode of transportation at this time. Persons are all meeting at one point and it is like going into a funnel. We have to be able to widen that funnel or to stop the traffic from going into Bridgetown.

Sir, next year we will be experimenting with various things, like park-and-ride in some areas and one-way traffic in other areas. We must be able to close off some roads for part of the morning or sometimes there will be flashing of lights in order to be able to move the traffic along quickly, especially in the area of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation area.

Sir, we are also working with the police to ensure that the traffic moves faster along the streets of Bridgetown. I am supportive of the police that a number of vehicles will have to park in the suburbs and the people take a shuttle into Bridgetown.

Asides

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: I am supportive of the police in encouraging people to park and ride to avoid congestion especially at this Christmas

season.

I believe that drainage is a problem and we have to address it. I believe that the Drainage Unit which was established by this Government in the 1996 has done a good job in terms of minimising flooding in the Bridgetown area but more has to be done. We have to clean the careenage from the Fairchild Street bus stand up to the Globe. The Ministry of Transport and Works is in the process of clearing the embankment but the outer Careenage has to be dredged in order for water to flow freely. The debris in the careenage has to be cleared but we have to use special equipment in order to do the job.

Every piece of equipment cannot be used in the careenage. A few years ago a piece of equipment had to be hauled out of the Careenage area because the equipment had certain specifications but correct tires were used on the equipment.

Sir, drainage is to be conducted at the Holborn area. Because of the flooding there. We have started some work there and very soon we hope to be able to manage the traffic in that location as well.

Mr. Chairman, sidewalks are also needed along Highway 1, from near the roundabout at the bottom of the university right along Highway 1. Sir, when you were in the Ministry, you introduced a programme for the improvement of sidewalks in Barbados.

We have to implement a special programme for the St. Philip area. St. Philip has the worst roads in the of infrastructure in Barbados.

Asides

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: These are roads which were completed many years ago. Sir, between the St. Philip Parish Church and Six Roads

there is a road that has many patches being done on it.

Asides

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, because of the heavy vehicles that are using that road have caused the deterioration to continue. We have to dig up that road at some time and rebuild it. The Sunbury and Union roads also have to be redone. Recently on a call-in programme there was a call for repairs on those roads. St. Philip has the longest stretch of roads and we will put a special team to work on those roads.

H14: 12.15 p.m.Sequence 13

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

12:10 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. G.A. CLARKE:

We have a team of approximately 70 persons working at that depot. Sir, even though we have increased the constituencies in St. Philip, we have not increased the roads, but for years, there needed to be an intention to facilitate the roads.

Asides.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, for years we have been putting patches on patches but we now have to dig up the roads up and surface them properly. We have just started digging up Union Road and River Road in St. Philip North.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip West say that we are only concentrating on the Honourable Members for the Government constituencies, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North did not get up and say anything. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy did not get up and say that we are doing a

lot of work in St. Lucy but he is on record of praising the depot in St. Lucy.

Asides.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: He wrote me a letter telling me I have the finest team there and to keep them there. It is a fact.

Asides.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, a letter from somebody in his area.

Mr. Chairman, do you realise that the best kept depot is in St. Lucy. It is new and has the equipment and is doing a lot of work in that area. We believe that to equip the depots will be the way to go and we will do that, but throughout the country, we have narrow roads.

Sir, next year, we hope to buy more equipment because we do not have the equipment to cut rock. We have only two pieces of such equipment, and there is a need to cut the juttred rock from St. Thomas Parish Church, down to Holetown.

The Honourable Member for St. James Central, has gone on a tour with us and that road has to be widened and improved because the traffic count is very great in that area and it has to be done. In the St. Augustine area, there is also a narrow street there which has to be done, and at Gun Hill. Many of our public service vehicles are now travelling these areas and two of them cannot now travel in opposite direction. They would collide, so we have to be able to cut the juttred rock, widen the roads and also provide sidewalks in many areas, especially in the areas where schools are located. Many schools have been asking us to provide side walks for them, and we hope that within the new year, we can even push on faster.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, the Government has spent a lot of money in the last ten years on road infrastructures, and we will continue in the next year. It cannot be done overnight. It is a ten-year programme but we are hoping that within the next ten years, while we are in power, to improve the roads further. We have done a lot so far, and I have not talked about the widening of the ABC Highway which is on stream. The ABC Highway will be widened to have four lanes. We will improve the roundabouts on the ABC Highway and we will spend the monies wisely, that are voted for us to improve the traffic in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Honourable Member for taking the debate to St. Lucy. I want to start by first saying that when the Barbados Labour Party came to power in 1994, there was a promise in this country that if they were elected, they would have done something about rural Barbados.

There are now nine years in power, as they would say, and we have seen the Rural Development Commission set up. We have also seen the Urban Development Commission set up but we have seen a situation, Sir, that instead of the problems of rural Barbados being corrected, as rightly identified by the Barbados Labour Party, they have empowered themselves to continue to spend the majority of money on urban Barbados, even though they came to Government with a promise of correcting the imbalance between rural Barbados and urban Barbados.

