
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1999 – 2003

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, January 29, 2003, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP, K.A.
(President)
His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, C.B.E., Q.C.
(Deputy President)
Senator the Hon. G. S. H. MURRAY, B.A. (Hons.)
J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator the Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, FRCS, (Edin.)
J.P. (Minister of Health) (Leader of the Senate)
Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Econ.)
J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic
Development)
Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E.,
G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) P.G.C.E., J.P.
Senator Miss J. C. ODLE, J.P.
Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS, B.Sc., M.B.A., J.P.
Senator D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.) L.E.C.
Senator D. L. HAYNES, S.C.M.
Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON, B.A. (Hons.) M.P.H.
(Harvard) S.R.N.
Senator C. K. LAURIE, D.I.C.T.A. (S.T.) FBSTA
Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN
Senator LeR. H. McCLEAN, B.Sc. (Hons.)
Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M.,
B.Com., F.C.A., Hon. LL.D. (U.W.I.)
Senator B. R. COLLYMORE, C.M.G.

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: During the recess, I received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor-General. It was dated 27th December, 2002.

27th December, 2002

Dear Mr. President,

I shall be away from the island during the period 29th December to 31st December, 2002 on a visit to Georgetown, Guyana to attend the Funeral of The Hon. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 31(1) (a) of the Constitution it is proposed that His Honour, Sir Fred W. Gollop, K.A., President of the Senate should be appointed to be my deputy during my absence.

As the Honourable The Senate will not be meeting prior to my departure, it will not be possible for the usual formal message to be sent down to your Chamber. Will you, therefore, please bring my absence formally to the attention of The Honourable The Senate when next it meets.

I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor-General dated the 13th January, 2003.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

“His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, under section 3(1) of the Ombudsman Act, Cap. 8A, he

proposes to appoint Cyril Courtenay Clarke, Esquire, to the office of the Ombudsman, established by section 2 of the said Act.

His Excellency further has the honour to seek the approval of The Honourable The Senate for the proposed appointment pursuant to section 3(2) of the said Act.”

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents before The Honourable The Senate:

1. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 2002.
2. Insurance (Mutual Company) (Conversion) Regulations, 2002.
3. Special Development Areas (J.S. Realty & Investment Company Limited) Notice, 2002.
4. Financial Statements of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited for the year ending December 31, 2001.
5. Mutual Funds Regulations, 2002.
6. Financial Administration and Audit (Financial) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE OF RESOLUTIONS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of a Resolution that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, approving the proposed appointment of Cyril Courtney Clarke, Esquire to the office of Ombudsman.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, before we begin public business, there are two matters which occurred since we have last met. At the last meeting in December, one of our Honourable colleagues was not present and we could not congratulate him on having been conferred a National Honour in November and I propose to do so today.

In addition, since that Sitting a former member of this Chamber, Mr. Randolph Fields, has passed away. I also want to pay tribute to him.

Sir, as I said earlier, I want to congratulate an Honourable colleague of this Chamber who is also a friend of mine. This gentleman who may be described as being short in stature has a colossal intellect and astounding oratorical skills. Over the years, he travelled from the

beautiful hills of St. Joseph to the corridors of the International Confederation of Trade Unions and the ILO in his infallible representation of the rights of workers.

After receiving his secondary education at a very well known institution in Christ Church, he obtained a BA in English, Economics and History. Armed with these qualifications, he taught at the Modern High School and was described variously as a very good teacher, a firebrand at times, a rabble rouser at other times, but he remained outspoken and achieved a salary increase there in spite of the considerable odds.

After a decade of this, he moved on to the Barbados Workers Union to work as a personal assistant to the then General Secretary, the late Excellent Sir Frank Walcott, as it was obvious that he was a future trade union leader. Later he was appointed as General Secretary, where he was not only responsible for negotiations, grievance handling and organising workers but also lectured in labour studies there, having obtained a Masters degree in labour education in the interim.

With the retirement of Sir Frank, he naturally became the General Secretary. Of course, he was elected to sit in the Other Place in 1986 and served there until June 1994 before being elevated to this Honourable Chamber in that same year, after a very important national event.

This devoted son of the soil served on an Advisory Commission of Inquiry into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a National Committee on Reconciliation. Mr. President, I first encountered this Honourable Member in 1996 when as an active trade unionist in my own right, but then representing BAMP, we were embroiled in a battle with the Government and had commenced industrial action. He served as an excellent mediator and pointed out to the Government officials, the errors they were making.

During that period and afterwards, I have admired his cogent and incisive arguments, especially when I served as Deputy Chairman to him on the Board of UCAL, which was founded by him, the first Barbados worker-owned, worker-managed and worker-directed company in this island.

Over the years, I have sought his advice on a number of matters and he has always been willing to offer his wise counsel. I must say that we have also sat on the opposite sides of the table. When I was chairman of the Barbados Transport Board, I had occasions to negotiate on behalf of the Board and to disagree with him, but it has never been acrimonious. Sir, he is a formidable negotiator who can be calm, who can be hostile, who can be fair, who can be conciliatory, who can be charming and also shrewd, depending on what is necessary. No doubt these are the

qualities which would have led him to become president of the Caribbean Conference of Labour and to be the first black person to be elected president of the 126 million member ICFTU and now to the chair of the Workers Group of the ILO.

At home, he still functions as President of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados and through this, he has been preeminent in sustaining the social partnership here.

Sir, it is indeed an honour for me to congratulate Sir Roy for an accolade which has been bestowed on him in recognition of his distinguished service to the workers of our country and for bringing credit to Barbados both regionally and internationally who, in spite of all that I have said, remains a gracious and unassuming gentleman.

I congratulate you, Sir Roy.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, before I pay tribute to Sir Roy Trotman, I would like to apologise for the absence of Senator Mascoll who has indicated that he could not be here today. And therefore, I have the distinct honour and pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding Barbadian today.

My first encounter, Sir, with Sir Roy was as a student at the Modern High School, when as a young man he came to teach there. I hope no one is assuming that he is very ancient because he taught me. I think it is because he started to teach very young, and while I was also young.

Asides.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Sir, I would like to say that it is a distinct honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of several students of that time who, I am sure, were they here, would support the sentiments which I have expressed. If you will permit me, I will put on record some of the people whom I am sure would be happy to have me speak for them today. Persons such as Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix who is now a judge in New York, Cynthia Burnett, Jewel Thorne, Joslyn Brewster, Louis Parris, Jeffrey Gittens, Attley Ince, Esther Ashby, Deighton Haynes, Sarston Lavine and Harry Brooks, all of whom, Sir, I am sure would want to add their voices to the honour which is being paid to Sir Roy today.

Sir, the fact that among those persons only a few of those persons that he would have taught at the Modern High School, in that small group, you have a judge, two engineers, a cardiac specialist, two senior bankers, an MBA and a senior public servant. That, Sir, I think is testimony to the

kind of effort and influence which Sir Roy had on those persons of that day.

Sir, that influence is still felt because whenever two or three of those persons that I mentioned get together, chances are his name will come up in one way or the other. We saw him as a mentor, role model. We saw him as a person in whom we could have confidence and whom we could trust and one who taught many of us the importance of standing up for what is right and what is just.

In addition, Sir, to being a teacher of excellence, he has been a trade unionist who, and I think I should say that even though he was a politician, he always sees himself as a trade unionist first. The fact that he was to take what may have been seen as unpopular decisions by persons with whom he was associated politically, the fact remains that he has always been prepared to make decisions or to take decisions based on a principled stance.

11.25 a.m.

As a role model for the working-class and grass-roots people, having been elevated to great heights, he still refuses to look down on any man. He has been always one who will treat persons with the respect that is due to them and in return he is very highly respected by those with whom he comes into contact.

I would like, on the behalf of my former schoolmates, my wife and the Democratic Labour Party, to pay tribute to Sir Roy. I hope that he will continue to perform with the same excellence which has brought great honour to the Barbados Workers Union and to Barbados and I wish him continued success in all of his endeavours.

SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I was thrilled to hear of Sir Roy's elevation. I recall the first time I spoke to him. I heard him speaking in the Other Place and I was so impressed with his eloquence and his dignity that as soon as I got the opportunity I went up to him and asked him where he had gone to school. It was not the St. Michael School, but it was a school for which I had the greatest respect; and we had a little chat.

Mr. President, the motto of the Barbados Workers Union, as everyone knows, is "Without vision the people perish". Sir Roy has shown in many ways that he himself has vision. He established United Commercial Autoworks Limited (UCAL) a company which is owned and directed by workers to provide maintenance and service to vehicles. I know that he is very proud of it and he has good reasons to be. It is no wonder that he evokes great admiration.

He is amazingly patient and self-controlled but when necessary, as our Leader has intimated, he can be firm. A very direct and no-nonsense person, he has made a point not

to elaborate needlessly. Once he makes a point, he does not belabour it. As is well known, he has great dedication to the trade union movement. I am a member of a union which is connected with the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB), so in some instances I speak from first-hand knowledge and in others I speak from reliable sources. His strength of character and his adherence to principles is also well-known. He is highly principled. He is greatly respected abroad as well as locally. He has a patent and a real understanding of international issues and how Barbados has to fit in an international context.

It has already been observed that he is a good educator and as such he knows how to explain and is generous in sharing knowledge and information. In addition to being a great negotiator, and we have seen it in this Honourable Chamber, he has a very open mind. In a negotiating context as well as in this context his style is unequalled.

Mr. President, at the time Sir Roy assumed the chief post at the union, it required a person with the capacity to adapt, to recognize reality and the ability to reach accommodation. In this regard, he was the perfect successor to the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott. He is also very good at grasping issues without losing sight of the needs of his constituents. I am sure that we have all recognised that.

Moreover, and very important, he is a patriot. He showed this undoubtedly in 1991, but I need say no more on that score. A devout Christian, he is loyal to friends and colleagues. I have discovered too that he is basically a very kind person and kindness is a most valuable attribute. He also has a great concern for the elderly, I know that firsthand, I am not speaking about myself. Thus, he enjoys the complete loyalty and the confidence of his colleagues.

His commitment to the causes which he has championed is totally unselfish. I would say, as the great bard has said, that on such sacrifices, the gods themselves throw incense. Very important, and a value or a gift which I think that the good Lord bestows on many on us, unfortunately some lacked it, but he has it in abundance, he has a sense of humour.

Mr. President, I am sure that this honour will sit very lightly on Sir Roy. Again, I wish to congratulate him on my behalf and on that of my family who were just as pleased as I was and I pray that he will enjoy it for many years to come.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, it is indeed a privilege and an honour for me this morning to be able to offer like others before me my few words of commendation on the honour that has been bestowed on Sir Roy. There is no more a deserving and finer Barbadian than Sir Roy who could have gotten this honour.

The thing that struck me from the early 70s when I met Sir Roy through the Barbados Workers Union – I moved on, as he would say to be a president within the division of the Cable and Wireless division of the Barbados Workers Union where we worked very closely together – has always been his humility. It is something that seemed to have been etched on his psyche and that humility has remained with him throughout his life. He has always demonstrated to be a principled individual and no matter what the circumstance, those principles that he holds dearly will rise to the occasion.

I know that persons from those days like the late MacDonald Blunte, the late Claude Skeete, Lemuel Daniel, Arleigh Marshall, Tony Alleyne, a host of persons, those that have gone to the great beyond and those that are still with us, would wish to have this opportunity today to be able to say to Sir Roy how they feel about his honour.

Sir Roy has always been relentless in what he believes. We witnessed, and people continue to allude to it, the experience of the early 1990s but that was a man who was standing up for his principle and nothing would have dissuaded him from doing what he did and should circumstance, I say this boldly, warrant him to take similar action, I am certain he would take it today.

What I want to speak to has to do with the critical juncture at which Sir Roy took over the leadership of the Barbados Workers Union. He took over the leadership, to my mind, at a time when change was taking place not as rapidly as it is today but it was at that point where the nature and the role of trade unionism was changing, though not as rapidly as it is today. It was at that point that it required someone with tremendous leadership skills to be able to move forward the work that was started by his predecessors. It was for the person to understand the difficulties and the challenges of the 70s, 80s, 90s and now the 2000s.
11.35 a.m.

Sir Roy has been able to do it in a very simple way without standing removed from it, without even his own membership recognising how he has been able to achieve it. In truth and in fact, he has had to be able to educate those persons within the Union for them to be able to understand why is it that, from time to time, he would have to take certain positions or stances. Clearly, certainly within the last 30 years, the nature of industrial relations have had to change and Sir Roy has been there with it.

Mr. President, I guess that people have not always agreed 100 per cent with some of the decisions and positions that Sir Roy has had to take; but that is life. For him, as long as a person comes on a principled position, then Sir Roy can accept whatever is said thereafter.

Sir Roy came to lead the Barbados Workers Union at a critical juncture, which was good for that period and now. When Sir Roy took over, there was no World Trade Organisation (WTO), no Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), no graduation of small countries for special funds from the World Bank, *et cetera*. Therefore, the nature and the role of the Union had to change. The Union had to become, in every respect, a partner within the business. That is the challenge with which Sir Roy was faced because he had to be able to say to his membership that it was not just about receiving something today, it is about the survivability of the institution, the company or the enterprise. I know that it has not been easy for Sir Roy.

Mr. President, I have sat at Sir Roy's feet and have learnt a lot by it during the years of industrial relations and industrial negotiations.

Senator Dame Patricia is absolutely correct when she stated that Sir Roy is an absolute gentleman when it comes to being a negotiator. I recently had an occasion to put a case on the behalf of the corporation for which I have the honour to be the Chairman. I thought I had put the most compelling argument for moving ahead with immediacy. Across the table was Sir Roy, smiling. I wondered how he was going to respond to all that I had said. Believe me, Sir Roy did himself proud.

I could not have faulted his arguments regarding my compelling argument. Afterwards, I said to him that one could never be certain as to the direction which Sir Roy would take at these negotiations.

Mr. President, may I say to Sir Roy that it has been a pleasure over the years working with him. I have seen how he has grown in the job and how he has developed within the trade union movement. May I say to him that there is still a lot to be done. I think he has created the kind of processes, systems and structures within the Union itself to be able to meet the challenges of the day and in the future.

There are some persons very close to me who sit on some of those organs of the union. On this occasion, I know they would want me to extend congratulations.

Sir Roy, I simply want to say to you that Barbados is proud of you. I am proud of you. The Union and membership are equally proud of you. You have, indeed, done us proud as a country. I know that along with your humility, there is that deep religious belief and conviction. May you long continue to serve us and may God continue to bless you richly. I am so obliged, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON: Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to congratulate Sir Roy on being

conferred with his Knighthood. I sincerely believe my congratulations are in order for the trade union movement in Barbados, the Caribbean, the Americas and, indeed, throughout the world.

Of course, we are all aware that the trade union movement had other knights in the late Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, Right Excellent Sir Hugh Springer, Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott and others.

Mr. President, we feel that Sir Roy has been a *tour de force* in the trade union movement in Barbados and throughout the world. Sir Roy would not have been where he is today if it had not been for his hard work and dedication. It does not, in anyway, surprise me that a man of such humble background has risen through the ranks of the trade union movement without the fanfare like that of other trade union leaders. Sir Roy has steered the ship that has carried the workers of all classes, colours and creeds into the historical partnership between the private sector, the Government and the trade union movement, a vision from which we are benefiting today and from which we will receive many more benefits, given what is happening in the world today.

