
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2005.

PRESENT

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works)
Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social Transformation)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD, LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister) (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.
Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil., J.P. (Minister of Energy and Public Utilities)
Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., FRCS (Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health)
Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.
Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance) (Leader of the Opposition)

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.) L.E.C. (Minister of Industry and International Business)
Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS, J.P.
Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

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

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes so cited be confirmed, subject to any omissions, observations and/or corrections.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 TO WORLD CUP BARBADOS INC. OF THE PARCEL OF LAND TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING THEREON KNOWN AS HERBERT HOUSE SITUATE AT FONTABELLE IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the House has been treated to about three debates on the Cricket World Cup, therefore it is not my intention to delay the Chamber today with extended discussions on this matter. Suffice it to say that the Honourable House, as is the country, is aware that the Government is obligated to provide accommodation and related facilities including sporting facilities for the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007. Pursuant to that responsibility, the Government of Barbados has agreed that Herbert House on Fontabelle, the property the Crown should be leased to World Cup Barbados Inc. for use during the Cricket World Cup activities. That lease comes into effect relatively soon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is intended that this building will be used as a ticketing centre, as temporary office accommodation for the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) and as a satellite office for Cricket World Cup Inc. and World Cup Barbados Inc. and for the purposes of administrative support. The lease is intended to be for a period of two years since we do not anticipate that the entities to which this property would be leased would have need of it beyond the Cricket World Cup period although we anticipate that post the hosting of the activity there would have to be a clean-up period and a period where they are doing reconciling of accounts and other related documents and doing their post mortem or post event evaluation and therefore the lease would not be surrendered immediately after the hosting of the event but some time after the Cricket World Cup event takes place.

World Cup Barbados Inc. is to be responsible for any renovations to Herbert House. Sir, I will pause here to make the point to the Chamber that Herbert House is classified in Barbados as a listed building. A building becomes listed when it has some historical or architectural feature of significance which is determined to be part of the cultural heritage worthy of preservation. Herbert House is one of

those remaining properties in Barbados which has substantial architectural detailing. There is a lot of fret work, woodwork, gingerbread work and other architectural work and finishes on the property, which regrettably our artisans no longer do as a matter of course.

Sir, perhaps I could take this opportunity to urge agencies, like the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and so on, that are responsible for the training of carpenters and joiners, to consider instituting a number of courses in that sort of very fine detailed handwork that carpenters and joiners of a bygone era of Barbados were well-known for. The representatives in this Chamber from St. George or those who give claim to that parish as residents would know that some of the finest joiners and carpenters in Barbados came out of St. George.

Asides.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: The Honourable Member for St. George South would wish to force on me the word artisan, but I would not let him put words or anything else in my mouth, I will stick to the very clear limitation that I was seeking to apply by use of the word carpenter and joiner.

Sir, some of the finest carpenters and joiners came from St. George around the Drax Hall/Greens area. Now I am not sure what gave rise to that sort of cultural heritage and to that fermentation of the perfection of the craft of joinery and carpentry, but so it is, and perhaps we have now to think as a matter of course of recapturing some of that skill that was lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to date it has become very fashionable and cost effective to mass produce houses, but the reality is that there is a lot of very interesting and intricate detailed joinery work that if you look through books on architectural design and in books on the traditional houses of Barbados, many of which have been produced by Professor Henry Fraser, you would see a level of details at windows, finishing boards, the fascia of houses including chattel houses with very intricate woodwork. Therefore, it is perhaps time to look again at this kind of work because there is a market for it not only for those who have chattel houses but for those who are building up-market houses and are seeking both internally and externally on those properties to have intricate architectural details which give the house that degree of distinction.

Sir, Barbados has first class artisans in this regard. It is now a level of craft that one tends to see far more in the Eastern Caribbean, particularly Mustique in the

Grenadines. Sir, I believe that we should again try to recover a craft that is dying but which has the potential to earn substantial revenues for those who are minded to bend their patience because it takes some degree of discipline and patience to produce that intricate work because it cannot be mass produced on machines.

Sir, houses can be listed for their overall design because of the historical period from whence they came or if not the overall design some very specific detail which is unique to that house or to a particular genre of construction or to a particular era.

Sir, I want to make this point, because this has become a sore point with property owners for some considerable time, that in Barbados when properties are listed it is impossible except through long and detailed process including getting engineering reports and applications to the Town Planning Department for what is called the listing, to effect repairs or changes on the houses. This has become a burden in some instances where persons would want to repair the house even while preserving or reproducing the very feature for which the property is famous or has become listed.

Sir, I know that the Chief Town Planner has it under active consideration that where a general listing of a property is done that the property would become listed for a specific feature. Therefore, if the detailing on the window was that feature which attracted the listing, with the new regime being contemplated by the Chief Town Planner one would be able to make changes to the property as long as one preserves the unique feature for which the property becomes listed. That makes good practical sense and would give substantial relief to property owners who have found themselves in possession of buildings which are listed and which they cannot effect any change to.

10.30 a.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I indicated, Herbert House is a listed building and, therefore, since the new regime is not yet in place, the entities to whom this property is being leased will not be able to effect substantial change to the structure and cannot do any work that would result in damage to the property. However, they will be allowed to do some minimal renovation since it is specifically determined in the lease that such renovation must be approved by the Chief Town Planner, so as to militate against the possibility of damage to the property that is considered to be of architectural importance.