The Minister brags about \$195 million that has been spent within the ten-year period. One would have to ask the Minister, how much of this money was spent in rural Barbados, taking into account that the Barbados Labour Party went all across the country prior to 1994,

telling those of us who live in rural Barbados, the problems that rural Barbados has been confronted with but you are saying that instead of them looking to correct the problems within rural Barbados, the concentration has been in urban Barbados, at the expense of rural Barbados.

Sir, that is why I need to write to the Minister, which I have not done yet, even though he has stated on the Floor of the House that I have written this particular Minister, which is not true, but be assured, Sir, that I need to tell this current Minister that we have more than 110 roads in St. Lucy to be constructed. I vote for the Estimates of Barbados every year, in this Parliament, and I must admit that I have done that, not in the interest of the people of St. Lucy, because when one looks at the amount of money spent on St. Lucy, out of all the money that has been voted for, I have to ask myself one more year, whether or not it makes sense to vote for the Estimates.

This has nothing to do with the Supplementaries which is another situation. I am not sure, Sir, that when you are really voting for the Estimates what you are voting for, when you quantify the amount that comes with Supplementaries. The Supplementaries give the biggest lie to the Estimates. Sir, you are normally allowed a percentage error in Estimates, but this percentage is a bit too high now.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister is correct that the depot is the best, in building or the number of people working at the depot but not in equipment. I have always said that when it comes to cosmetology, you cannot beat the Barbados Labour Party at it. They could present the best face in the world, Sir, but when it comes to substance and deliverance, that is a different matter.

Sir, the Minister was quite right in confirming that this morning. He did his party well in confirming that this morning. It looks good, but would you believe, Sir, that not even a roller could be found at the depot in St. Lucy. The Bobcat when the alternator is broken down, even though they have one in Wildey, it takes about a month or more to get to St. Lucy to be placed on the Bobcat.

Mr. Chairman, I said in the Budget debate that I do not want to hear any more criticism of the workers which are employed by the MTW. I want to confirm what the Prime Minister said, because it was the Prime Minister of Barbados who saw the workers idling in St. Peter. He made an assumption that they did that on their own volition, only then to realise that they had no equipment or material to work with.

House 14, sequence 14, 12:2514

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

That problem has been solved in St. Peter and I want it solved in St. Lucy too.

What is worst about that, Mr. Chairman, as you would know - and you cannot be part of the debate so I would not include you in this debate at this time - is that ten million of the taxpayers(dollars was spent buying equipment. What is interesting is that equipment is like the buses. Mr. Chairman, I want you to know -I know you are not a technical person and you cannot be blamed - that \$10 million was spent in equipment which went to the depots only for them to find out that the equipment is new to Barbados and could not work in Barbados. All the equipment that has been purchased is now on the dump heap or in some workshop in Barbados to be repaired. I would like the Minister when he gets up on the point of order to tell Barbadians...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for St. George North is on a point of order.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is really misleading the House. He did say that we bought \$10 million in equipment which is true, but he cannot say that the equipment is on a dump heap because the equipment is being utilised at the depots, in St. John, St. Philip, in fact, throughout Barbados. The Honourable Member for St. John knows that because he is getting a new road from Bath to Newcastle. The Honourable Member for St. John cannot be critical anymore because he is getting some good roads in St. John.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. George North you are not asking him to...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am ruling not you. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy continue, please.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I made a charge and spoke about equipment as it relates to St. Lucy and all I can be told is where in Barbados I can go and find equipment that is working.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want the Minister to tell me which new piece of equipment, except for the truck which too breaks down sometimes, is working in St. Lucy. The reason there is something called capital expenditure and revenue expenditure is that you get involved in capital expenditure when you do not want to increase your

overheads. Since the \$10 million in equipment has been bought by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the cost of their repair bills has increased, so I am asking the Minister to deny that charge.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: He cannot say that the increase occurred because they had old equipment and new equipment. The new equipment was bought because the old equipment is on the dump heap. I am not happy at how we are replacing the equipment at Ministry of Public Works. If they do not have any more uses for the equipment or they do not know how to repair them, then a system must be put in place to auction them because there are a lot of people out there who can correct that equipment. Sometimes I have to ask myself how equipment could get on the dump heap so fast at Ministry of Public Works. I am wondering sometimes if there are not people waiting for that equipment because the dump heap is getting bigger and bigger.

If the old equipment has to be changed, we need to come to Parliament now and change those laws as it relates to the disposal of old equipment because all we are doing is increasing the demand for taxes on the poor people of Barbados when we have equipment that can be sold to decrease the demand of the taxes on the poor people of Barbados. That situation is what I would call inefficiency.

I am calling on the acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, now that he has the power to give the mandate to the Cabinet on Thursday that they need to change the law so that they can dispose of the equipment in the Pine so that we can get some money in the Treasury and get some real new equipment, but this time I do to want anybody flying out to look at it.

I want us to start dealing with Simpson Motors and the Barbados Shipping and Trading to get the equipment we need and stop going through the Crown agent, so that when we have to put a charge against the importers, they would not be able to say that they handled it for the Crown agent and we would be able to tell the taxpayers in Barbados to blame the particular company which imported the equipment for us and not to blame Government. We would guarantee then that they cannot bring equipment here that has been in somebody's showroom for ten or so years ago waiting for a buyer. We got a piece of equipment that is new to Barbados, but it has been in a storeroom for about 10 years.