Mr. President, I have had the opportunity to sit at the feet of Sir Roy during meetings and negotiations in the trade union movement. I have greatly admired him. I often wished that I could have been like him but, of course, that is not possible. He has a gift and an art which cannot be duplicated.

I have witnessed Sir Roy during the arduous task of putting together unique protocols and other instruments, for which we are very grateful, which in some regards, have shifted trade unionism from business as usual to trade unionism to meet the demands of globalisation in a rapidly changing world.

Mr. President, this is an opportunity, and I am certain that the nursing fraternity would like me to extend on their behalf warmest congratulations to Sir Roy on the well-deserved Knighthood. As he knows, the nursing fraternity depends heavily on him. We need his counsel. Rightly or wrongly, they wait for Sir Roy to lead them.
11.45 a.m.

Sir Roy will now be moving with lords and kings in the world but he will never lose his common touch. He will always be our "Trottie" as all in the trade union refer to him behind his back and, Sir, I am now saying it in front of his face. He will always be the same and we look forward to his having many more years to continue to guide us, lead us and to help us chart our course in the unknown, frightening rough seas ahead of us.

Sir Roy, we feel safe in your hands. No one else deserves the honour bestowed on Sir Roy. God Bless you, Sir Roy.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, only an illness in my family or my absence from the country would have prevented me from participating in this debate today. This honour which has been bestowed on Sir Roy is more than the perfunctory honour for outstanding achievement but it also represents the openness of the Barbadian society which allows persons from the most humble and obscure origins who are prepared to work hard, honestly, forthright and diligently to command the attention and respect of the society and be able to rise to the highest height. Sir, this is a characteristic that will long endure in the Barbadian society.

Sir Roy's achievement indicates that the whole question of upward social mobility generated by education is still alive and well in Barbados. His honour has helped to reinforce the national trend and should give hope and comfort particularly to young Barbadians whose heads may be befuddled by the confusion being treated to them and should stabilise their attitudes towards Barbados and the possible achievements in the Barbadian society.

It also represents a warm and outstanding tribute to the role and high status that the trade union movement continues to play in the Barbadian society. As a member of the Government and the Barbados Labour Party, I am proud to be associated with this reaffirmation of the importance of the trade union movement, given the long association that the Barbados Labour Party has had with the trade union movement, having been instrumental in its formation in the 1940s and also the key roles played in the whole trade union movement by three outstanding National Heroes, the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, the Right Excellent Sir Hugh Springer, the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott. Although Sir Roy has not come out of the Barbados Labour Party's fold, I think that having had his roots and grounding in St. Joseph, he would have been exposed to the fine and excellent work done in that parish and would have been influenced by the representation given to that parish by the late Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams. Sir, having been exposed to those works and approaches in his formative years, his thinking has been influenced and this sparked an interest in the trade union movement after which he eventually became associated.

Sir, my first memorable encounter with Sir Roy was over a cricket match when we were both at school on the Bim pasture in Bank Hall and while Sir Roy did not make his mark as a player on the field, his language caught my ear. It was amazing that even in a cricket match among youngsters at school, in the heat of that battle, when as young people we

were looking to have fun, in the most virulent and aggressive moment his language was always impeccable and it made an indelible mark on me and my friends from Spooner's because Sir Roy was able to maintain his composure and command of the English language even at that time. This characteristic has been maintained throughout life because he loves to use good language and is a fine exponent of the art. He makes memorable statements that remain with people for a long time.

I have shared this Chamber with him over the last eight years and it was also a pleasure to work with Sir Roy over the question of the Social Partnership. I believe while Sir Roy has won much deserving plaudits for his work in public, that a lot of his finest work takes place away from the camera, out of the spotlight where the nuts and bolts of issues have to be thrashed out and battled in a vigorous and exhausting fashion. On those occasions, when it cannot be said that he is playing for the camera or performing for his public image, he continues to render invaluable service to the country. I have seen him in action a few years ago over the hotel workers' strike that started at ten o'clock the morning and went on until 5:30 a.m. the next morning and Sir Roy remained there in the heat of battle, never flagging, and rendered indispensable service to the society as a whole.

His role should not be understated in the formulation, the structuring, the operation and maintenance of the Social Partnership comprising the workers, the trade union movement, the private sector and Government.

He has had the opportunity to attend a number of international conferences dealing with public sector management in Malta, Malaysia, South Africa and Scotland and wherever I go and the questions of management and how society grapples with issues emerge, invariably there is the mention of the Social Partnership of Barbados and the Protocols. I always take copies of the current Protocols with me when I travel to these places because I am always asked to speak and explain how it was done, how it emerged and I always take the occasion to mention Sir Roy and the key role played by him and his movement in cementing the Social Partnership which is something that we take for granted in the Barbadian society but that astounds persons in and out of the Caribbean as to what is the Barbadian psyche and personality that allow persons to work together in cohesion for the good of the society but what in other societies could be seemed as bitter and hostile rivals and perhaps even enemies.
11.55 a.m.

Sir, we have to remember that Sir Roy has not always had a very smooth ride on his rise to the top because he worked hard and made many sacrifices both in education and other fields. Not only has he not had a smooth ride, it

might also be fair to say that he has not had an easy march, given the title "Duke" that was attached to him some years ago.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Sir, he was referred to as the "Duke" and some people might in a more lighthearted moment regard his honour as a demotion from a duke to a knight. Nevertheless, this is one which is popularly acclaimed and much deserved and which he will treat with great honour.

Sir, I also think that the honour to Sir Roy is indirectly a tribute to the Trotman family whose support would have been vital and indispensable to him over the years and without which he probably could not have made the giant strides and the outstanding achievements that have all been of credit to Barbados and Barbadians, both nationally and internationally. Sir, it could not be easy on his family to ask them to give up so many hours, days and weeks, either through work in Barbados or travelling abroad to serve the interest of the society here and further afield.

Sir, I know that in public service very often little attention is paid to these sacrifices, but it seems to me from observing Sir Roy around the negotiating table, he seems to be a dedicated family man. I also judge him from the fact that anytime he was in the country, most mornings we are likely to see each other on the road as he still finds time to drop his daughter to school. I think that is a test of interest and commitment to his family and his daughter. It is a very fine school by the name of Combermere and I cannot help but notice that.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I am sure that Sir Roy would not lose those connections with reality, those connections with his family, daughter and young people, which will keep him grounded. Young people also give you a different perspective of life as you talk to them. I think that it is, therefore, important as he roams the world and bestrides the corridors of power, mixing with and interchanging with persons at the highest level, that he always stays grounded in the society. There is nothing like your daughter, son or family to bring you down to earth and let you know that despite your public image persona, you are just daddy, dad, father or husband, you breathe the same air and you are a human being. I think that it is important to have that kind of balance in one's life and I think that from my observation Sir Roy has handled that balance quite well and I look forward to participating with him in his other works and to observe his career from henceforth.

Sir, I would like to urge him at this point of his career and his life that he seek to begin to record his life's work, thoughts, approaches and outlook for future generations. Sir, far too many of our outstanding persons have gone on without recording those things. I would like to think that in the age of technology that these things can be easily done. I would like to urge Sir Roy to find time, a little bit of time, wherever possible, to record those things for the future of Barbados because they might very well turn out to be object lessons for future persons to see the kind of thinking that would have led to certain achievements, development and decisions that have all inured to the good of the Barbadian society.

Sir, in that context, I wish Sir Roy very good luck, congratulations. To me, it is not the end of the line for him.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Mr. President, this is a happy occasion and I am very pleased to be here to participate in it. It takes my mind back at least 30 years when LeRoy Trotman, as he then was, and I met across the table to negotiate contracts. He was one of the delegates. At that time, Sir Frank Walcott was very active, and I was on the other side of the table with the management of various companies.

Sir Roy was fortunate to have had an outstanding mentor in Sir Frank Walcott and I think that he would be the first to acknowledge that. He learnt from Sir Frank and so did I. As Sir Frank became older, Sir Roy took on greater positions and responsibility within the trade union. Many times we sat across the table and I do not remember a single occasion where there was anger neither do I remember a single occasion where there was instant agreement and that was the nature of negotiations. He had to do his best for his constituency, the workers, and I had to do my best for my constituency, the shareholders and management that I was representing.

Mr. President, that process went on for nearly 20 years and for me it was a learning experience. We did not realise it at the time but I think that developed a mutual trust and respect that would serve us in very good stead by the time the 1990s came around. Sir, as we will recall, that was a very difficult period in Barbadian history, economically and financially. The Government had to invite the IMF into Barbados and we had to enter a structural adjustment programme. I think that our training over 20 years of working together enabled us to sit down and realise that the objective was very simple. We had a common objective that had to be in the best interest of Barbados and Barbadians.

Mr. President, at that time, Sir Roy was head of a newly formed organisation called Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) and I was head of the Private Sector Agency. Sir Roy, Government Ministers and I first met within the Foreign Exchange Committee and then the Social Partnership.
12.05 p.m.

Sacrifices had to be made by the leaders in the Government and the leaders in the private sector but I have always thought that the biggest sacrifice of all had to be made by the Leader of CTUSAB, Sir Roy Trotman. He had the difficult task of explaining to his members in a convincing fashion that a wage freeze was absolutely essential in order for Barbados to avoid a devaluation of its currency.

I had to explain to my constituency that a freeze on prices was essential for the same reason but I think his task was a lot more difficult than mine. By that time, we had developed a very close working relationship and while we would meet formally in the Cabinet room at meetings presided over by the Prime Minister, more often than not, our meetings were informal, by telephone, by having lunch together or seeing each other because we had one common objective. This is what was in the best interest of this country in very difficult circumstances.

Sir, out of all that came the First Protocol in 1993 and since that time, the Protocols have evolved. The second one was in the year 1995 and the third one was in 1998. I was involved with Sir Roy in those three and with the leaders in Government. He has been involved in others since then. I think in the year 2001 and as Senator Murray said, they have become truly a model.

I have spoken on the Social Partnership and the Protocols in Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada and St. Kitts whenever I was invited. People still marvel at how we in Barbados could get together in difficult times and fashion an agreement and make it work.

The important thing about those Protocols, Mr. President, was that they were noted by Parliament but they had no teeth. There was nothing in those Protocols that said any breach resulted in the type of punishment or whatever. They are built on faith, trust and goodwill. I would like to think that in the 20 years Sir Roy and I spent working together across the table had prepared us for the roles that we would have to play in fashioning that new arrangement.

I want to say that the Governments at the time had a change in administration but that made no difference. The previous Administration and the Administration that came in 1994 had the same spirit. This thing had to work and we had

no choice. There was no margin for error.

Mr. President, this occasion meant for me very happy memories of working with a man referred to as Sir Roy, whom I came to admire, like, and even say, we became friends. I would like to pay tribute to him and associate myself with all the other tributes that have been paid to him here today and to wish him continuous success and good health. I have retired from the crease but he is still not out and I wish him a very long and successful innings in the years ahead.

God bless you, Sir Roy.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Mr. President, I join with my colleagues in this Chamber paying tribute to Sir Roy on this memorable occasion. My contact with him goes back to the negotiations between the Government and the trade unions, particularly the Barbados Workers' Union, over a long period because it was not until around Independence, that the Barbados Workers' Union was accepted to represent public officers and employees. Sir Roy's predecessor was the person who was able to get the Government of the day to agree to let the Barbados Workers' Union represent public officers and for us who were involved on the Government Side, it was a great learning experience. I am sure from the Barbados Workers' Union side it was also a learning experience.

Our limited knowledge of real negotiation, I think matched their limited knowledge of the institution called the public service. Therefore, we were all on a learning curve. We learnt from the Union and the Union learnt from us.

When Sir Roy came along as one of Sir Frank's associates, I noted with pleasure and surprise his ability to grasp a subject matter quickly enough and then appear to be extremely knowledgeable about it, all within the same negotiating session. We have had many negotiation sessions and I think I can say we built up healthy respect for each other to the extent that when I no longer participated in these matters, we were still able to do consultations with each other and establish and maintain a friendship. I am one of those persons who believe that honour should not come to a person simply because he does his work well.

I used to sit on the Honours Committee that recommend to the Government and that was the principle against which I made my comments, suggestions and recommendations on that Committee but when that work transcends the institution in which the person happens to serve and has such an important impact upon social and economic circumstances of the country and, in Sir Roy's case, beyond the country, there is no gainsaying that the bestowing of an Honour of the Knight of St. Andrew is the

ultimate and perhaps the only Honour which could be bestowed on such a person.

I have great pleasure in being, as I said, in regular contact with him at an important stage of his development and my own development and to have established such rapport that we have continued, not just in this Chamber but anywhere at all in our friendly mode. I am happy for him and wish him well and I simply underline what I have said by saying that his humility and his success have not in anyway run counter to each other.

I thank you.
12.15 p.m.

SENATOR D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. President, I am indeed honoured to have the opportunity to make a few laudatory comments in favour of Sir Roy. I regret not being able to share any personal encounters with him. There was one occasion, a few years ago, when I was chairman of the Barbados Tourism Authority where it seemed as though our paths if not our swords might have crossed but any contest on that occasion was averted.

Mr. President, from hearing the comments made by Sir Roy's many friends and colleagues in this Honourable Senate and also from observing very carefully the events of the last two or so decades, it is clear to me that history will speak very well of Sir Roy. To echo the words of Shakespeare when he referred to someone as "bestriding a colossus" – I am sure Dame Patricia would assist me – it may well be possible that in the not-to-distant future Sir Roy may be seen as a colossus who bestrode the last two decades of the last millennium. He is clearly an outstanding Barbadian. I am sure that young people as they proceed through their lives and through the seeds of their development will come to see Sir Roy as being a prime role model.

There is a long and venerable adage which says that if you want somebody to do something, give it to somebody who is busy. I cannot imagine a busier citizen of this country. Sir Roy has his responsibilities in the Senate. He has his prime responsibility perhaps to the trade union that he serves. He has his responsibilities to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados. He has served on many very important commissions in this country. He has his domestic obligations, no doubt. He also has the obligation to represent this nation in the highest corridors of power within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other places. I cannot imagine, Sir, how Sir Roy manages to keep track of all of his obligations and appointments. I have to say that in the years since 1999 when I see him face to face I cannot detect any significant greying beyond the greying that he had in 1999.

More importantly though, six months ago as I walked the hills of St. Joseph, I discovered that Sir Roy is what would nowadays be called a "Josephine". I believe he now exceeds that narrow definition. He has gone from being a "Josephine" to being an international man but I suppose the greater includes the lesser so he would be 100 per cent Josephine. I have met many of his friends and I have met members of his family. People look up to Sir Roy as being perhaps the most outstanding and distinguished son of the rich St. Joseph soil.

I am honoured to have been asked by the people of St. Joseph, particularly those in the Bathsheba area, to convey to you, Sir Roy, their fondest regards and their best wishes for your continued success because they perceive your own success as being theirs. In the words of a young "Josephine", for her, every time Sir Roy crosses another barrier, it is a barrier that they too can cross.

With those remarks, Sir Roy, I convey to you the best wishes of the people of St. Joseph and my own personal best wishes.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I could not let this occasion pass without rising to associate myself with the sentiments and the accolades bestowed upon Sir Roy.