Mr. Chairman, we also want to tell the Minister of Health that when he wants to reposition the trucks that are owned by the Sanitation Service Authority and he tells the public of Barbados that they have paved all the roads leading to Vacluse for the trucks and that they will be working from Vacluse, I hope he does not come overnight and pave a road that they could not pave for the little children of Barrows Children Home in St. Lucy, who had to walk in potholes daily for many years, but now that they want the garbage trucks to go there, they are going to pave the road.

I have said in this Parliament all the time that the interest of the people is not being represented, in that equipment and investment is more important than the people. This situation at Barrows is a clear case of that. When the children were at the Barrows Children Home, I beg many times for the potholes to be patched and they could not be patched, but now that they made a shift so that the rich and famous can have the investment in St. Peter to build town houses...

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: The sanitation trucks will be moved from next to Jordan(s Supermarket and the other villas, to accommodate other villas. The sanitation trucks, I have been told, would now have to go to Barrows. I want them to know that Barrows is a cul-de-sac and there is only one way out for the sanitation trucks, so they better start some negotiations now for the people of St. Lucy because I ...

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am very glad to hear that they have reversed the decision because the person who had the idea to send them to Barrows would have had to be mad.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: It could never have been me, because the same way I fought the siting of the landfill in 1994, I will fight this one too because St. Lucy is no dumping ground for anybody.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Government does not intend to put a sanitation depot at Barrows as he said. As far as I know that depot in Speightstown will be relocated at Vaucluse Estate.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member continue, please.

House 14 Sequence 15

12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister (ag.)for giving this House the assurance that the Sanitation Services Authority trucks would not be stationed in St. Lucy at any time, in his own words, and that if they do not go to Vaucluse, the people should (kick out(the Government. I thank him for that assurance on that point. I thank you, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg that Your Honour reports progress to the Speaker and beg for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. Chairman left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman has reported progress and has asked for leave to sit again.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 130 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

House No.14(16)12:33 p.m.

Thursday, December 9, 2003

RESUMPTION

MR. SPEAKER: This House is resumed. When the suspension was taken, this Honourable House was in Committee of Supply and to that it will now revert.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member St. James Central.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to lend my voice to the matter which is currently attracting the attention of this Honourable Chamber. I would confess at the beginning of this short intervention to the fact that prior to hearing the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, I had no intention to speak but it is necessary for us to ensure that we make every effort to deliver some accuracy from this House.

It must be made clear that the Government of Barbados obtained \$10 million in equipment for the purposes of road improvement and rehabilitation in Barbados and it is a matter of public record. It must also be made clear that it was not a willy-nilly exercise. I heard a lot of disgraceful talk about the equipment being secondhand, that it was picked up from someone's storeroom after sitting there for ten years and that it was now placed on a dump.

Sir, young members of Parliament have to set an example for those persons who care to tune into 100.7 FM to follow the debate or who read the newspapers the following day. When these things are put abroad into the public domain, the logical conclusion is that the Government of Barbados has been woefully delinquent and reckless, that it has been indulging in a lavish display of fiscal imprudence, irregularity and mismanagement and that we should all be censured. Sir, I want to distance this Government from that type of behaviour.

The fact of the matter is that the equipment was subject to tender. A company, NSG, from England, a legitimate procurement company, was awarded the tender. The tender was also

for the financing of the equipment. We had a contract which was perused, deliberated on and signed off by Cabinet for NSG to procure and finance the purchase of the equipment.

Sir, in place of the recklessness heard today, the fact has to be recorded in this House that the NSG contract was rewarded on the basis of very low interest rates that the company was able to provide to the Government of Barbados. We were the beneficiaries of a set of circumstances of which we should justifiably be proud. Today, we heard a diatribe which suggested that the worst possible mismanagement, scandalous and improper behaviour took place with regard to this contract and we have to get past this sort of behaviour.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that the \$10 million in equipment would have been procured under the most transparent of circumstances. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is not now in his seat but we have to get beyond standing up in this House and making comments especially on the eve of a luncheon interval, so that such comments are news at midday or get into other sections of the Press which is hungry for what amounts to wild, idle gossip which is consumed avariciously by people. Sir, this idle, empty gossip stands at complete variance to the fundamental reality, truth and accuracy of the matter.

Mr. Chairman, every Honourable Member in this House received letters from the Ministry of Housing seeking cooperation but the picture painted for the public is not based on any desire to convey accuracy or to inform but rather to misinform and to propagate misinformation. Sir, this Chamber cannot be reduced to that, Sir.

There was an allegation that vehicles were dumped and while it should offend the ears of

right-thinking members that another member of this Chamber could be so reckless in his allegation, it seems to stimulate and amuse some the Honourable Members on the other side.

Sir, when we look at the companies involved in the transaction of the vehicles we are speaking to some of the most reputable garages in Barbados. Simpsons Motors would have been involved in facilitating the arrival of those vehicles.

There is also a maintenance contract on the \$10 million in equipment which speaks to heavy duty trucks, pneumatic drills and other equipment which were all under warranty. Every member in this House would have had a vehicle that gave trouble at some time so what stroke of midsummer madness are we to indulge ourselves in or, what flight of fantasy are we to accept that because MTW purchased a pneumatic drill or heavy duty truck that it would never give trouble? Sir, if the vehicle gives trouble within one year and it is under warranty, the company that brought in the vehicle is contractually obligated to honour the warranty.

H14/13:40

Sequence 17

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Continuation of:.. Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS I do not know where the Parliament and by extension the people of Barbados are being led by the whims of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Sir, I believe that if we are going to seriously conduct the business of the, we must do so in a manner which reflects some element of thought and prudence. It may be impossible to connect

those two words with the political behaviour of the Honourable Member but the fact is, it does the Parliament a disservice if we continue to go down that road.

Sir, the question of the maintenance of vehicles is not an issue. Sir, new vehicles were brought into Barbados. There were not any ten-year-old vehicles that had been languishing in anybody's storeroom and have been scrapped up off the streets and brought into this country. That is not true. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Sir, McEneary Garage, Simpsons Motors and C.O. Williams are involved in trying to partner with the Government of Barbados so as to assist this Government, which is cash-strapped in many ways but trying to answer many demands from many sectors, and these companies come to the assistance of Government and the same Parliament rather than speak voluminously to the effectiveness of the partnership, now seeks to degrade and unnecessarily chastise honourable and reputable business houses in Barbados like Simpsons Motors, McEneary and C.O. Williams that are employing hundreds of our constituents.

Sir, if I were not in the House of Assembly, I would use the word hypocrisy.

The most frightening thing about it is the spin that is being applied. In 1986 to 1989, Kyffin Simpsons and C.O. Williams could have done no wrong. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central must be heard to raise his voice in this debate. He must either repudiate the words of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy or stand politically condemned by them. He and I know very well what his relationship with the Simpson family is.

Asides

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members, members, please let me hear the Honourable Member for St. James Central. You will have your turn to speak. Continue, Honourable Member.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, not only is there a need for accuracy but we also need to be fair in our assessment of what the problems may be. If Honourable Member on that side were heard to say that there is need for greater coordination, I would be the first person to agree. In my constituency I am always (humbugging) the Honourable Member for St. George North on a daily basis. He may even say that I harass him because I want to see a greater degree of coordination between the effort from his ministry, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and what takes place under the auspices of the Urban Development Commission.

There are a lot of small roads off Fitt(s) Village, Prospect and Paynes Bay which I want to see fixed. They are people living in landlocked circumstances. The houses are there but you cannot get access by way of a proper road. Access to those houses is by way of a mud track.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. James South who preceded me in that part of the constituency has repeatedly cried out for assistance in some of those areas. We want to see a greater coordination of the work effort between Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Urban Development Commission. The same principle would apply to Rural Development Commission.

I believe that recently Cabinet has taken a very strong position by saying that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Urban Development Commission and Rural Development Commission must sit together and plan and coordinate their activity because we want to improve the quality of delivery of

the social service. Sir, we want to improve the level and the rate of implementation of the projects.

If the Honourable Members were heard to be speaking to that, then I would be the first person to agree. Do not come in here and desecrate this Chamber with foolish (long talk) about \$10 million in equipment that was thrown away because that is being given wings and carried around the world and it does us all a collective harm, especially when all of us know that it is not true and it does not accord with a modicum of commonsense or proper practice.

All of us know that a warrantee situation would have to obtain and we all know that the warranty under law, would have to be honoured. Therefore, it reeks of something almost perverse to be taking the Parliament in that direction.

Sir, if the Honourable Members were heard to be saying that in addition to the problem of coordination, they were also saying that we need to be in better position to communicate with the people in the districts as to when projects are to come on stream and how long they would take, because there is a lot of dislocation, I could be the first person to agree with that because that is a reality.

I have in my constituency situations where people have gone into the constituency, started work just before the rainy season, and have not sought any advice from anybody. Sometimes they are working on a hill, they dig up the road, the sand and marl are there and when it rains all the materials are washed away. Sir, they then have to start all over and the inconvenience is spread over a long period of time.

Sir, if that was the genesis of the complaint, I could agree with it. However, I will not be part of a situation where we are going to use this

Honourable House for the abuse of the public well being.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. M.A. LASHLEY:Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a contribution to this debate. I must state that it is against the background of what was said by the Minister in relation to the fact that he indicated that St. Philip has the worst roads in this country. It is against the background that it has been confessed that \$10 million was spent in equipment in relation to the Ministry of Transport and Works.

I want to say that there are many roads in St. Philip that I would urge the Ministry and Rural Development Commission that they work as quickly as possible in repairing the roads in St. Philip.

I must state that recently I received some calls, particularly from the residents in Sanford, St. Philip, and they have indicated that they requested some assistance from the then parliamentary representative and they are still awaiting that assistance. In fact, they told me that the first time they were able to speak to a representative face-to-face was when I spoke to one of them recently.

H14: 13.50 p.m.

Sequence 18

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

1:50 p.m.

Continuation of Mr. M.A. LASHLEY:

I want to submit, Mr. Chairman, that the fact that the road on which I journey to the area of Bushy Park needs some road work. The residents there also commented that they need some assistance in relation to road works in

that area.