I recall my very first innings in this Senate when, I was somewhat nervous and the batting was short and as we rose to go out to lunch, he said to me, "Man, your heart was in it, I was expecting a longer innings from you". Coming from him, that was somewhat of an inspiration.

I see Sir Roy as one who is a guider, one who directs and is direct, one who advises and one who encourages. From my own experience he does that with great humility and with an abundance of value, particularly Christian values, because he knows the heart and soul of man and he seems to manage them and handle them in a manner which redounds to their benefit. He may be a small man but he is indeed a very large man with tremendous ability and with many accomplishments.

I appreciate you, Sir Roy, for the icon that you have become for service to and leadership of workers in Barbados with a sensitivity and a commitment to gender equality and gender equity. I know that under your stewardship in the Barbados Workers' Union both players, male and female, will rise to the heights that they can reach.

I also want to share with you, Sir Roy, perhaps you may know it already, being the oracle that you are, that the measure and the success of a man is not determined in

an hour but by his works over a lifetime. May you have long life and good health as you continue to inspire and encourage up-and-coming negotiators.

Congratulations, Sir Roy.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, it was not my intention to speak today but since everyone else has contributed to this matter, I believe that I should say a few words about Sir Roy, but unfortunately if I begin to speak, I may take about an hour or two.

I have known of Sir Roy for a very long time even before I knew him. I represented St. Joseph from 1970 and I always heard about Leroy Trotman but I have never had the privilege of meeting him in St. Joseph, but I do know of the character of the man, the tenacity of the man and the way he goes about his business.

I knew of Sir Roy when he was a young unionist and I knew of all of the problems and fights within the Union. I remember a friend of mine saying he is going to go very far because he had the two greatest components of the Union on his arm. He represented the workers in the Port and at the Transport Board, so therefore he was poised to control the heartstring of Barbados in terms of labour and I must say that he handled them very well.

I remember him sitting in the Port when I was a Minister and Sir Roy cleverly negotiated a situation which in the end I had to laugh, I will not say exactly what it is, but he knows what it is, because he was very clever.
12.25 p.m.

I represented the Barbados Sugar Industry Staff Association which dealt with managers and overseers in the sugar industry. While I have never had to meet with him, we have held our discussions. I can say that he has always taken the view that, irrespective of what the circumstances are, he must look at the long-term effect of whatever we do and how it would affect the entire country.

He has now risen to the heights in the trade union movement and I know he will carry with him the same thoughts, well-being and clever way of negotiating for the benefit of the workers and, at the same time, not being oppressive against the employers.

I wish Sir Roy good health, long life and happiness. I wish him a long stay in the trade union movement. The trade union movement today is a far different trade union movement than I knew back in the 1960s when I first returned to Barbados.

We have seen the Union evolve into a partnership with the Government and the private sector, which is for the benefit of everyone in the country. I am sure with his clever way of dealing with these things, if Sir Roy continues along these roads, we should go very far into the future. I wish Sir Roy the very best.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Comrade Sir Roy.

I would like to refer to what was a fantastic era which we went through. As a farmer, I am very proud to say that I was one of those persons who first sat on the Foreign Exchange Committee. At that time, our backs were against the wall. The International Monetary Fund were here and were screaming for us to devalue the dollar or perish. We came up with the idea that the private sector and the unions would meet with Cabinet Members and would have discussed the things which they needed.

I would say it was due to the diplomatic efforts of the first Chairman, Mr. Maurice King, that we managed to get a number of people to attend. At that time, there was someone from the Barbados Hotel Association who was outlining the number of things that the Ministry of Tourism has to do in order to turn tourism around. At the time, the then Minister of Tourism leapt to his feet and started to walk out. The Chairman interrupted him saying, "You know what, we are in this trouble because we did not listen". To which, that Minister did sit and listened. We then developed a rapport where everybody could have seen that we are all in the same boat and had to struggle to get out.

As Sir John has said, one can never appreciate the difficulties that the unions must have had. At that time, there was talk about freezing prices and wages. It was agreed amongst everyone that we would do what was necessary to get us out of the situation. There were persons like Sir Roy and Bobby Morris who were responsible enough to have sat and to have worked that situation out. Thank God, we have those kinds of persons in Barbados!

Sir Roy, I would like to wish you all the very best and God's blessing on your work.

SENATOR D. L. HAYNES: Mr. President, I am also honoured to rise to congratulate Sir Roy.

Sir Roy has been admired by us all for his talent and his work. He has made a fantastic contribution to the Barbados Workers' Union, to Barbados and to the entire Caribbean. I have always listened to Sir Roy when he speaks. He is such a fluent speaker with an extraordinary vitality and, as we all know, a very great negotiator. Sir Roy has given lavishly of

his time and effort. His sincerity and integrity has earned the respect and admiration of us all.

Mr. President, I am very sorry that in my times of trouble with the West Indies Cricket Board, I did not have the opportunity to engage Sir Roy into my affairs. I notice now from reading the papers that he is now going to be drafted into the West Indies cricket setup and I hope that it would not be too late for my situation to be resolved.

Mr. President, in closing I want to offer my congratulations to Sir Roy and to his family. I wish him all the best in the future and may God keep him safe.

I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to offer my personal and sincerest congratulations to Sir Roy for what is an achievement for himself and, equally important, the labour movement and the rest of the world.

Barbados has matured to the extent where we do now have a situation where Government, capital and labour, can sit and discuss matters of national interest and, at the end of the day, come up with what they think is best for the country.

Mr. President, the fact that we in Barbados have not had disastrous strikes or much labour unrest is testimony to the maturity of the leadership of the three parties concerned. Sir Roy must take credit for putting the labour movement where today it sits at the table of power, not as a standard requirement but as an active participant in the development of this country.

Much of the progress we have made as a nation is as a direct result of the fact that when the Barbados Workers Union was set up during the 1940s, it was always staffed and controlled by men of integrity, so much so that three of our National Heroes were either President or General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, while a fourth person has been made Knight of the land. We believe that Sir Roy is well equipped to handle the task that is before him.

Sir, I want to make the point that if ever there was a need for a vibrant trade union, there is now in today's world, where the forces against us are mostly external, where other countries would seek domination in various forms and fashion.

12.35 p.m.

The labour movement must stand firm, reposition itself within the whole context of the Barbadian economy and defend Barbados in the way it did not do in the past. We

are glad for this signal achievement because it is an honour not only for Sir Roy himself but for the whole trade union movement.

Sir, with those few words I want to commend Sir Roy to the grace of the Almighty. He has received this honour and I am sure there are more honours for him and Barbados.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a distinct pleasure and privilege for me to join all Honourable Senators who have spoken warmly in congratulating Senator Sir Roy. We have all congratulated him in an informal setting but it is appropriate that we should do it in this way today. Senator Sir Roy enjoyed a long distinguished career. I used the word "long" advisedly because he is a man in his relative prime and there is a great deal more to come to him.

As has been said, he has been a teacher, a member of both Houses of Parliament and a trade unionist who has made his mark not only in Barbados but in the councils of the world trade union movement. The Leader of the Senate and other Senators have eloquently chronicled the considerable achievements of the Senator. They have focussed on particular aspects of his outstanding character and the highlights of his career.

Our paths first crossed more than two decades ago when we sat on the board of the Industrial Development Corporation as it was then, my judgement of the Senator was made a long time ago and it was all positive and favourable. I can say without fear of contradiction that Senator Sir Roy exemplifies the qualities of dignity, courtesy and humility. As a Member of this Honourable Chamber and of Parliament he has mastered the rules relating to the practice of parliamentary procedure in that he generally says what he wants to say and with his facility of language, he finds a way to make it relevant to the Bill or Resolution before the Chamber.

His eloquence and erudition have already been spoken to but it goes without saying that he is a man of outstanding courage. The great American President, Woodroffe Wilson, defined a statesman as a great human being with an eye for all the great fields on which men like himself struggled with unflagging hope towards better things, a guide, a counsellor, a mentor and a friend of mankind. Many of these qualities have been recognised in Senator Trotman far beyond these shores.

The award of this country's highest honour means that Senator Sir Roy's works and deeds have now received appropriate formal recognition in his own land and it is well deserved. It was a measure of the unanimity in this Chamber today because every Senator spoke and the Deputy President Bolden spoke from Senator Mascoll's chair.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy, you must be in no doubt that all Members of this Honourable Chamber rejoice with you in the conferment and accolade of knighthood and we wish you and your family every success in the future.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, after the many kind words from Honourable Senators, I have to check when I return home to see whether they have spoken of the right person.

Sir, I am grateful to you and all Honourable Senators for the kind remarks made about the work I have done and about me personally. I wish to say at the outset that I have accepted this great honour not so much for myself but for what it represents for working men and women throughout Barbados and wherever Bajans are proud to refer to themselves as Bajans throughout the entire world.

I am very conscious that much of what I have received today I owe it significantly to the work done by my predecessor in the trade union, the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott, the other members of the Barbados Workers' Union, both staff and membership, the members of CTUSAB both at the level of those who marched with me and those who since the march continued to give support, guidance and succour.

In those difficult days, we had a vision and I am proud to say that we still hold firmly to that vision which tells us that the past has achieved what it could, that we were masters and mistresses of the future and that what became the future depended very much on what we sought to do to make what would become what is. We were pleased in those days that we were able to find kindred spirits among employees and we were able to strike the right chord with some of the Cabinet members and Government was willing to listen.

I recall in those early days, as Senator Sir John Stanley said, that the view was that we ought not to do what several other communities around the world did and allow the presence of the "enemy" on our doorsteps to make us degenerate into warriors fighting against ourselves but that we should see the people on our doorsteps as invaders who ought to be driven from our shores.

12.45 p.m.

Sir, I did not mean that and we never meant it physically, although some of the higher officers may have thought so. What we meant was, that by our efforts, our collective will and our determination to make changes so to rearrange Barbados that there would be no further need for the strictures and the stringent measures which had been visited upon us.

I think that so firm was our commitment, that the Prime Minister of the day, even when he made his first effort to contain the difficulty, was in a position to anticipate that 18 months was a period through which we could negotiate with him. Those people who looked down their noses at us and thought that we were selling out the country, those who felt that we were doing what had to be done, not because it had to be done but rather because we were offering solutions to friends; those persons have to recognise that there are some countries in the Caribbean, and I will not mention their names because I have not sought your permission, which started a devaluation exercise which has been going on for almost the length of time that Senator Sir John Goddard referred to in our association, and where that devaluation still continues even today as we speak, where as a direct consequence of those devaluations, business men and women have moved from one level of frustration to further levels of frustration. Whereas we have been able to recover. We have been able to find our feet again and we have been able, with God's guidance and because of our togetherness, to overcome that little trough which we had in the early 1990s.

Mr. President, as Senators have said, it has not always been easy and the task was particularly not easy for those in the trade union movement. It was never going to be easy and we knew that from the beginning because it is not easy to tell people who are likely to lose their jobs, who believe that they deserved to be better paid, that you are into a partnership. Sir, into a partnership in the eyes of some people meant into bed with our enemy and not all understood then and many refuse to understand now that the times had changed. You could be in partnership and you could agree or disagree but you could also agree to disagree without being disagreeable, is a message that is lost in many parts of our region today. It was felt then, as it is felt now, that if the trade union is going to disagree with the employers or if the trade union is going to disagree with the Government, we must do so in such a manner that thereafter there is no possibility for any discussion.

I recall, Sir, if you would permit, that once one of the young men that I once supervised, he is not a member of the current staff now, came to me and he was very proud of himself, said, "Chief, I want to let you know that I really 'cuss' the employer just now".

Pardon the language, Sir, but I think it is a Bajan expression which is allowed in peculiar circumstances of the morning.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Sir, I said, "That was very good. So what happens now? Is he going to call you and he is going to reverse his position?" It suddenly

occurred to him that he had to call the same person but he did not know how to call. So, you can disagree with a person but when you agree to disagree with a person and become disagreeable in doing so, there is no basis for future dialogue.

Sir, what we have sought to do in this country over time, is to make it clear that the business of the interface and the interrelationship between Government and employer, between employer and worker or among Government, employer and worker, has to be one which is ongoing and which is not hung up on any peculiar single incident in our lives.

Sir, I am pleased that we have been able over time in the labour movement to get that message across to some of our cousins. Some of our cousins accept it to a greater degree than some of our other cousins but it is a matter of time, it is a matter of an ongoing process, it is a matter of patience and we have had to have a lot of that and we had a lot of suffering as well.

Sir, part of the sacrifice was my having to surrender a position in the Other Place because I felt that if I had maintained my position in that Other Place, I would not have been able to give the quality of leadership to suspicious, unknowing, unwilling to know persons who were not always satisfied that what could be done as a Parliamentarian and what was being done by a trade union representative, were not things that were separate and different. Since we had to grow a major trade union body, as the CTUSAB has become, I felt that the honour which there was in serving in another part of the Chambers, was one that I would have to surrender and Her Excellency thought that she would then confer this further honour which gave me the pleasure, Mr. President, of being able to be among such distinguished persons as yourselves, to grow to know you and to grow to love and respect you all.

Sir, one comment I need to make in passing is my respect for the comment made about St. Joseph. Though the minister at St. Aidans Church, which is better known to the hopeful for that area, though the minister could not speak, he made it very clear to the parishioners, I am told, that they were solidly with me. Now that Senator Marshall has spoken, I have his word that the people of Bathsheba have said that when next I go there, they would be buying the first round of drinks. Senator Marshall, you may tell that I look forward to the same quality drinks when I get there as before.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Sir, before I make any further comments, I need to pay respect to and publicly acknowledge that what has happened could not have taken

place appropriately unless Margaret, Leslie and Paula, my first wife and my children, unless they had given their support and guidance. Also the rest of my family, to whom I am eternally grateful for the significant support that they gave throughout those periods of suffering, particularly during the period of the early 1990s when there were not always pleasant comments that one heard as one travelled the island. I had to get some support at times just to give that assurance that we were travelling along safe roads.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Sir, not everybody was willing to accept that the change had come about and that it was done with the best interest of Barbados at heart. There were dark days and terrible days and the telephone did not always convey to my family the nicest of comments. So, Margaret, Leslie and Paula came through a very rough time but I am pleased that they have been able to look at much of it, because of time and not because of today, and smile because they have been able to tell me that they are satisfied that we were doing the right thing.

I do not stand before you, Mr. President, to talk only of those dark days. I mentioned them only because that represents a phase in the work that had to be done and I am pleased that we were able to do it. I am pleased as well to see that the work that we created together in the Protocols is work that stood the test of time.

Sir, the other day some of my colleagues and I were in Jamaica and somebody from another island who, in my view, does not know the Protocol, has not read any of the Protocols and if he did, did not understand what he read, made bold to say to one of my colleagues that Barbados is being held up too much as an example of partnership for our Protocol and that we, in fact, have not done well but we have taken a partisan position in the labour movement, so much so, that when the Democratic Labour Party wins the next Government, after Elections – I am reporting what was said – that their immediate action would be to discontinue the Social Partnership and to tear up the Protocols.

Sir, I did not seek to speak to that person but I think that it says one thing but means one thing, that there are still pockets of ignorance around the region and, perhaps, in our own country that pocket may still be in existence where not enough is known about the Protocol. I think that we have to make a further effort to go through the exercise of explaining what it was and what it is and what it intends to do, so that nobody is left in any doubt.