I must admit that quite recently, Mr. Chairman, the Minister journeyed to some part of Sanford and I would like to urge the Minister that we would like to have that work done as soon as possible. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South would know that the road from Long Bay going towards Well House is extremely bad and the residents of that area complained to the then representative, a couple of years ago.

Mr. Chairman, they complained to him before the general election. He was in here for nine years and they pleaded for some assistance for that road from Long Bay to Well House. I am asking the Minister responsible for some assistance for that road from Long Bay to Well House in St. Philip.

Sir, the Minister also mentioned the area of Six Roads to St. Philip Parish Church, inclusive of the road to Sunbury House. We know full well that Sunbury is a tourist attraction. In fact, the promoters of the Jazz Festival normally hold events there every year. That road is in a very bad state, Mr. Chairman, and I want to give the Minister notice that he should look at that, if he is seeking to develop the tourism product.

Further, Mr. Chairman, the Minister confessed that the roads of St. Philip are the worst, and a special team will be deployed to assist in the repair and maintenance of those roads.

I want to say, Sir, that as they seek to strengthen the manpower in the depots, I hope that they would try to get some of the constituents of St. Philip North, so that they could be part of that special team because they would have an intimate connection with, and knowledge of the roads in St. Philip.

Mr. Chairman, quite recently, we had reports of drainage problems in Vineyard, and the roads from Wiltshire to the Bayfield area. There must be some attempt to look seriously at solving the drainage problems in those areas. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West indicated that he hopes the politics of spite is not being practised and I certainly will submit, Mr. Chairman, that I hope the politics of spite is not being practised in St. Philip North, because they are taxpayers in this country and they are entitled to benefit from the programmes of Government, regardless of whether an Honourable Member from the Democratic Labour Party is representing them or an Honourable Member from the Barbados Labour Party is representing them in Parliament.

Mr. Chairman, I am submitting that based on that confession from the Minister, and we know full well that St. Philip has the worst roads, that there will be some very quick work done in St. Philip, so that the residents there will no longer be inconvenienced.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the expenditure under this Head, incurred for the Bridgetown Road and Safety Improvement Project. I do not know what country some of the Honourable Members on the Other Side are living in. They must be living in Timbuktu or somewhere in outer space, or perhaps under a rock or perhaps just under an illusion, but the Barbados in which I live, is a Barbados where the road infrastructure today, is a hundred times better, Sir, than it was, under the Democratic Labour Party.

It is errant nonsense of the highest order, and it runs against the grain of truth, because not only can an ordinary person with the naked eye see, but a blind man on a trotting horse, riding

backwards, can see that there has been tremendous improvement in the general road infrastructure.

The problem, Sir, is that some of them on the Other Side do not travel around the country. I travel around Barbados, Sir, and it is easier to get around Barbados today from north to south, from east to west, than it was under the Democratic Labour Party.

Whilst it is true that Bushy Park to Six Roads is still bad, if the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would drive from the Airport to the Crane, or from Six Roads down to St. David(s or BET...

Asides.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: I can give some other roads.

Yes, there are roads to be done, but to paint the picture that this degeneration in the infrastructure, as he would say, has taken place under the Barbados Labour Party is errant nonsense. The road from St. Philip Church to Six Roads is a legacy of maladministration by the Democratic Labour Party.

The immediate former Honourable Member for St. Philip North did a tremendous job in pulling St. Philip North out of the dark by major road infrastructure to tenantry roads. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North has to show now what he can do, but I do not want to spend any time on him, Sir, I want to take this Opportunity to set the record straight.

Let us take Bridgetown, Sir, Broad Street was an embarrassment to the Democratic Labour Party, it is paved today. Swan Street, Sir, was regenerated and pedestrianised. The outer Bridgetown bypass, from the bottom of University Hill, there is a lovely road through Black Road, right up along the Bridge Road, up

to the Garrison and you can drive around the Garrison again.

Sir, the inner Bridgetown bypass, Passage Road and Country Road, do you know that even as we speak, they are putting the final paving of asphalt on the section between Country Road junction and the Globe Cinema, in Roebuck Street to finish that project.

House 14, sequence 19, 14:0014

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Sir, we can go on and on with the number of roads that are being done. No administration prior to this one has had to undertake the massive major infrastructural development so necessary to carry us into the future. Sir, we have, along with the Barbados Light and Power Company, the Barbados Telephone Company, the National Petroleum Corporation and the Barbados Water Authority, taken the firm decision that we would not just go into cosmetics and lay down (barbagreen(left, right and centre, but that wherever we are going to invest in building for the future, we would do a number of things.

Many of our roads in Barbados were built in mud but that was not a problem then because only donkey carts and a (handful(of motor cars roll on them. Today, we have 18-wheeler trucks, containers that are 40 feet long and a lot of big equipment, even the cars these days are bigger, so we need to have a solid base now to accommodate them.

While we are carrying out this type of work, we have decided that much more of our electrical installation has to be underground so that in the event of there being a hurricane there would be less disruption. Our electrical distribution system is being changed now so

that from the main generation points in Bridgetown, Spring Garden and Haggatt Hall and at the airport, we have underground cabling. We are running underground cable from Haggatt Hall to the airport. We are going to Warrens and we are going through Bridgetown so that when there is an outage, the outage would be localised. We are doing the same with our telephone system. We are laying the solid infrastructure for the future by having fibre optic cabling underground that would be necessary for high speed communication of the future. Sir, Queens Park is being relaid and underground cabling is being done there.

We are also undertaking the most massive expansion of the availability of natural gas ever undertaken in Barbados. In each and every road project, be it in a tenantry road, for example, in Pegwell Bogg in Christ Church East, we have put in the pipes for the natural gas. We have done the same in all of the highway projects, that you know well, Sir, such as along Culloden Road, Bridge Road...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you are going to get to Seclusion Road, Black Rock, I hope.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: We have put natural gas pipes in all of those areas while we are doing this work. Today a road is no longer just a road. Sidewalks now are made user-friendly for the disabled. Do you remember, Sir, the time when a person in a wheelchair or a person who walked with a little difficulty could not negotiate sidewalks in Barbados? Today, all of the grading onto the pavement is made smooth so that you can roll down and up the ramps. Notwithstanding, the higher standards that we have set for these roads, we have built more roads in less time than the Democratic Labour Party, those are the facts. Sir, under this administration, the Ministry of Public Works was put in a position where it could make a

serious difference to the roads in Barbados. There was a time when under a Democratic Labour Party administration, the Ministry of Public Works was stripped of its capacity to pave roads in Barbados. Every time you wanted to lay a little (barbagreen(, not just for new roads, you had to go to a contractor. They had no capacity at all. The Democratic Labour Party sold the (barbagreen(plant and the pavers. Not only did you had to go out to a contractor for a new road, which makes sense, you also had to go a contractor every time you wanted to improve the services.

Sir, we put the Ministry of Public Works back in a position, by way of giving them pavers to use the asphalt, that they could undertake their own paving. There is now a dedicated paving crew that is able to go to work every day to pave the roads in Barbados. That is how the people in Ealing Park, in Gibbons Terrace, in Pegwell Bogg and Hill View Road were able to get their roads paved. That is how, under this very aggressive programme, from a energised and capitalised Ministry of Public Works that the people in the rest of Gibbons in the various stages that need to get their roads pave and the people in the last two avenues of Ealing Park South, areas which are well-known by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, will get their work done.

Lower Carters Gap was done by the Ministry of Public Works paving machine. There was no need to go a contractor to do that. So the Ministry of Public Works has been able to do a number of roads from St. Lucy to Christ Church and to the very St. Philip that the Honourable Member refuses to admit had got a number of roads done by the former representative. He has not got one done yet. The former representative for St. Philip North was able to get many roads done in St. Philip north.

Sir, there is more to be done, but we as

Members of Parliament representing our constituencies can have greater hope that the roads in our constituencies would be done than if we were under a Democratic Labour Party administration because they are all talk. We bought \$10 million in equipment to be put in the depots, not to be put in the Pine. Therefore, South Point depot is able to get out there and do work in the constituencies of this Honourable Member and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Sir, we can go around depot by depot which has been made effective to get on with the work.

Sir, there is one other issue I want to raise. Sir, very often the Ministry of Public Works does itself somewhat of a disservice by not letting the public know who should take the blame for some of the delays we have. I made mention of the fact that we are undertaking work with several agencies. Whenever a road is dug up in Barbados, someone says, (Oh Lord, there goes the Ministry of Public Works again,(But much of the work that is done, and sometimes not done well, is done by the other utility companies.

Even though we have a system in place where there is a coordinating group which is supposed to meet and plan works in advance and where there is a system of penalties in place for utility companies that failed to reinstate the roads within the time frame, a lot of the fall down occurs because there needs to be even better inspection of the quality of the reinstatement. Sometimes one of the utility companies would cut a road to lay their infrastructure but the quality of the reinstatement gives you a bumpy surface where it was once smooth. Therefore, I would want to give the fullest support to the Ministry of Public Works to use every means at its disposal to make sure that where utility companies are cutting up the roads in Barbados that they reinstate them quickly and also well. We will continue for our part to give them every possible accommodation where we are

putting in new infrastructure.

Sir, I look forward to this equipment, which we know is available coming in to do some further work in Christ Church East. There are areas in Gibbons Terrace that are to be finished. In Parish Land, the road between the Providence Church and the St. Bartholomew(s) School, the top road as it is called, was surfaced in the 1970s which now needs to be resurfaced. In Silver Sands, there are several roads. The road next to the Silver Rock Hotel and indeed the road between the Silver Rock Hotel and the Silver Sands Resort, part of our major very attractive tourism infrastructure and providing a wonderful opportunity for people in the community of Silver Sands to be involved...

In Sayers Court as soon as the natural gas installation is finished, I would expect the paving machine of the Ministry of Public Works to move in and give full reinstatement in that area.

House 14 Sequence 20

2:10 p.m.