12.55 p.m.

Sir, somebody else made the criticism – I heard this one – how could Barbados speak of a social partnership and

a Protocol, when two or three weeks ago, there were so many strikes mentioned in the newspaper.

I recall when we signed the very Second Protocol, Prime Minister Arthur being there at the time, we did that one at Sherbourne and I remember it. The comments there were clearly made both by the Prime Minister and by myself, but I will speak to mine. It was that the signing of this Protocol was not a commitment to anyone that we had come to an end of industrial confrontation. But what we were saying is that where there is industrial confrontation, the Protocol would assist us because of the spirit that it has to move towards the efforts at resolution in a more masterly fashion than otherwise we would have done, not necessarily in a more masterful fashion, because we were trying to reduce the levels of the power gained, but we were going to try by the level of our diplomacy to endeavour to bring about that new structure which allows everybody to see how much we can get, without there necessarily being a position where there must be the suffering that previously characterised disagreements.

I think that has to be said more frequently and perhaps people would get the chance, Mr. President, to say more about it very shortly when in Barbados because of another worker's initiative, we shall be experiencing together what we are going to call our "week of excellence". It is not going to be what some of the newspapers writers chose to say would become a "week of jollification" when we would be excellent workers and for the rest of the year we would do nothing. It tends to be a point at which we have a new departure in a way that Governments would look at governance and their relationship with employers and workers; in a way that employers must look at projects they must have at being better and more efficient to the customer than they are in their business, both the internal and external customers; when we would look together at the quality of service, the levels of productivity and efficiency; when together, we would find ourselves in a position where we embark on projects out of which we hope to make Barbados more efficient, to give greater levels of worker satisfaction and to progress the country to higher levels of development than heretofore.

Therefore, the people will see again that there is the possibility for us getting on with the job and not finding ourselves only, as Senator Williams might remember, in a position where we talk and do nothing else but talk, as happened in one of his negotiations one night. Mr. President, we started at 9 o'clock in the morning and by 10 o'clock at night, we had no progress and all we could remember from that – and this is what we told the employer, it must have struck a chord with him – that all we had from the discussions throughout the whole day was bare biscuits and bitterness.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Sir, we have to learn that this cannot be the basis for discussion.

I know I am quickly running out of time, Sir, and I would like, with your indulgence, to mention just a few things that we must be able to learn from this experience which the people of Barbados have so kindly presented to me. We must all understand, Mr. President, that poverty is no reason to become dysfunctional. Without going into detail, let me just repeat what I told David Ellis some time ago and it was carried kindly more than once. Mine was an obscure past to which I openly admit and I am proud to say that I accept that I had to fight for floor space at night. It has not made me feel less than anybody else because that represents my beginnings, and that little house we have in Bathsheba is going to be made into the family house of the future – and that was before the Knighthood – where some of my friends may come and have their weekends, and if there are representatives of the constituency present in this House, they may come and take part in that little house.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: You may call it a beach house but it is still 150 yards away from the beach but it will have a direct view of the rising moonlight coming out of the East, so it has potential.

Poverty is no reason for us to become dysfunctional. Disagreement, Sir, is no basis for destructiveness. There is no reason because we have to have disagreements around Barbados from time to time for us to endeavour to destroy the object of our disagreement be it at a personal level or an institutional level or indeed at a national level or even to go beyond that and seek to put bombs in schools. Friendship is no basis for discrimination and because the Leader of the House is my friend, there is no reason why he has to discriminate in my favour or indeed discriminate against. Wealth, Sir, is no basis for haughtiness for as the Good Book tells us those who are haughty must remember that pride comes just before a fall. Sir, that does not necessarily have to be a fall in wealth, it could also be a fall in health.

Youth is no basis for rejection. Because we happen to be young and we have all the opportunities to see where the future should go, there is no reason that we should reject what the builders of the past put there for us but we should try to learn from them and conversely. You should not be rejected simply because you have the misfortune to be young. Similarly, female should not be a basis for non – involvement, either because men choose not to involve them or because women choose not to want to get involved

for whatever reason they may choose best to put forward. There are many more I could give but I would wish at this point to say that old age is no basis for abandonment, either because they themselves choose to curl up and retire before they really need to or because the rest of society chooses to push them aside and abandon them.

I would wish to take this occasion, in my first Knight's charge in this Chamber, Sir, to ask that so much be given as attention to these thoughts that I put forward that we may better be able to deal with matters of poverty, with areas of disagreement, with levels of friendship, with our degrees of wealth, with those among us who are young, with the female who are among us and with those who have contributed and are now old.

With those words, Sir, I wish to thank colleagues in this Chamber for their very gracious and kind words and I pledge you that I will not endeavour to do anything and as long as I am in good health and with my proper mental faculties, I promise you that I shall do nothing to make you have to think again of the words which you so graciously used today with which to describe my rise to this position of prominence.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, before we move the Suspension, I think we should address the other matter.

Since we last met, Mr. Randolph Field, a former member of this Honourable Chamber passed away, after being ill for some time. I never had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman but from all reports, he was never one to run away from any challenge be it either sports, politics or business.

Over the years he worked in the Sugar Industry, and the Transport Board. He operated his own service station and a Chinese restaurant at one time. He was the first president of the Barbados Cycling Union and the first chairman of the Barbados Sports Council. He was a former chairman of the Barbados Board of Tourism and the Caves Authority.

According to his eulogist, John Hinds, and I quote:

"Rannie gave yeoman service. He served with distinction, helping others along the way."

Sir, he was posthumously awarded officer of the Order of the British Empire, the Queen's New Years Honours list earlier this year, no doubt in recognition of the aforementioned qualities.

On behalf of my fellow Senators, I would like to extend sincere condolences to his family and may he rest in peace.
1.05 p.m.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in addition to the many endeavours of the late Randolph Field, which was mentioned by the Honourable Leader of the Senate, he was also a very loyal and dedicated member of the Prince Hall fraternity in Barbados. Indeed, he was one of the persons who sought constantly to remind persons of the great contribution that he had made to the building of the United States of America in terms of his work in uplifting black people through the Prince Hall fraternity.

Mr. Field, as was mentioned, was also very much involved in sporting activities. He has been rightly honoured by the National Sports Council (NSC) by the naming of the velodrome at the National Stadium in his honour because of his contribution to the administration of cycling in Barbados.

Mr. Field was also a very forthright man who, as was said, was not afraid to speak his mind on issues that he felt strongly about. This was regardless of whether it was in politics as part of the Prince Hall family or whether it was to do with sports. In fact, even in his latter years or just before his passing he was a very regular contributor to the radio call-in programmes where he was always willing to give his point of view, and in very many instances he came on to correct a misconception or to put the records straight based on his wide experience in this country.

He was one who was prepared to take the step in forming a new political party in this country because he felt that this was the right thing for him to do. I believe that Mr. Field has left a great legacy. He was also a person who had contributed significantly to the development of this country. Again, as Barbadians, we have one more person that we can look on as a role model for many of our citizens.

I thank you.

SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I knew Randolph Field, or "Rannie" as most people knew him, pretty well because he was the treasurer of the Barbados Labour Party for many years. He was the treasurer at the time I was secretary of the General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party. He was also a friend of my younger brother and they were associated with sporting organisations, especially the Olympic Association.

Indeed, Rannie made a contribution to public life. He had the courage of his convictions and although he was defeated twice in his attempts to win a seat he maintained an interest in public life. Such was the esteem in which he was held that he was made Consul-General in New York and in

this position he endeared himself to Barbadians in the United States of America and established a great rapport with them. I do not know if this is generally known, but in addition to looking after their interest, he shared a common outlook with them so that he attended classes with a view to ordination.

Not only in political life did he made a contribution but, as has been indicated by our Leader and Senator McClean, he made a fine contribution to sports. He was also one of the pioneers in the accounting field. His skill and competency were such that he was employed as chief accountant at the Transport Board, I think that was mentioned, and he also worked at the Barbados Advocate in that capacity and perhaps reached the zenith when he was made financial controller of the prestigious Sandy Lane Hotel.

Interestingly too, he went to Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela as a young man in those colonial times, I use that word with a little trepidation, when there was free movement. A keen sportsman, he was involved with the Barbados Cycling Union. He was also the treasurer of the Barbados Olympic Association and was elected Chef de Mission of the Barbados team in 1972 to the Olympics. Moreover, it is a measure of his great interest in sports that he was very supportive of Ronald "Suki" King and helped to promote him internationally. I also know that he a founding member of the Jaycees.

Outspoken or forthright, as Senator McClean said, I almost used that word but I will use another, he was a loyal friend and I know that he will be missed by all those who valued his friendship and also by his family. I would like on behalf of myself as well as my family to offer sincerest condolences and pray that he may rest in peace.

I thank you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to offer condolences to the family of the late Randolph Field. I met him in 1950 immediately after leaving school when I got a job at Lower Estate Plantation as a clerk/overseer. I will never forget this gentleman who could turn anything into a joke and laugh about it.

We went for an interview, myself and a chap named Marston Murrell, and within two days we got a letter to report for work on the first day of January, 1950 at 7.30 a.m. We went off to work, met Mr. Randolph Field and he was very cheerful. He walked us around Lower Estate Plantation yard, showed us the quarters and walked us up by Colonel Dowding's House. When we came back, we said; "But where are we going to work?", and he said, "What is your hurry?" and he never took us into the office. It was around 10 o'clock when he told us that we should not have begun work

today but the following day but that since he was on duty and could not have gone to any of the excursions, he thought that he would keep us too from going. That is how I started life with Randolph "Rannie" Fields.
1.15 p.m.

I used to pick him up and take him to work on mornings because his aunt lived in Constitution Road. We used to work very long hours. I sometimes remark to the younger people that work today is a pleasure when compared to what was in my days when we worked in the sugar industry. Work started at 7.30 a.m. and we never finished until about 3.00 a.m. We then had to return to the office at 7.30 a.m.. Whenever we complained to Mr. Field, he would ask us where would we find another job that pays so well. In those days, we worked for more money than the civil servants. I left Lower Estate in 1954.

I heard fellow Senators speak about him as being a first Member of Prince Hall Fraternity. During the 1950s Rannie Field was a great Rosicrucian and used to tell me about the virtues of this fraternity and why I should take it up.

I left Barbados in 1956, went to England and came back. Rannie Field then introduced me to the Jaycees of Barbados. He was a man who had no limit. He moved onto various jobs and would always say that he intended to rise to the top of the job. His intention became so forceful that one day he called me and told me he was now the Financial Comptroller of Sandy Lane Hotel and invited me to lunch. This was all said in such a jovial manner that I could not believe him at first.

It was then that Rannie Field became interested in politics but on two occasions, was not successful. I must say his not being successful was not because he did not try hard enough. I can say he was spiked on both occasions, but he laughed it off.

I am sure that Rannie Field has left behind a legacy. He has children whom he cared very much about. He had a son whom he brought from Trinidad who was very brilliant. When the son died, Rannie went into withdrawal period for some time.

A year ago, I met him and we talked. He asked me if I had remembered his son. Rannie was a man who would take life as it came. He would make the best out of life. I wish to offer my greatest condolences to his family. I know they will feel his passing because he was a real family man. I do wish them all the best for the future.

SENATOR B. R. COLLYMORE: Thank you, Mr. President. I join in paying tribute to someone whom I have known for many years. Senator Bolden did not tell

the Chamber what Rannie told me on several occasions. He knew he was a child of God for the way in which Senator Bolden used to ride the motorcycle.

I have known Randolph "Rannie" Fields for many years. Up to the time of his illness, I visited because he summoned me. Once Rannie gave a command one had to turn up. I recall on another occasion that supports Senator Bolden's reference to his sense of humour. Rannie was making a big play at a party about how badly he was going to beat Mr. Erskine Sandiford. He said he would teach him about politics. He named the various areas of the constituency where he would be successful. At that, the late Tom Adams who was sitting in the audience keeping very quiet said to Rannie. "Have you considered Bay Street or the Garrison? Do you know the sort of people who live there? Do you think you could convince them to vote for you?" Rannie's response was, "It looks like it is going to be hard in truth".

Another occasion was his first trial at the business of elective politics. He came back the day after the election and told a group of us about what he considered to be the greatest experience that he had ever had. He had a top canvasser who was a very robust person. Whenever that person gave Rannie anything, the man would tell him to safeguard it. On the day of the election Rannie noticed something was wrong. When he paid him the money that he had for him and went around his back, the man had a slogan which read, "Vote for Sandiford".

At heart, Rannie Field was a very kind person. There was nothing he would not share. If ever there was a man whose impetuosity had to be controlled, I am sure those of us who knew him well, could testify to the fact that so often his friends had to hold him back. He has gone but his legacy remains with us who knew him. I think we wish his family all the best without him.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I join in paying tribute to the passing of the late Randolph "Rannie" Field, a former Member of this Chamber. Those who would have attended the funeral at St. Paul's Anglican Church would have seen from the throng present and from the diversity of complexions present, that his friendship and influence spread right across the Barbadian society.

I have been associated with him in the area of politics and that of Public Relations Manager in the tourism field. From my experience, as you would have already heard, he was a very strong, vigorous and determined campaigner who, as has been said, was willing to take on any challenge.

When he sought to take on who was considered a giant, Mr. Erskine Sandiford in 1971, in St. Michael South, people

thought that he was wasting his time but Randolph made sure he made his presence felt. He lost by 636 votes on the first occasion which some felt was a remarkable achievement, given the reputation of Mr. Sandiford's standing in the community. This did not in anyway deter him. In fact, it seemed to have inspired him. In 1976, he followed it up between Mr. Sandiford and himself where he lost by 12 votes. Out of the political battle, a folklore has grown and maybe someday, someone would write about it.

When Rannie went and joined the National Democratic Party, that did not colour his personal feelings towards his former political associates or his friends. As a matter of fact, it seemed to have strengthened them. He was always available to everyone.

I had a good association with him in the field of tourism when I happened to be Public Relations Manager and Mr. Field, Chairman. He was a very skilled negotiator who always looked after the very best for Barbados. He was exceedingly patriotic. I would have seen this in action when I would have had the good fortune of travelling with him to London or to Berlin. He was very well respected. His characteristic walk and style and manner of dealing with people, made him a figure that people remember.

I also realised his courage while being Public Relations Manager. I had the scandalous idea of seeking to introduce the tuk band and stilt walkers to a cocktail party which the Barbados Board of Tourism was holding at the Marine House. The administrators at the Board were horrified at that idea and I had to fight tooth and nail because I was breaking new ground. I always remember that Rannie was willing to take it on and to try something new. Thereafter, that made the tuk band and stilt walkers extremely popular.
1.25 p.m.

He had the rare distinction of having been Consul General in two locations, Toronto and New York, and I had the opportunity to be associated with him in both locations. He was well respected in both destinations by Barbadians and non-Barbadians and he worked hard to make sure that the flag of Barbados flew high and proud.

He has made such an outstanding contribution to Barbadian life that his legacy lives through his daughters who have his characteristics of being strong, determined, forthright and frank. One of his daughters, Sandy Kellman, has maintained his commitment to serving the community by working with children, conducts a number of camps with the Brownies during the summer and at other times of the year.