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

Continuation of Hon. R. R. FARLEY:

Sir, I have every confidence that it would be done given that this team is at the helm, given that we have put serious resources at the disposal of the Ministry of Public Works, and that we have an effective programme. Therefore, I can support Honourable Members making the call for additional roads to be done in their constituencies but I would like them to give credit where credit is due and to let their conscience be their guide.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Well find one if you do

not have any but let their conscience be their guide, especially the Honourable Member for St. Philip North. I drive through his constituency even more regularly than he does. Do not let him only use the St. Philip Church to Six Roads route all the time, let him take another route and he would see that, indeed, St. Philip is an area which is being looked after.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to give every support to this expenditure and to say that when we leave here today, let us take a drive around Bridgetown and see what this good administration, with vision and action, has carried out in terms of being able to get around our capital City.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South, before you start, let me say that this debate will come to an end at 227 p.m. You are going to speak for five minute, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West will speak for five minutes, and then the Honourable Member for St. George North will wind up.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make my contribution, however short it is forced to be, but like the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, as I sat here listening to Honourable Members on the Other Side complaining about roads to be done in their constituencies and about all of the other negative things that were said about the Ministry of Public Works, one would have gotten the impression that, over the last nine years, we had a very inactive Ministry of Public Works, and that Government has not put much emphasis and resources on improving that aspect of our infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, you once led the charge at the Ministry of Public Works, which saw this Government executing a road rehabilitation programme larger and more effective than any other previous administration.

Sir, there is a saying that Barbadians have very short memories but I do not think that the memories of the Honourable Members on the Other Side could be so short, so as not to remember that this administration has established the Rural Development Commission and the Urban Development Commission as a way of fast-tracking the delivery of important services to certain parts of Barbados. Sir, an aspect of the mandate of those Commissions was to get on with the job of rehabilitating or constructing roads in communities that never had paved roads.

Sir, in the last administration, I had the good fortune to be in charge of the Rural Development Commission and I know the kind of emphasis which was placed on road construction.

Mr. Chairman, when we add the records of both the Urban Development Commission and the Rural Development Commission, along with that of the Ministry of Public Works, of which you were in charge for some period, collectively the performance of the Government, through those three agencies as it relates to road construction, is unparalleled with any other administration.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I am not making any sport, the record is there. I would want to remind the Honourable Members for St. Philip North and West respectively that they have been the beneficiaries of some very solid work that was put into those constituencies by persons who were there previously.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to list quickly the roads which were done in St. Philip North and in St. Philip West by the previous representatives who were part of this illustrious team over here. With regards to St. Philip

North, the Honourable Member on that side has said that the previous Member was sleeping. Mr. Chairman, if a parliamentary representative could have been sleeping and could have still achieved these things, I think that more of us should go to sleep.

Mr. Chairman, the road from Ebenezer to Church Village was done many years ago. They knew that. Clifden was done some years ago, Thicketts Hill was done, Parish Land was done. I opened Parish Land as one of my first duties as Minister responsible for Rural Development. River Land is near completion. A complete road was put in Eastbourne. The road from Ruby Corner, near Headley(s) Shop, over to Sanford was paved. The road leading into the fishing complex at Skeetes Bay was fixed, so that persons wanting to get down to Skeetes Bay would be driving on a proper surface.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West has been the beneficiary of a lot of good work that was done in his constituency by this administration. A nylon road from Six Roads to Searles was done. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, during the last General Election, I left my constituency office in the Crane and drove to St. Patrick to help Lynette Eastmond, now Senator. Sir, from the instant I left my constituency office, I drove on nylon roads from the Crane, onto Six Roads, and onto St. Patrick.

Sir, it was there and then, before starting my speech, that I recalled the people of St. Philip were being short-changed by the Democratic Labour Party and that if they had not elected the Barbados Labour Party, chances are that I would have not been able to have driven on nylon roads.

Sir, the list goes on: Lowthers Hill, In Charnocks, Bentley(s) Tenantry, St. Patricks, where two side roads were done, and in

Harlington.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, the list cannot go on much further. I would ask you to wind up, please.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: These are all roads that the Honourable Member has inherited. Sir, before leaving the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I signed off on a project to be done in Highlands, yet the Honourable Member is going to come here and would seek to give the impression that the Ministry of Public Works, and this administration, were inactive.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The road must end there.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I have not gone on to the best because they have been more active in the constituency of St. Philip South.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, I appreciate it. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, no Honourable Member on this side is responsible for the statement that the roads in St. Philip were actually the worst roads in Barbados. That was said by the current Minister of Public Works and not by any Honourable Member on this side, therefore, I am not even going to respond to that charge.

Mr. Chairman, I would only want to say to the Honourable Members on the Other Side that self praise is no praise. They were elected to carry out a responsibility to the Barbadian people and that is what they should do. It is part of the responsibility of Government to provide roads for persons who pay their taxes in Barbados, and, therefore, I do not want to hear that sort of foolishness. It is part of their responsibility to provide street lights as well.

Therefore, when it comes to the patting of backs, et cetera, that is what they are being paid to do, and I would strongly want them to recall that they get salaries for that purpose.

House No.14(21)2:20 p.m.

Thursday, December 9, 2003

Continuation of Dr.D.C. ESTWICK:

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that these Honourable Members continue after nine years to blame the Democratic Labour Party for every single ill in Barbados. If I am to accept that after nine years they could not correct any of the so-called deficits that were left, then something is fundamentally wrong. I am sure that the people in Barbados will not make the same mistake at the polls again because anyone who cannot solve a problem in nine years is suffering from some mental form of deterioration or they are close to being senile.