With that legacy, I have no doubt that his memory and work will live on through the good work of his children who

maintain his positive, strong, vibrant attitude to life through their connections with the community.

I join with my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathy to his surviving relatives.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The late Mr. Randolph Field who I knew for many years was a man of tremendous energy and was passionate about the things in which he believed. As has been said, he gave outstanding public service in many areas.

I join with Honourable Senators in expressing regret at his passing and I have requested the Clerk to convey the sentiments of this Chamber to his family.

I now ask Honourable Senators to stand in silence for two minutes in tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Randolph Field.

[Members of the Senate stood for two minutes silence.]

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.40 p.m. today.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.30 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO MOVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CYRIL COURTENAY CLARKE ESQUIRE TO THE OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, the approval of this Honourable Chamber is being sought for communication to be sent to His Excellency the Governor-General indicating our approval of his proposal to appoint Cyril Clarke as Ombudsman of Barbados. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, has made this recommendation to His Excellency. The requirement of Section 3 Cap 8.8, the Act relating to the Ombudsman, requires this appointment meets with the approval, not only of the Governor-General but also of both Houses of Parliament.

Sir, Cyril Clarke, has given long, distinguished service to the public service of Barbados. His last position was that of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Civil Service. He has also served with distinction at the Barbados Water Authority and also as Principal Training Officer in the Government Training Division. The Prime Minister has the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition that he is a fit and proper person for elevation to this position and it is His Excellency's desire to give effect to that appointment subject to our approval.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, in 1999, the Government of Barbados, cognisant of certain things happening in the country, made a decision that there should be a Committee of Reconciliation. Government was cognisant of the economic advances since Independence and the political maturity to develop as a country a stable Government, the infrastructural development that had occurred in the ensuing period, the advances of education, free secondary education, the provision of school meals and now recently EduTech. There were tremendous advances in health care, social services and housing for our nation and as we heard earlier today, the advances in trade unionism and the new Social Partnership. I should also add that there is the hope that Barbados would become the smallest developed country in the world in the next 20 years.

However, being cognisant of all of these things, it was also clear to us that there were a number of unfinished tasks and these include the issues of racism in this country, race conference, race debate, the problems with access to beaches, the issue of inequity in our society and the problem of social justice. In other words, the Government thought a new national building exercise was needed in this regard.

Mr. President, this Committee was set up in July 1999 and it was given as its mandate, "To develop, coordinate and implement a programme for the process towards national reconciliation. To develop a shared vision among Barbadians as a people."

Sir, the Government for the first time wanted Barbadians to come to terms with the problem of race and racial tensions and for the first time it has allowed the public to indulge in a full and frank discussion on these issues. The

Committee comprised some very prominent individuals and was chaired by Sir Keith Hunte. I can also say that two Honourable Members of this Chamber also sat on that Committee.

The Committee set itself certain objectives. Among these I will quote:

“Identifying the factors relating to race, class, equality and prejudice that hinder the evolution of more peaceful harmonious integrated and productive society in Barbados.”

There was public participation and town hall meetings. Individuals were invited to make submissions and the Committee met with various groups and individuals. In addition, three studies were done as part of the research. This Committee has made several recommendations which are in Chapter 10 of the document.

Sir, the whole process at attempting to eradicate racial discrimination in Barbados probably started in 1956, with the Shops (Amendment) Act. At that time, I believe, there were problems when only white people were allowed to stay in hotels. This Act was meant to change that. Unfortunately, we did not make a lot of progress and it was not sustained and we are still faced with some of these problems today.

In the 1970s when the Black Power Movement was popular, the Government at that time passed the Public Order Act in May 1970 to deal or control the feelings that were quite popular at that time. Ironically, some questions that were being asked at that time in Barbados still remain relevant today. The paucity of blacks in offices and large firms, the absence of blacks in top management positions, the absence of black persons as directors and the absence of black shareholders were issues that were raised in 1970 and they are still relevant to us 33 years later.

Hence, a call was made by our Prime Minister, when he launched this Committee, and I quote, “All of our citizens should have the opportunity to participate in the enterprises whose continuing existence they facilitate.”

Sir, the Committee made a number of findings and recommendations. They believe that the building of a democratic society should go beyond politics of rights, the right to vote every five years and to associate with political parties. The Committee figured that it should extend to the boardrooms in the private sector and the workplace. They felt strongly that corrective action is needed in this regard by the private sector where, inevitably, the State may have to

intervene and expedite the social transformation in this regard and, so to speak, remove that glass ceiling.

The Committee also promoted a vision for Barbados. They believe that in this we should hold that no race is superior to the other, that all persons should be given equal opportunity, sharing the fruits of nationhood. They also felt that without social justice there could be no reconciliation. Sir, they also looked at the whole concept of reconciliation and highlighted a number of stages, which we will have to go through.

Sir, they said that we would have to have an acknowledgment of guilt for some wrongdoing that has been done to the people; acceptance of responsibility for the act or acts; confession and expression of sorrow; the need for apology and quest for forgiveness; a commitment to make resolution by both parties to consider the issue and, thereafter, re-establishing the bonds of unity.

Mr. President, interestingly enough, the Committee considered at this stage in Barbados this was not practical and that it was not appropriate to attempt to go into all of these stages of reconciliation at this point and time. In their opinion, we as a country needed to come to grips with the whole problem of slavery and that we were grappling with the trans-Atlantic slave trade some 160 years post-emancipation. They thought that we should resolve as a people to work assiduously to build a society on the principles of freedom, social justice and respect for the human person.

Sir, in a number of Chapters it dealt specifically with certain areas, for example the legacy of slavery. The Committee looked at the trans-Atlantic slave trade which had profoundly affected us in that certain conditions could be traced to Barbadians coming from that period of our history, namely, a sense of inferiority, insecurity and the abhorrence of manual labour. It was felt that these were all hangovers from that period of slave trade.

Sir, after 100 years post-emancipation, the process had not made significant changes. Legislation and other rules were used to curtail the upward mobility of the former slaves. It was not until 1937, after the riot, that significant changes occurred with the emergence of the labour movement and eventually mass-based political parties. The whole quest for social justice and the removal of discrimination never started until the 1930s.

Mr. President, we moved during the mid-twentieth century towards enfranchisement of popularly elected Governments. We even had what can be described as an experiment in reconciliation, where at that time two political parties, I think they were the Democratic Labour Party and

the Conservative National Party, joined forces and took over the reins of Government. Obviously, the Conservative National Party, predominately the white planter class, amalgamated with the then Democratic Labour Party. 2.50 p.m.

I should also mention that the Church played an important role in this period. I believe it was Karl Marx who described it as the opiate of the masses and certainly in respect of emancipation, the Church maintained its role, putting a premium on obedience to the laws, acceptance of the social order, maintaining the *status quo*, the whole concept of facility and the belief that sin is the cause of everything and we should try to be very good individuals. Of course, this was coupled with the educational system which taught us that we should be very good citizens and that we should maintain the *status quo*.

Certainly, the plantation system dominated the whole economic and social life of Barbados up until this period of time. As I said earlier, this resulted in a negative attitude of classes to manual labour and the confusion which still obtains today between slavery and knowing what is service and what is servitude.

The Committee felt that emancipation now in Barbados has to be redefined with respect to the human person and there is a need for equality in all critical areas affecting social, economic and political opportunity, and that the dignity of labour has to be divorced from the stigma of servitude.

Another interesting area which was touched on was the issue of reparations. This seems to be a very contentious issue, bearing in mind the whole concept of reparation which was adopted from The Abuja Proclamation in 1993. A number of individuals concentrated on capital transfers and payment for slavery and wrongs that were done.

The Committee took a very interesting view of this in that in the whole concept of slavery, that severe damage had been done to the psyche of the Africans who were involved in that period and that in this reparation, we should perhaps talk about a system of repairs. Repairs of the mental and psychological scars that had been inflicted on these individuals, cultural repairs, social repairs, the need for the whole educational repairs, economic and political repairs as they saw it. They figured that reparation should now be about self-discovery and self-development, also that Barbadians needed to be much more informed about this and that the Government should play a more pro-active role in this whole concept of reparation and not take the sort of back-seat approach that was being adopted.

In the area of individual practice, two surveys were done and interestingly enough, the youth survey indicated that 48.5 per cent of the young people at that time thought that

class was the most important cause of separation and divisions in Barbadian society at this time and race was second. Eighty-eight per cent of blacks felt that a great deal of discrimination exists in today's Barbados. Whereas, interestingly enough, 33 per cent whites and Indians thought there was a great deal of discrimination as opposed to 88 per cent of the blacks.

Ironically, 71.9 per cent of the whites and 62 per cent of the Indians reported having had personal experience of discrimination, as opposed to 26 per cent of the blacks. Sir, what was very redeeming was that all groups felt that there was a need to resolve the racial issues in Barbadian society.

The Committee also looked at the participation in the economy. As I mentioned, they looked primarily at the lending policies and practices of financial institutions because we hear the argument over and over again that certain classes of people are discriminated against by the commercial institutions in Barbados.

They looked at the promotion and upward mobility in the private sector and they also looked at procurement policies of businesses and the need for fair competition. I should add at this point in time that they made reference to the need for a fair trading commission and Government has already started on this, I believe it was last year.

In this area, some research was done and some studies of the results are in volume 2, I believe, of the Report. It looked at the whole concept of accessing of funds and the interest rates paid by blacks as compared to those of Indians and whites. It was found that the interest rates were generally higher. Also borne out was the collateral required of blacks where personal guarantees and bills of sales were acceptable from whites, whereas blacks had to show substantial collateral to obtain financial assistance from these commercial enterprises.

They made some interesting thoughts and found some interesting features in the employment of whites in the private sector. We found a lot of cases that whites were often recruited and appointed to positions for which there was no declaration of a vacancy and there was discrimination in the hiring and promotion, the higher you go in those organisations. They wondered how many white employees actually fell into the category of weekly paid employees, compared to the number of blacks.

They felt that these issues needed to be addressed and if progress is to be made in this country towards reconciliation, this is one of the most important areas that needed to be addressed. As I said earlier, they recommended a need for a Fair Trading Commission.

The issue of land and access to land was also discussed in depth by the Committee. They felt that high priority is given by Barbadians to owning land and their own home and that recently a number of problems had risen. There were problems with people saying that expatriates were being allowed to buy up all of Barbados' land and that these issues were not properly and completely ventilated. The people needed to have knowledge of what was actually happening.

They recommended that the Government should have a policy of zoning, preserving land for agriculture, for industry, for tourism and certainly for residential use. They should ensure that the price of the land for residential use would not soar well above that which could be bought by the ordinary Barbadian.

Then, it came to the whole process of this new social transformation which is needed in the country. The Committee thought that some progress had been made since the 1950s, as I mentioned earlier, in the cases of education, health, housing but much more was needed to be done. As part of the process of moving this forward, the Committee recommended the implementation of a strategic plan for the next phase of this national development, as they call it, which would emerge after a nationwide consultation on some of these issues.

They thought there was a need now to look, as I said earlier, at building a new society and obviously in doing this, you need to pay attention to the children and the schools. There is a need for curricular reform to look at addressing certain issues. These included showing children an appreciation and value of their own cultural heritage against a background of other cultures also, to have high levels of self-esteem, respect for others and to instil in children the virtues of respect for law and authority and the property of others at the same time giving them the necessary materials. They should be capable of self-evaluation and, in all this, children should be taught to strive for excellence, in spite of whatever may be the background.

It also highlighted the need for the Church to continue its work and to look at the role it should play in this society. It should take a serious look at itself and how it approaches some of the issues in the society.

Of course, the Committee noted the importance of concepts like the National Heroes Day, the proposal to rename Trafalgar Square to National Heroes Square and thought that these were all important in building a new nation and self-image for Barbadians and giving them a new sense of identity.

As I said, Mr. President, the Report is in two volumes. It is quite extensive and will certainly stimulate a lot of debate

in the ensuing months. There are many recommendations and it is the Government's intention to proceed with many of these recommendations and to have many members of the Committee continue to work in carrying this process forward.

With these words, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I think that time has dealt probably a cruel blow to this Report in that at this time, one is probably wondering what is the relevance or why do we need to bring it at this point in time. Nonetheless, Sir, I think that we can still attempt to deal with it for what it is worth.

I would start, Sir, on a personal note by saying that one of the greatest influences on my life was the late Joseph Nathaniel McClean, my grandfather, who was an uneducated black man. I think he wrote his name once in his life when he felt that he needed to be able to sign the marriage register and, therefore, practised writing his name so that he could sign the marriage register.
4.00 p.m.

In spite of the fact that he was uneducated, he was able to instil in his children and grandchildren a sense of pride and a desire to get on in life regardless of what may be the odds.

I start on this note because I think that very often many of the problems that we encounter as black Barbadians have much to do with our own perception of who we are and very often we dwell on who we are not rather than on who we are and seek to improve ourselves.

The Honourable Leader of the Senate spoke of the acceptance of guilt. The question one must ask first and foremost is, who is the guilty party. I ask that question because one has to ask who would be the persons that will raise their hands and say I am the guilty one and therefore I will accept the guilt.

Mr. President, I was prompted once to write a letter to the editor of one of our newspapers as far back as 1979 when I made the point then that whereas South Africa had the street car model of apartheid, Barbados had the formula one model. It was fine-tuned and in fact it was accepted. Apartheid in Barbados to some extent had become institutionalised because we had two races of people who had basically accepted their positions in the society. They lived together but yet apart. They went to the same schools but they did not play together in the evenings. They worked in the same business establishments but they did not socialise after working hours nor on weekends. Both parties accepted

their places and therefore they seem to have agreed that they will co-exist without getting in each other's way.

We have been able to have, from 1951, universal adult suffrage in this country without any significant bloodshed except for the riots. Therefore, if in the year 2003 we are still grappling with some of the problems which are raised here, it means to some extent the people who have been able to assume the reins of political power in this country, that is, the majority black population, have done a serious disservice to the majority of people in this country. This means that we have been able to gain political power merely on the basis of strength of numbers not on the strength of ideas which can lead to advancement of the people. You have the highest numbers, therefore you get the most votes and you assume power, but what have you done with the political power? They have done very little, I dare say, to deal with the issues of economic power that exist in this country.

As was pointed out, some of the same issues that were being dealt with at the time when we were seeking universal adult suffrage and at the time when Barbadians and people across the Caribbean were rioting are the same issues that are apparently being dealt with now.

Unfortunately, we are a little worse off in some regards today because in the 1930s and 1940s we had men who were prepared to stand up and fight for the betterment of the people of this country because they were committed to doing so. Today, we have more educated people in positions of responsibility but yet one does not get the feeling that it is with that same passion to uplift the broad masses of people of this country. We seem to be satisfied to continue to move along in the same groove and, in fact, it appears as though many of us would rather not rock the boat.

So what really are we seeking to achieve through these talks about reconciliation? The people that we have seen as the ones who are guilty of committing some gross atrocities against the black people of this country, are they still the ones who are our biggest enemies or are we in fact our own worse enemies because today we have a *nouveau riche* black class in this country that seems not to be aware of who they are, where they have come from or what is their responsibility to the society. It seems as though many of us believe and are satisfied that having had the benefit of a university education and being able to gain some profession, that our next goal in life is merely to live in the largest house, drive the most expensive car and take as many trips as we can to shop overseas. While we are doing so, we forget our responsibility not only to the people of this country but even to our own children and we fail to instil in them the values which our parents and grandparents saw as being important.

At a time when it was not easy for black Barbadians to be educated, my grandfather, in spite of the fact that he was

not educated said that every one of his children must be educated and he ensured that the ten children that he fathered did in fact gain a level of education that they could move on in life.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, as the grandson of a man who, though not educated, I stand proud today to have the honour to address this Chamber. That was because my grandfather saw the value of education and the importance of instilling certain values into us.

Sir, one of the things he has always made a point about is that we must see no person as being more or less than we were but that, regardless of colour, class or creed, we are all equal; that any day someone attempts to make a distinction as to who is greater or lesser, we have to make sure that we are the ones who are superior.

Mr. President, unfortunately this *nouveau riche* class of black people that has emerged in Barbados in recent years seems not to appreciate these values. They seem not to appreciate that they have to let their children know their own history and the history of the people of this country. There are children who believe the world has started with large screen television sets, computers, electricity, running water, *et cetera*, all the nice things that we enjoy today, because they do not know what were the struggles that existed amongst the people in this country less than 50 years ago. They take life for granted and believe that everything comes easy and there is no need to strive to achieve. In fact, they so believe that what they have is the norm that they find it difficult to sympathise or empathise with respect to the difficulties that other persons feel or face. They do not believe there are certain persons in this country who do not have waterborne facilities in their homes. They do not believe there are still persons in this country who wake up on mornings and do not have breakfast. They feel that when one of their school mates comes to school not dressed in some of the fine things that they are able to buy, something is wrong with that child.

Therefore, today when we are concerned with reconciliation, we must ask ourselves the question, with whom do we have to reconcile? What is it that we want to reconcile?

With respect to the matter of reparation, I fully support the idea but when we think of reparation, generally the first thing we think of is somebody paying for past injustices. As I said, who would put up their hands and say they are the guilty party? Who will put up their hands and say they are the ones who are supposed to pay?

I support the call for reparation and would like to say in the context to which I wish to put this support. These

islands of the Caribbean were largely responsible for bringing European countries out of the dark ages. Before the Europeans invaded the Caribbean, they lived in conditions which were far inferior to what persons in other parts of the world lived but it was with the uprising of what we call the new world that they were able to obtain these sources of wealth. They were therefore able to build the great cities which they have in Europe at this time.

Therefore, much of the wealth of Great Britain was acquired because of the exploitation of the resources of the people of the former English-speaking colonies of the Caribbean. I think the only thing the Barbados Government has received from the British Government when attaining Independence was a silver plate or some other ornamental gift. As was said, this little island was once the jewel in the crown of the British Empire. In fact, it was so important that they gave up states in the United States in preference of Barbados.

I think, therefore, the people of England owe the people of these islands a serious debt and it is time they pay. The question is, what do they pay? To whom do they pay? What do we do with it? There are certain persons who feel that reparation is about large sums of money being given to someone else and, therefore, every black man is entitled to receive so many thousands of pounds from the British Government or from the former slave owners.

One just needs to go back to the records which are still in existence in the United Kingdom to see what was paid to the slave owners when the slaves were set free. Use that figure as a base, then calculate the amount that would have been earned by those persons from the free labour over a given period, plus that which they would have earned during the apprenticeship period and one could arrive at a fairly accurate figure as to what would be the dollar value.

Mr. President, reparation must go beyond the dollar value. What can one pay for the freedom of man? Can there be enough money to compensate for the stripping of a race of people of their identity? What can be paid to a people who now no longer know from whence they came? What were their names? What was their language? A people who have been totally stripped of their identity. I do not think there is any amount of money that could compensate for that kind of loss.

If we restricted our use of reparation merely to the dollar value, I would think that the next step would be to whom would that money be paid? Having established how much should be paid, the next question is, who would receive it? It would make absolutely no sense for anyone to say that they would give money to individuals as compensation for reparation. In fact, there are many people of European

descent who themselves would be entitled to reparation.

Sir, if money is put into the hands of individuals what would happen to it? Based on our existence now, the attitude that has become very pervasive, all that one would do is to take that money and immediately spend it on things that are manufactured by people from whom we got the money and therefore, would have little or no impact on the overall development of our people.
3.20 p.m.

Now that we are faced with the uncertainty of globalisation perhaps this is the time when the former colonial masters should be required to make a significant contribution to the development of the economies of this country but far from being sympathetic and trying to assist we are seeing the ever increasing pressure of the developed countries, the former colonial masters, on these small countries which is threatening our survival.

Sir, this is the time for reparation and it should not be a payment to individuals but significant injection into the economies for the development of these small countries because, as I have said, England, France, Holland, Spain, all of those developed countries gained large wealth from us because those kings and queens had titles but were impoverished and lived in the dark ages when compared with civilisation in the East and Africa and they were able to achieve great wealth off the sweat and blood of the people they enslaved. They also exterminated the Amerindians who lived on these islands even before black people were brought from Africa.

Sir, the European powers, the former colonial masters do in fact owe these islands compensation. I join with everyone who makes this case and the Governments of the region should take a serious approach to this matter and make a case for reparation. The Jews have already been paid for the atrocities of the Nazis and at this moment the Kenyans are putting in a claim for five billion pounds sterling to the British Government for the atrocities committed against the Kenyans people for the attempt to clamp down on the Mau-Mau a few years ago. Sir, part of the reparation must be the way we educate our people and make resources available for people to know and understand their history and not dwell in the past but to use our experiences to move forward. I want to repeat a call I made before that the artefacts relating to the slave trade which are now in museums in the United Kingdom should be brought to the Caribbean so that our children can see what our forefathers went through and understand what caused them to be here to enjoy the life we now live.

The British have the shackles, the plantation records, drawing of the ships used in the slave trade and we should

bring them here so that our people can see what our fore-parents went through because if we are not aware of the past sufferings, perhaps it will happen again and, Sir, it must never happen again. We must use our past experience to move forward as a people or we will find ourselves in mental slavery which will tie us to a system that will forever make us feel inferior to other people.

Sir, maybe the situation of institutional apartheid has become acceptable to all in Barbados and people have accepted that they can coexist as long as one does not invade the other's territory. How are we going to deal with the problem where we as a majority race in this country seem not to understand the need for us to move forward as a people?

Sir, I always make the point that every generation has the responsibility to ensure that the next one is better off. I am trying to ensure that my children will be better off than I am and we as a people have to take that approach but we have to do it by strengthening family structures, community relations, ensuring that the correct values are taught in schools and what we want because, more and more, we are getting the impression that people in this country want to move away from the established norms that have brought us to where we are now.

Sir, many people do not see things like religion as being important any longer and we seem to want to move in the direction of the Americans where they do not have prayers in schools. We want to get away from what we suffered under these people but yet we want to adopt the same behaviour that contributed significantly to the decline of their society.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. President, the recommendations which are put forward in this document, in my view, cannot be looked at in isolation from the kind of mentality that has developed among us as people.

I would like to make reference to an interesting table in the document where it shows that the demographics of this country are rapidly changing. Whereas, the white population has declined by approximately 25 per cent, the Indian population has increased by over 380 per cent.

Sir, what I have observed over the years, is that many white people in this country felt that it was better for them to accommodate the people that arrived since the African slaves. People were able to come into Barbados with a suitcase, get credit from the establishment in Bridgetown, go around the country and sell things to black people, who could not get credit from the establishments in Bridgetown, make large

profits and become wealthy. It was felt that the whites needed to create a buffer between the two main races in this country.

The question, still unanswered is, who will suffer most because of that arrangement and that decision then? I have no intention of getting into any discussion about race. Sufficient to say that we will have to deal with the problems that will arise as a result of that kind of situation.

My next concern is the renaming of Trafalgar Square to Heroes Square. We cannot change history. The fact will remain that there was a Trafalgar Square in Barbados. There is talk about getting rid of the Nelson statue. As far as I am concerned, getting rid of Nelson is of little importance and totally irrelevant in terms of the psyche of the Barbadian people.

I think what is more important is, we should be able to build institutions without destroying existing ones. We should be able to establish a Heroes Square, which the people of this country would be proud of and the Trafalgar Square would become insignificant to them because we would have developed something that we are proud of rather than get rid of Nelson to put a statue of someone else.

Mr. President, it is part of our history, whether we like it or not it is there. We must use history for our advancement. Being able to throw Nelson in the Wharf does not change anything. I am sure that if you had to ask the people of Barbados where Nelson is or what direction he is facing, they would tell you that they do not remember where Nelson is.

Asides.

SENATOR LeR. H. McCLEAN: In a country where a cosmetic change on a statue is a major political issue, it shows that our level of consciousness and thinking is in the wharf.

Sir, we should not use a mere landscaping issue when we should be dealing with who is responsible for discrimination. How many white employers are there in Barbados? Who is the largest employer of people in this country? Who makes up the majority of managers of business in Barbados? Who are the most bank managers in Barbados? Who are the most loan officers in Barbados? When you talk about discrimination in Barbados against black people, there are black people who are discriminating against black people in Barbados.

Mr. President, there are black people who feel that if you do not live in the same size house as they or drive a certain type of car, you are the one to be stepped on. The biggest discriminator against poor, black people in Barbados now is the Government of Barbados, as the single largest

employer when political consideration is more important than the colour of your skin. Mr. President, it is whose policy you support that is what determines who is discriminated against in Barbados.

Sir, when we are dealing with these issues, let us not deal with trivialities and cosmetic things. If we want to establish a Heroes Square, go and establish a Heroes Square somewhere else. Why do you need to build a Heroes Square on top of Trafalgar Square? History will still show that there was a Trafalgar Square. Why do you need to move Nelson's statue to put another statue there? People would still know that there was a statue of Nelson. It does not change the circumstances under which these things came about in Barbados.

Mr. President, we have to pay closer attention to the things that are really important to the people of Barbados. We have to ensure that our children are educated in a way that we have the kind of community relationship existing in this country that will make people feel that they have communities and that they are not isolated groups living in this country. Sir, people should feel that there is some togetherness. Community spirit is not only about a festival or partying. It is about values, people feeling that they are part of something.

Sir, the sooner that we make Barbadian children feel that they are really a part, not only of Barbados, but a part of the Caribbean, and feel a sense of pride that they can do something to uplift the general welfare of the broad masses of people within the CARICOM region, when we can give our children that feeling that they can wake up and feel that they can make a contribution to the development and upliftment of the people, then we would have achieved something.

Mr. President, I am not very hopeful that this exercise will take us too far. I believe that, perhaps, it is another exercise in futility and it would merely become another document that would adorn someone's bookshelf.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, my problem with this question of reconciliation of the races is that we should try to define who is black and who is white in Barbados. My families have been here for 16 generations that I know of. That means that I have some 32 768 ancestors and my grandchildren are going to have over 100 000 ancestors. Are you going to tell me that I do not have some black ancestors? You have to be joking! I think that is so in the case of everybody.

It takes three generations to move from the appearance of one to the appearance of the other. For example, Sir

Grantley Adams, supposedly a black man, his children and grandchild look as white as I am.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, how can any one of us stand up in Barbados and say, I am black or I am white? It is a perception. Science has shown clearly and the learned Leader of the House will say that the difference between the genes of races is infinitesimal. We are about 99.9 per cent the same and just a little point one per cent changes the way you look so how do we approach this problem?

I was at a meeting the other day where it was regurgitated that white people control the economy of Barbados. This to me, first and foremost, is ridiculous because if there are only 4 per cent white people in Barbados, most of the people that I know are middle class, so that means, you are saying that at least half or 2 per cent of the population of Barbados controls the economy? This is scientifically impossible.

Senator McClean in the Report referred to the problem of class. Class is probably far more of a problem that we need to address. Sir, to me, class is not something that is unique to Barbados, this is all over the world. Even in the communist countries where they tried to talk about a classless society, there were people who had a lot more than other people. They showed that they were even more oppressive than in places where they did not.

Sir, land is another very emotive thing in Barbados. You must own a piece of this rock. Neither my parents nor grandparents owned any land. They rented houses. I often feel that to tell people, oh you must own land, and people would go out there and mortgage their lives to get land and a house because that is being held up by the politician as being what you have to achieve. If you took that same money and put it into business, you would get a far better investment than sinking it into land. Sir, look upon the Heights and see the houses that these people are building. It is disgusting. I mean, I live in a wooden house that cost me \$38 000 to build and I am quite proud of it. Who do not like it, can lump it. Who wants to come and visit me, fine. If they do not, no big deal to me but I am saying that some people build \$500 000 houses.

Aside.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Sir, one very learned gentleman from the UWI, Cave Hill said to me, "You were born in a plantation house and I was born in a chattel house, so now I have to build and live in a plantation-sized house to satisfy myself". I said, "You have a degree" – but more than a degree, he is a very senior person in the University and he

thinks like this – “I cannot believe that you would think that you have to live in a plantation house to prove something”.

Sir, let us look at the progress that has occurred in Barbados. I cannot remember 100 years ago, but certainly up to 50 or 60 years ago. Who were the senior police officers? They were all white. Who were the judges? They were all white, the Legislative Council was about 50 per cent white, the principals of the major schools were 50 per cent white.

Sir, organisations like the Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Brigade and all those basic things that Barbadians are so proud of now that have been a part of Barbadian life, including the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and all of these basic things that made up the Barbadian society were predominantly white people, started by white people and gradually, slowly and surely, changed; and we have to be proud of this.

We can say, today that black people run all these organisations: the Barbados Museum, the Barbados National Trust and all these organisations that were predominantly white, that people are saying that they have to participate in this kind of society which makes Barbados so unique.

We are quite different from the other islands. Mr. President, I was in Trinidad just prior to independence when Eric Williams took office and he was preaching, “Massa day done”. So what happened at Independence? People fled from the country. They took their money and went all over the world to get away because they saw that they had no future in Trinidad.

The same thing happened in Guyana and Jamaica. There are hundreds of stories of how people got their money out of these countries. There was a famous one in Jamaica where the guy went to the airport with a cast on his leg and called the airport and told them, this fellow with the cast on his leg has money in his cast. When he arrived there, they cut off the cast and he was screaming “blue murder” and there was no money. He went back to the doctor and they put on the cast, this time with the money and when he went back to the airport, everybody just put him through in a wheelchair and he marched out with his millions of dollars.

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Sir, this never happened in Barbados. Why? Because white Barbadians on the whole feel that this is their country. In a lot of the other islands, white people struggled quickly to get British passports. Some of them could not be used because they were from their great-great grandparents. They were British citizens but they ran to England and cried to get British passports. This never happened in Barbados. People here are proud to be Barbadians. They are not interested in that kind of thing.

Sir, I found it interesting during that talk about reparation. I saw the other day, somebody came to Colin Powell in the USA and said to him, “What do you think about reparation?” He said, “I give you with one hand and take back with the other”. In other words, he was saying, I am half white and half black and one hand has to give and one hand has to come back. I think, again, that when we talk about the Amerindians, the Europeans totally wiped out the Amerindians from the islands. There were little pockets in St. Vincent and Dominica, but generally speaking, they were totally eradicated.

Sir, that was a race. When you talk about people who have had it rough, they had it far rougher than the African slaves. They owned the land here. The Europeans came here, took the land from them and killed them.