I also want to suggest to Honourable Members on the other side that nine roads were fixed in St. Philip North in nine years and I can speak only to two roads in St. Philip West which were repaired before the general elections. If one were to check the number of roads done just before the general elections, Barbadians would understand that they are being taken for a ride in this country by the Barbados Labour Party because that is the only time that roads are repaired.

I hope that before the next general elections that the roads are repaired in St. Philip...

Hon. A.P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I do not have the exact records before me but I recall when I had responsibility for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development that in a four-year period the Rural Development Commission was responsible for constructing no fewer than 90 roads

throughout the length and breadth of rural Barbados. Sir, leading up to the general elections, because of the ongoing programmes, one would expect roads to be constructed but I can assure you that before the Prime Minister announced the date for elections, that the commission completed no fewer than 90 roads and that is an excellent record. When we add the roads done by the Urban Development Commission and the Ministry of Public Works, it gives a lie to what the Honourable Member for St. Philip West said a moment ago that the only time roads are done is close to the general elections. Sir, it is a very reckless statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have made your point.

Dr.D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I can only speak from the evidence which I have and as a scientist I only use empirical evidence to support the statements that I made. I can say without reservation that the attempts at repair of the roads in Chapel were done during the elections period. They attempted to execute road repairs in Brereton and this was also done during the period of elections. Let the Honourable Member refute that charge.

Sir, I like to involve the constituents in most of my activity and I involve them in a petition whenever I made a request for service on their behalf. Today, I want to say that a petition was done for completion of road works in Chapel, Brereton, Carrington Hill, Sinclair Alley, Ebenezer, Charnocks and Marchfield. We are now in the process of finishing Cottage Way and Cox Hill and the constituents who live in those areas will participate in the request for those services. If there is any attempt not to provide those services then there will be a battle between Government and the constituents for not providing the service when the representative asked for it to be provided with the assistance of a petition from the constituents. Sir, I want the Parliament to

make a record of this.

Sir, I thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. George North, you have two minutes to wind up the debate.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point for the record that over the last ten years the Government completed more than 180 tenantry roads across Barbados and we still have another 308 roads to be completed. Earlier today, I gave the House a figure of 150 roads but my officers have drawn to my attention that there are still approximately 308 tenantry roads to be repaired.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy wanted to find out if all the work was done in the urban corridor but we need to look at Package B which includes, Orange Hill to Greenwich Village, Dash Valley to St. George, Welches to Salters and Crane to Rock Hall, which are roads in the rural constituency. We also did a lot of work in the Scotland area and on Highway 7 which can be considered rural tenancies. Sir, Government has spent a lot of money in the last ten years on roads and we will continue to repair roads.

Sir, a lot of work was also done in St. Philip. We have identified many roads in this parish which still have to be repaired and we will continue to expedite the process in the next financial year. I believe in a ten year period we should be able to put a substantial dent in all the roads in the country to provide better roads for the travelling public.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, with respect to Heads 13 and 31, I beg to move that the Explanatory Notes as amended stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. R. R. FARLEY, seconded by Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, Mr. Chairman reported passing of one Money Resolution to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. R. FARLEY, seconded by Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, the Resolution was read a first, second and third time and passed.

H14/14:30

Sequence 22

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

ORDER NO. 4

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT PRICE ROAD, ST. LAWRENCE IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before the House is a very simple one. It is an acquisition of some years going back, I believe to a Cabinet decision of 1998. As a result of road improvements at St. Lawrence Gap, part of the lands of St. Clair Howell, at that time he was given notice that

some 600 square feet of his land would be acquired for home improvement purposes, ultimately only about 550 square feet were acquired. This Resolution before the House today seeks to give Parliamentary approval to the acquisition which has taken because the lands were acquired and the roads were improved. Therefore, it is a question of going through this process in order to formalise and complete the acquisition process and to open negotiations with him in respect of compensation for the parcel of land. It is not a very large parcel of land.

Sir, relative to road improvement in that area, we have come to this Honourable House to complete the acquisition. I imagine that over the next few months we will seek to tidy up some of these outstanding matter and we will see more of these Resolutions before the Chamber. In fact, there are several compulsory acquisitions that were done all over Barbados and because of stalled negotiation processes or difficulty, a number of acquisition processes have not been completed.

On Monday I met with the new Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary and we sought to go through our estimates and to prepare ourselves for the next financial year, instructions were given that a list be formulated of all the old outstanding acquisitions which have not yet been brought to Parliament. In some cases some old ladies may have died and their families would like to get the money that is due to them. These things create a nuisance and an unnecessary irritation as to whose land had been used by successive administrations and who should be compensated for the loss of their properties.

We need to see the complete list, see who these people are, where they are and what is the amount of money that would be needed to compensate these people. Maybe we can come into this Honourable House one day and do a

whole sleuth of them and get them out of the way. However, until that list is finished, it goes to Cabinet and that particular intention is given effect to, you will see us come periodically with one acquisition at a time as we seek to tidy up those outstanding acquisition.

This Resolution is a 1998 acquisition, Cabinet approval was given, the land used and is in the process of the taxpayers of Barbados and this Honourable House is now being asked to give legal effect to it so that we can complete the compensation process.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: I beg to Second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government(s Business for today. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th December 2003 at 1000 o'clock in the morning.

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

H14: 14.36 p.m

Sequence 23