The other day I went to give a lecture at a place and we were told to stand for the national anthem and I rose to my feet only to find out that it was the Ethiopian National Anthem that we were going to sing. I and the majority of those people who were there, farmers mainly, were kind of horrified. They did not know the Ethiopian National Anthem. There were four people who knew it and sang it with great gusto with hands in the air and all these other farmers were looking at me and saying, what? I said, I do not know it either but what was even worse is that we did not sing the Barbados National Anthem.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR LAURIE were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT

Asides.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: I am sorry. I get very upset when we do not sing our national anthem.

I remember the night I was at the opening of the Dame Elsie Payne building and the instrument that was to play the Barbados National Anthem did not work and I suggested to them that we sing it and everybody sang. It was so wonderful.

I go to some of these diplomatic receptions and they stand there with their hands over their hearts and they sing their national anthem, but when they play the Barbados National Anthem, some Barbadians stand up looking very unconcerned. We should demand to sing our National Anthem.

In closing, Sir, I would like to say that I would be insulted if somebody called me a Euro Barbadian. I am a Bajan and nothing else.

Thank you.
3.50 p.m.

SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I read this Report with great interest. I observed that when they published some of the submissions, written and oral, that there were divergent views, opposing views and various experiences. Some people said that there was no racism, some said there was. Some people said they preferred the word "prejudice". "Prejudice" is a word that is more commonly used or was rather than racism. Some regard the problem as class and that has been referred to. Others blame it on economic division and some attribute these divisions to slavery. Then there is talk about educational reform.

I must emphasise in all fairness that there is a great deal of educational reform going on, some of which will make people aware of their history and the aim to develop self-esteem. They mentioned things like respect for other people's property. We tried to inculcate that in children for years and years, so I do not think that the problem can be blamed on education.

I notice that one of the submissions stated and I quote:

"Success depended on how hard I work, not on the colour of my skin."

The person went on to say that:

"There is a need to develop not so much a black consciousness but self consciousness."

Those were some of the things that struck me.

I think it is important to look back and know your history but not to look back in anger, bitterness or rejection. We can acknowledge the history of slavery without letting it become an obsession. There should be no institutionalising of barriers which are injurious to society and in some instances legislation will be necessary. It is also true that many barriers have already been broken down or been altered. Sadly, Mr. President, some attitudes are deeply ingrained and I do not think that we can legislate for attitudes. We can only reconcile those things which are reconcilable.

Education and self-esteem are key to acceptance. I do not want to be too personal but I live in a district which some people nowadays comment on when they are talking about race. I was born in Strathclyde and when I was a child there were some divisions for a while. Some people were friendly and some were not so friendly. We went to the same school, I won a scholarship to Queen's College, I am proud to say, and some of those children up to today now still greet me with affection. They had to pay me respect because of what I achieved and when I became head girl. Therefore, I think that education and self-esteem besides religion are important. The hymn that we used to sing at Queen's College and then at the school where I taught was: "In Christ there is no East or West,

in Him no South or North". We would then go on singing "Join hands then, brothers of the faith whate'er your race may be". Those things I know stuck in the heads of many a child. I think that a full education that liberates the mind and, I would say too, the heart should lead to a situation where one does not prejudice.

I wish to emphasise too that a great deal of prejudice, I think, is caused because we do not really know each other. I am talking about the races now. The more social interaction we have, the more likely I think it would diminish the negative assumptions that we have of each other. Thus, social intercourse will become easier and genuine friendships develop as has happened.

One also has to strive to make sure that there are basic amenities. I remember the late Tom Adams once saying that in this society even the poorest person should have access to the basic amenities of life. This Administration under the brilliant, compassionate and understanding leadership of the Prime Minister is striving to break down those barriers by eradicating poverty. This would help in large measure to remove strong feelings by those disadvantaged and marginalised that they are not a part of the society.

This aim, I think, is and should be to build a society that is peaceful and harmonious. Mr. President, the last thing we want to see in Barbados is a country divided on the basis of race. We know countries where it has happened and as a result the societies have been torn apart and economies slowed down, altered or destroyed and the whole development process shattered through these terrible race divisions. Anything that has a historical origin will take time before it is superseded by other historical influences.

When I hear discussions on race, of course, they are current now and very important but even growing up we had those discussions, I am reminded of those famous words of Dr. Aggrey of Ghana which are:

"You can play a tune on the white notes and you can play a tune on the black notes, but for harmony, you need both."

I think this probably inspired these entrancing lines, beautiful poetry, by a Kenyan poet and I should like to quote:

"When at last the lights are out, and I feel your hand in mine, two human breaths join in one and the piano weaves its unchallenged harmony."

This poet was writing about a relationship between black and white. May I repeat the words: "and the piano weaves

its unchallenged harmony". This is what I would like to see for our society. This is what I am sure all of us here in this Chamber would like to see. I think this is what our Government is aiming at and would like to see.

With those few words, I can only say that we can go on trying, but it will take time. Perhaps, we need to study the Report in greater detail because there is so much in it and it is very difficult to absorb all of it at one time.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.
4.00 p.m.

SENATOR Sir JOHN STANLEY GODDARD: Thank you, Mr. President. I have had the privilege and the honour to have served on the Committee for National Reconciliation. It involved a lot of hard work, a lot of reading and a lot of discussion but I have no regrets. It was a very memorable experience.

Before starting my contribution, I would like to pay tribute to several persons. First of all, to the 12 members of the Committee who have worked very conscientiously. The discussions were often vigorous but always without rancour.

I would also like to pay tribute to the secretarial and support staff for their commitment to the work of the Committee. Tribute is also due to the many persons who have attended the town hall meetings and those who have made oral and written submissions. Tribute is also due to the media for keeping the public informed on the important issues that had aroused much interest.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to pay special tribute to the Chairman of that Committee, Doctor Sir Keith Hunte for his leadership and many fine qualities that contributed so much to the discussions and to the Report itself. Those fine qualities included his experience, his administrative skills, his patience and his tolerance in particular and, most importantly, his sound academic training in and deep understanding of history which enabled him to evaluate the historical events in context of their times – a very important quality. I say this because unfortunately, this important quality, the ability to see events in their context, does not seem to be shared by all historians.

I would like to go with the background to the Report. On July 1, 1999, Cabinet agreed,

"to the establishment of eminent Barbadians to develop, coordinate and implement a programme for the process towards national reconciliation and to distill and to develop a shared vision among us as a people."

That mandate was stated in the letter of appointment and was dated July 2, 1999. There were 12 members of the Committee, including Sir Roy Trotman and me. The Committee got down to work very quickly the month following the appointment in August, 1999. Together there were 65 meetings; 5 town hall meetings; 45 written submissions and several oral presentations. The Report itself consists of 2 volumes, 96 pages and 150 pages respectively. The Report of the Committee was presented to the Prime Minister with a transmittal letter on December 18, 2000, more than 2 years ago.

In April, 1999, Parliament passed the Trafalgar Square (Change of Name) Act, 1999, whereby as from April 28, 1999, Trafalgar Square would be named National Heroes Square. Just before Parliamentary approval, the Prime Minister had announced a Committee to be Chaired by the Clerk of Parliament, to hold public consultations. The purpose of those consultations was to make recommendations as to how the Square and the West Wing of Parliament could be converted to fitting tributes to our National Heroes and to find a new site for the statue of Lord Nelson.

As you would recall, Sir, much debate followed both in and outside of Parliament on these matters. I submit that is probably the main reason for the appointment of the Committee for National Reconciliation two months after that Act was passed in Parliament.

I think I should make reference to one of the recommendations which deals with Horatio Lord Nelson. I now turn to recommendation No. 30. I quote:

"The Committee endorses the recommendation of the National Square and Gallery Committee to relocate the statue of Viscount Horatio Lord Nelson from the National Heroes Square to a more suitable spot and that it be treated with dignity and respect."

It was obvious that the Square had been renamed by Act of Parliament and it would have been incongruous to have the statue of Lord Nelson remain there. Therefore, the fact that it had been renamed, this Resolution followed from that.

We have heard much disrespectful and insensitive talk about how the statue could be thrown into the Careenage, *et cetera*. The view of the Committee was that it should be transferred to a more suitable place and be treated with respect. That statue was placed there by Barbadians in the year 1813 and is part of our heritage.

I now turn to the chapters of the Report and will comment on a number of highlights as I see them. The first

Chapter dealt with Towards a Vision of Barbadian society in the 21st Century. The Committee strongly recommended the revised draft preamble to the Constitution, as recommended in the 1998 Report of the Constitution Review Commission. That preamble seeks to recognise the ideals and aspirations of all Barbadians and to reflect our deeply held cultural, social, political and spiritual values and heritage.

The second Chapter dealt with the legacy of slavery. These are the highlights:

“The transatlantic slave trade and the institution of chattel slavery profoundly affected social relations, both institutions stand universally condemned. The process of emancipation for all had to be redefined and made applicable and relevant to everyone within society. Emancipation affected not only the former slaves and their descendants but both slave owners and those who were neither slave owners nor slaves.

It would seem to be practical to concentrate the nation’s energy on an agenda that enabled Barbados to come to terms with our history, recognising that publicly condemning slavery and other forms of human oppression both in the past and present, resolve to work assiduously and collaboratively to build a society and its constituent parts on the principles of freedom, social justice and respect for the human person.”
4.10 p.m.

Chapter Three, the issue of reparation was one of the contentious issues raised in the public debate in Town Hall meetings and in submissions to the Committee. The call for transfer of resources as reparation is not to be seen in isolation. The Abuja Proclamation adopted at the First Pan African conference on reparation in Nigeria in 1993 emphasised the importance of African people assuming responsibility for effecting their own self-repair. Sir, a more enlightening part of reparation is the act of self-repairs. It argues that the campaign offers African people opportunities for rehabilitation of “minds, material conditions, collective reputation, cultures, memories, self-respect, religion, political traditions and family institutions but first and foremost for the rehabilitation of our minds”.

The Committee recognised that there was a moral obligation to assist in self-repair by addressing the challenges of poverty, under-development, marginalisation, economic disparities, instability and insecurity. Sir, that is a big order but this is what it means to effect self-repair.

Chapter Four dealt with divisive factors and was particularly interesting. The census data for the three preceding decades indicated that Barbados has a population comprising of 95 per cent black, 4 per cent white and 1 per cent Indian. Previous censuses indicated that the white

population is on the decline and that the Indian population is growing. Some of the divisive factors in Barbados are race, colour, class, religion, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, political party affiliation and economic status.

One survey undertaken said that 48.5 per cent considered class to be the most important difference separating Barbados with 20 per cent identifying race as the most important difference separating Barbados with approximately 20 per cent identifying race to be the most important difference.

A second survey was undertaken called the “Adult Survey” with persons over 30 years of age and blacks generally felt that class was the most widespread form of discrimination in Barbados whereas whites and Indians tended to identify racial discrimination as most prevalent.

Mr. Speaker, those results came as no surprise to me as a Barbadian and I have lived here most of my life but it came as a surprise to others because these two surveys demonstrated that class and not race was the most divisive factor in the Barbadian society.

Chapter Five dealt with participation in the economy and a research project on the racial dimension of economic activity in Barbados was studied which focussed on the lending policies and financial institutions in Barbados, promotion and upward mobility of persons in private sector organisations, policies of businesses and fair competition.

The Committee came to the conclusion that the overriding consideration is that the private sector should hold itself accountable not just to shareholders but to the public as consumers and workers. Workers must be given the opportunity over time to have a stake in the business and the consumer should know that the businesses they patronise are good corporate citizens.

I can think of some good corporate companies which over time have made shares available to their employees and such actions have predated these recommendations in the Report.

Access to land was also important because Barbadians give high priority to owning land and a home. They believe that they have the right to acquire a plot of land at an affordable price and the Committee also noted the contents of the Report of the Select Committee of Parliament on ownership of land interest in Barbados by non-nationals including CARICOM nationals and lamented the lack of up-to-date information on the state of land ownership in the Report. The Committee strongly felt that access to reliable data updated on a regular basis is necessary.

The Committee also felt that Government needs to take action to preserve the nation's birthright and ensure that land for residential use is reserved for that purpose and that aspiring owners should not see the price of land soaring above their capacity to reach it.

Chapter Seven dealt with the role of the State in the process of social transformation. The Committee felt that the State had an important role to play in building a democratic society in accordance with the principles of social justice. It felt that civil society also had an important role to play and that Government and civil society should work together in partnership in building a strong democratic society. Sir, my understanding is, and I speak subject to correction, that the present law deals with discrimination between the State and the citizen. The Committee felt that legislation was needed to outlaw discrimination and the denial of access to political and economic resources on the grounds of race, class, gender, religion, political affiliation or disability.

4.20 p.m.

Sir, the key elements in a strategy for social transformation would target as attainable goals, equality, specifically racial equality, gender equity, family life, parent education, youth development, understanding and managing diversity. We are a diverse society in terms of race, class and ethnicity and that diversity needs to be managed.

Chapter Eight talks about building the society. The underlying theme on which the Report is based was very well articulated by a speaker at one of the Town Hall meetings. This is what he said and I quote,

"We cannot change our painful past but we can change how it affects us. We cannot change what others may feel about where we have come from, what we can change is how we see it and how we will use it to our advantage."

We hear a lot of comments on the role of the schools and churches in nation building. There are letters in the Press and comments on the call-in programmes on this topic. I do not know whether the schools or churches are doing sufficient. Maybe they are trying but they have to work under very difficult circumstances but they help to lay the foundation values in the society.

Chapter Nine dealt with a strategy for building peace. The Committee felt that the culture of peace must be based on a firmer foundation than the absence of conflict. This observation underlines the importance to Barbados of building a stronger sense of community across all potential fault lines demarcated by class, race, ethnicity, gender or political affiliation.

Sir, in an island 21 x 14 square miles, we have to see ourselves as one community. There may be subdivisions but we are the Barbadian community and we are proud to be Barbadians. This hinges upon the celebration and acceptance of people's right to be different and their right to a peaceful secure existence within their communities.

The Committee felt that the greatest threat to social peace and security is the benign neglect of social problems.

Chapter Ten deals with the summary of recommendations and implementation strategy. These needed to be studied carefully by Government and then prioritised for implementation within a reasonable time-frame.

Sir, a submission at the last meeting of the Committee by a member of the Committee, suggested that Chapter 11 be attached to the Report as an addendum.

Mr. President, what I dealt with today is Volume 1. I will comment briefly on Volume 11 of the Report. It consists of important addresses, oral and written excerpts to the Committee by the Prime Minister and Bishop Brome.

Finally, Mr. President, the Report attempts to reflect the hopes, aspirations, concerns, disappointments and frustrations within Barbadian society at the end of the previous millennium. Its aim is to provide guidelines for the way forward in the new millennium based on dialogue, research, analysis and experience. Its aim is to transform the dialogue of death - excuse the expression - into authentic dialogue in which the various interests, social and racial groups, listen to each other actively and seriously respond to the quandaries. In the Report the Committee has urged and I quote,

"An integrated approach to the planning of our future, economic strategies must be linked to strategies, social transformation. At the very base the people of Barbados must be encouraged to rededicate themselves to the building of a just society in which the enjoyment of fundamental political rights is matched by access to economic opportunity and to real prospects of social advancement."

Thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, the debate on this Report has been long in coming. I had sincerely hoped that when it reaches this stage we would have had a debate of the calibre adequate and appropriate to the very important exercise that was taken to compile this Report.

Generally speaking, the speeches that I have heard so far from my colleagues have been of such a calibre except that I must take serious objections to the approach adopted by Senator McClean in his personation. Generally speaking, his was a very pessimistic approach in which he touted an endless stream of platitudes. He indulged in cliché thinking and utterances. He waxed warm on generalisations about Barbadian society and social perspectives that were totally unsubstantiated by any facts, figures, data or science. As one who was trained in the sciences, he likes to boast about empirical data but his submission was totally devoid of any such resemblances.

Sir, what it amounted to, to my mind, was that there was a severe condemnation, not only of the society but of his own race. It exhibited such a negative perception of life and people in Barbados that I was wondering whether I was in the same country as he was. Certainly, the things that he spoke about I do not relate to or I do not perceive in my daily living.

I could only conclude that Senator McClean must have thought that the national exercise leading to the Report was an utter and complete waste of time. I refuse to accept that persons, and a Committee of that calibre, of the likes of Sir Keith Hunte, Chairman, The Right Rev. Rufus Brome, he was then Bishop of Barbados, Professor Kamau Brathwaite, Mr. David Ellis, Mr. Allan Fields, Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard, the late Sir Conrad Hunte, Mr. Ishi Kessaram, Mrs. Chantal Monroe-Knight, the Rev. Gerald Seale, Senator LeRoy Trotman, now Senator Sir Roy Trotman, and Miss Joy Worrell could have indulged in an exercise that could be considered and treated as a fruitless effort and a waste of time, effort and resources. I refuse to accept that, Sir.

Sir, the persons whose names I just mentioned have already contributed much to the Barbadian society and will utterly be incapable, as a group, to produce a Report that was a waste of time.

Sir, I also find it very ironic that Senator McClean's jaundiced and almost bitter view of life, as exhibited in his presentation, could have taken place on the very same day in which this Chamber was unanimous in its tribute to Sir Roy Trotman, who could be regarded as one of the finest examples of the average Barbadian, from an average background, who could achieve such heights.

It is also interesting that this debate is taking place the day after the launching of a lecture series to commemorate the 375th Anniversary of the founding of Bridgetown. The fact is, we are all a product of the mixture of historical events, personality and influences that have helped to shape this society and make the kind of Barbados which it is today.

Mr. President, unlike Senator McClean, I consider the work of the Committee to be a very useful exercise. It

provides an opportunity for Barbados to demonstrate that it has matured considerably as a society where such an exercise can take place without any rancour, violence or destruction.

I regard it rather than a waste of time, to be more of a therapeutic exercise and part of the maturation process of the nation for which, I think, in the long run when all the dust is settled, we will be better off.

4.30 p.m.

Sir, the exercise, to my mind, allowed persons to ventilate their views on Barbados and Barbadian life, its history, sociology, future and past, and allowed them to blow off steam in a healthy and socially acceptable manner and to get things off their chest without any harm being done to anyone. I think it was a necessary part of the process of the society maturing and people adjusting to changing times and events.

I feel, Sir, that in the same way we, as a society had broken new ground, and were able to evolve a new path, a new way of thinking and fashion a new approach to industrial and national relations through the Social Partnership and the four Protocols, amounted to a process of reconciliation between major institutions and major sections of Barbadian society, which could not have come about unless there was reconciliation.

This was reconciliation of past views, perspectives and attitudes between the hitherto competing partners. I feel that the same thing can be achieved in the social, cultural and racial relations in Barbados.

Sir, despite Senator McClean's protestations, I detected a consistent criticism of whites in Barbados. In fact, I even detected and heard a decrying and deriding of successful blacks, described as *nouveau riche*, that antiquated, socialist epithet which was going around when socialism was at its peak and which is really out of date now, and does not really fit into the modern scheme of thinking. It is *passé* or "old-hat".

Sir, if Senator McClean has the view that his Party has failed in its time in the Government to do anything successfully to change social or racial relations to advance Barbados for the many years they have been in power, I refuse to accept that of the Barbados Labour Party of which I am a part.

This Party, Sir, of which I am proud to be a member, from its beginning in 1938 has been fighting every day to change the society for the better or to advance the society. The record is there to see. One of the earlier highlights of

those earlier days would have been the achievement of universal adult suffrage which gave every Barbadian who qualified by age and not disqualified by criminal activity or whatsoever to vote, without having to own property, *et cetera*. In fact, it removed all the discrimination that had been applied against voting in Barbados, not to mention the formation of the trade unions.

Sir, all of those things are early acts of the Barbados Labour Party, but then they were continued in various policies and programmes that had advanced later. I refuse to take such a negative view of the Barbados I know and the Barbados both Parties know. I accept my Party because I know its record and it is clear that it is working for the betterment of Barbados.

The fact is, Sir, that unlike what Senator McClean would like the country to believe, we have achieved an outstanding amount in Barbados in a very quiet and orderly way which at one time was described as a quiet revolution in Barbados, politically, socially, racially and in all the other spheres. This has been the Barbadian way, starting with the late Sir Grantley Adams, followed by the late Sir Hugh Cummings, the late Right Honourable Tom Adams, taken over by Sir Harold St. John and now by the current Prime Minister, Mr. Owen S. Arthur, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, as Senator Dame Symmonds has rightly said.

Sir, we have been able to achieve an enormous amount for the betterment of Barbados through a series of change and adjustments in all of our affairs. It has to be remembered and Senator McClean should not be surprised because his Party, the Democratic Labour Party, has always had a problem with white people in Barbados. Hence his criticism.

Sir, going back to the days when the former leader once threatened to put all white people in Barbados on a barge – I think it was the Lord Combermere – and take it out to sea and sink it. Then, there was the infamous use of the white shadows in the 1986 general elections that set the large black electorate against the Barbados Labour Party by saying that it is the Party of the white shadows. So there is a consistency in the Democratic Labour Party's attitude towards white people. We have been accused of being the Party of the white people because from the outset we have opened our arms and embraced all races and all people to the Party, for what they can offer Barbados. We have not discriminated against persons, white or black.

I must wonder, therefore, how one of the very first founding members of the Democratic Labour Party, who was a white man, I think his car number was No.1, could have put up with such decisive racial behaviour, but that is part of the history of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, the work of the Committee on Reconciliation acknowledges the fact that we are dealing with a dynamic

process where human relations or social relations are concerned. If it is a dynamic process, therefore, adjustments will have to be made from time to time and persons will have to deal with the new order of things as they occur. We will have to explode myths, stereotypes and prejudices that still admittedly and unfortunately still exist among the races in Barbados and between the races, not only the blacks and whites but the other racial groups that now make up Barbados. Sir, like Senator Dame Symmonds said, this is a situation that can only be changed through interrelations and education over a period of time and succeeding generations. I am satisfied that steps in the right direction have been made in that regard and that all hope is not lost for Barbados where that is concerned.

I would like to pay some attention, Sir, to Recommendation 4 of the Committee where it says and this is an example of the kind of approach that has been conducted and adopted by this Government towards reconciliation. Recommendation 4 said:

“It would be appropriate, if on the occasion of the staging of national events, a special were made to reflect the diverse character of the society.”

Sir, if one looks at events over the years, there has been a conscious and deliberate act on the part of the Government, outside the work of this Committee to move in that direction. I know that Senator McClean tried to dismiss certain events in Barbados' celebrations and festivals, *et cetera*, but celebrations are important in human affairs. There are highlights in one's life which human beings celebrate in different societies in different ways. So we are not going to apologise for the fact that we think there are important events in Barbados which have symbolic and substantial importance that should be accorded prominence and attention through celebrations.

4.40 p.m.

We, through the Independence Celebration Secretariat, have made a policy that when we have events to involve all the races in the celebration. That is a process that has already begun. Last year when we celebrated our Independence, we moved from having an ecumenical service to a multi-faith service where all the faiths in Barbados were invited to participate, and the vast majority of them overwhelmingly did so and the service was very successful. This is an acknowledgment of the fact that we have a diverse racial, diverse cultural and a diverse society. That service also represents an act of reconciliation on the part of Government to bring this about.

Sir, reconciliation is not and cannot be seen as a single act no matter how profound or how monumental that

act might be. Reconciliation has to be seen as an ongoing exercise by all concerned just like love or hate which cannot be achieved or cemented in one fell swoop. I, therefore, feel that the Committee's work has been a major advancement in this process of reconciliation.

I have been searching my mind, Mr. President, but I cannot recall a similar act on the part of a previous government in seeking to bring this about. I could be wrong but I cannot recall. Therefore, I am very proud that this Barbados Labour Party has in its wisdom seen it fit and necessary to begin the process in such a substantial manner to advance the process of reconciliation.

Reconciliation, Sir, I warn, cannot be done by an act, a committee or only one person. It has to be the responsibility of each and every Barbadian who lives here every day and in everything we do, say or think. I believe that the Barbados I know, the Barbados I grew up in and the Barbados that has stood the test of time and that has conquered and overcome many adversities when others outside the country felt that they could not, has the capability of dealing with this issue, social and human, cultural and racial relations, by reconciling in a manner that would do credit to the society and to the advancement of the cause of the people and the betterment of the society in a way that we can be proud. I believe that we can achieve such. I believe as well that this is but the first step in such an exercise.

I therefore want to commend the Committee for its fine work and urge it not to be disheartened in any way by those who would seek to minimise or vilify its efforts. I believe its work would stand the test of time and that it will form the basis of serious advancements in the society and that some day the work of the Committee would be regarded as seminal work that would have contributed immeasurably to the creation of a better society for all Barbadians hopefully in this generation and for generations to come.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to give support to the Resolution which is before the Chamber. I wish to indicate, as Sir John said, that I served with pride on this Committee on which we had 11 other persons who in my view contributed very well to the work of the Committee.

Mr. President, I am not going to repeat what was said by Sir John in his summary of the chapters. Indeed, I do not wish to say much about the Report itself but I do wish to make some observations arising out of the work we were doing.

The first thing I would wish, with your permission, to take notice of is the approach of the school children to the work that we were doing and to the question of differences in races, class and colour. We were all very impressed by the fact that the young children, especially those who were under 16 years of age, demonstrated to us that the future needs not be as bleak as the present quite clearly is. They made it absolutely clear that the taboos and the levels of, may I say, viciousness, that from time to time there is in matters of class differences, ethnic differences and race differences is not the way that they would see Barbados going. We formed, as a Committee, the distinct impression that other young persons may have felt that way before and that there is something wrong happening in society after school time, not after school hours, that makes the negative difference. We think that has to do very much with the nature of scarce resources like scarcity in jobs and that where people compete for something which they believe is important they use that element of competition, that scarce resource, as a basis for frustrations about others.

I think that is the very basis, when our own people travel to the United States of America or to Britain or if they go to the continent, on which much of the racism and much of the discriminations that they experience take place. So to a very great extent we have to underscore, underline and be sure that we make it clear that there is full equality of opportunity for persons when they are moving from school into the world of work because in our estimation that is going to be one of the means through which we are going to be able significantly to reduce the level and the character of racism, discrimination, anger and differences between various groups. That point can be developed much more but I think that the point I wish to make is understood but one could examine it and develop it much more fully. That remains before us because the children were able to say to us grown-ups that they did not understand why we felt so very strongly about those matters which for them did not have the same significance.

The second thing that we found to be very important is the question of our land resource. I do not think that it should come as any surprise that this would be so because land became a problem in dispute from the very beginnings of time where Cain was not able so Abel took care of Cain in the subject of possession of land. I would leave the proper presentation in terms of the scriptures to Senator Odle. I think we are together much better equipped to understand that land is not now but ever was and it seems to us ever shall be a question of a significant difference and a cause for significant conflict between peoples.
4.50 p.m.

Land that is beneath the surface of the land and land that is on the surface of the land is a basis for conflict and continues to be so now, even as we examine world affairs and as we stand in trepidation of what is likely to be the future.

We, as a Committee, have been concerned about this. I have been very worried that we have not been able to address certain aspects of the land problems. There are many areas within the question of land that we could look back at or even in this current exercise that is taking place today, where in the northern part of the country people are being denied access to the beach in St. Lucy.

When we further examine instances such as the obvious insensitivity of some persons in those areas, we can yet recognise that far from going away, that problem is becoming more and more grave. I believe that those persons who are visiting in the St. Joseph areas would be able to recognise that where I grew up as a boy, that part of the sea was a place for public access where people played games and caught crabs but were able to enjoy the beauty of the beach. Then comes a body of people who develop the area and immediately say to persons that they now have to walk one mile further to reach the bus because that access is no longer available.

As long as that kind of insensitivity is used in the matter of land, we are going to have a very grave problem. It will be a problem which will remain long after the problem of race is talked about or the problem of class may not be talked about. The problem of land ownership, land usage and land discrimination is going to remain before us.

I think, Mr. President, those are two matters which concern us very much. Another matter that concerns me is the fact that this Report has been submitted since December 2000. It is a Report with several different recommendations. It is a Report which the Committee believed then and believes now should be the basis for further work by the Government.

We understand there are various priorities that must be examined and looked into that might constitute the basis for lack of further action with the speed that we may wish but I wish to recommend that this Report be re-examined by the appropriate Ministers of Government and the Cabinet. I wish that arising out of the review of this Report, that a Committee – not necessarily the same Committee – but a working Committee be established with a view of implementing those recommendations within the Report, which may be instituted in the short and medium term and to give further advice and recommendation to the Government regarding those further recommendations which need to be put in place for the longer term.

We believe that the Chairperson of this Committee has done a tremendous job. Doctor Sir Keith Hunte should be complimented, as one of my colleagues has said but I mention his work, not merely to say that, but I am of the view that now he has retired as Principal of the University of the West Indies, he should be “re-tyred” – given a new set of tyres. He should be asked to chair this new Committee of which I speak. I have said it before to the Prime Minister, I now say it

publicly because I believe that brains and brilliance like that of Doctor Sir Keith Hunte should not be allowed to go to pasture.

I believe he is very well positioned, based on the significant public work he has done over the years, to take such a Committee were it set up and to bring a body of work, interests and results to bear that would compare favourably with what is being done in the Bahamas. In the Bahamas there is a permanent ongoing committee of this sort which reviews relationships and is trying to put flesh onto the bare bones of this Report.

I am of the view that we are far along in our wish to transform this Barbadian society to be able to take yet another step. If we have the social partnership and the subcommittee of the social partnership which, at one level, is trying to bring about healing in the country and to develop an approach by which there is a win-win relationship in the approach to growing and developing Barbados and wanting to share it, not only with those who already have but with the workers, then that should be balanced on the other side by an attempt which would seek to have us bring the social dysfunctional parts of our society where people would feel that it is not at the world of work where we are getting more or striving to get or to give more but in the broader social society, as opposed to the economic society. Also that we have the wherewithal for removing some of the disparities and for bringing about a society where people feel a greater sense of ownership and involvement in that greater society that we have.

If we were able to move to this position with some greater degree of haste, then it is my humble opinion that Barbados would be the better for it.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Honourable Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. President, this brings us to the end of Government's Business for today. I now beg to move that this Honourable Chamber be now adjourned *sine die*.

The question that the Honourable Senate be now adjourned sine die was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
5.00 p.m.

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