Sir, given the significance of Cricket World Cup 2007, it was determined that in order to facilitate activities related to Cricket World Cup 2007, that a nominal figure would be put in place for the lease. We have, therefore, determined

that the sum of \$4 400 per annum should be the rental attached to the property.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in addition to seeking and securing the prior approval of the Chief Town Planner for any restorative work which the lessees propose to carry out at the building, a full set of approved plans for any such work must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, specifically to the Housing Department, prior to the commencement of any such restorative work. All of that is in an attempt to ensure that there is no damage done to this property, which is part of our cultural heritage.

It is also a term of the lease that no permanent structures are to be erected on the property, without the expressed permission of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment and the Chief Town Planner. World Cup (Barbados) Inc., is to carry the responsibility for obtaining all Town Planning's and other permissions, because clearly this was a property that was at one time used for residential accommodation and subsequently housed Government offices. Therefore, to effect the restorative work and to put the property which was unoccupied for some time back into active use, will require a slew of permissions from agencies such as the Town Planning Department, the Environmental Protection Department and other agencies of Government. It will be critical, given the commercial use to which this property is going to be put, that the Police Force and the Fire Service should have some oversight relative to security considerations and the prevention of major fire hazards at this location.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Herbert House is a three-storeyed building located at Fontabelle, just past Nation House. It comprises of a basement of 780 square feet of usable space, a ground floor of 2 758 square feet, a first floor of 1 004 square feet, and an annex of 693 square feet. The land area is 40 805.98 square feet. Therefore, it is a substantial property and, in the context of Barbados, must be regarded as primary estate, one having tremendous revenue-earning potential. Sir, once it is restored and returned to the Government, it is to become one of the premier buildings in Bridgetown to be put into commercial use, which would realise proper rents after the Cricket World Cup, 2007, is over. This building was last used by the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and was vacated by that entity in 1997.

It is anticipated that the ticketing centres, the entities connected with Cricket World Cup 2007, will require some 2 000 square feet and must be within a mile of Kensington Oval, in order to be viable for the kind of operation they want. Cricket World Cup Inc., will sell, collect, warehouse and distribute tickets for some 22 months prior to the 2007 start. Therefore, ticket sales are expected to start at this site from September 1, 2005. The centre will also serve as a

retail location for Cricket World Cup, Inc., where they will sell memorabilia and paraphernalia connected with Cricket World Cup 2007.

Sir, the reality is that when there are games and sports of this nature, there are tremendous opportunities for businesses, both manufacturing and retailing, because there are a number of entities in Barbados which, even now, should be contemplating the production perhaps of mini bats with the signatures of cricketers. I do not know what falls within the ambit of the allowed and legal, given the rules under which Cricket World Cup 2007, must be hosted, but there are a number of merchandising opportunities, from T-shirts to other things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Barbados is one of the few countries that has living cricket legends, from the Right Excellent Sir Gary Sobers, to Desmond Haynes, to Gordon Greenidge. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to use these living symbols of excellence and achievement and to take in some revenues for Barbados. Therefore, in the hosting of the games, it is not only the hotel plant that will benefit from revenues related to Cricket World Cup 2007, but the very many merchandising opportunities that will be available to businesses in Barbados. It is anticipated that this is one of the sites at which there will be merchandising activities and the sale of memorabilia and paraphernalia related to cricket.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the office of the Barbados Cricket Association will have to be relocated from its present site. As you are well aware, the Three Ws Stand should have been demolished by now. I am not sure if the demolition of that stand has already taken place, and I must confess at this stage that, I do not know.

Sir, attached I believe is the relevant survey plan and Cabinet has already given all necessary approvals. It is now, therefore, available for this Honourable Chamber to agree and to approve that this property should be leased to the entities identified, under the terms that I have identified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before taking my seat, I would wish to make the point that as part of the relocation effort, Parliament is aware that there are commercial entities which were obligated to move and which were under a duty to construct new properties or to relocate to existing properties. These are the commercial entities located at Fontabelle, such as Armstrong Agencies and others. We have had much debate over these properties but I would wish to inform Parliament that their relocation efforts, whether at the stage of constructing new properties or the rehabilitation of existing properties, is well-underway with construction

going on at Lower Estate and rehabilitation going on at Barbarees Hill, *et cetera*.
10.40 p.m.

Sir, there is also a requirement for Government to move residents from the priority area in Pickwick Gap to facilitate construction of the new facilities for Cricket World Cup 2007. We have identified a site at Barbarees Hill to be called Barbarees Gardens at the request of the residents, for the relocation of those persons in the Pickwick Gap area who are affected by this new redevelopment project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to indicate at this point that at the site at Barbarees that construction is going on apace under the supervision of the National Housing Corporation and that all the new properties, which the residents from Pickwick Gap are to receive, are under construction and are ahead of schedule. Sir, I can report to the House that there is no bad weather and work continues at the pace it has gone to date, that we should be able to locate the residents from Pickwick Gap July 14, 2005, ahead of the anticipated schedule because the construction project is at this time ahead of schedule.

Sir, I would wish to thank the contractors involved in that project. We are going to showcase the area to the public next week by taking the Press on a tour this Friday or early next week. There are three contractors, each of whom was allocated particular properties within the project site. Sir, each of them has taken their responsibility to the National Housing Corporation and the Government seriously and they understand the importance of meeting the deadlines relative to Cricket World Cup and the relocation of the residents from Pickwick Gap. The construction is going extremely well and the public would be able to have an opportunity to see some of what is happening at that site next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the contractors who were selected and who, to date, have been performing to their credit. We would have an opportunity to introduce them to the public when we do the tour and to speak about some of the work which has gone on at the site.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this lease, which I bring before the Chamber today, is another step being taken by the Ministry of Housing and the National Housing Corporation towards the fulfillment of their responsibility to assist in ensuring a successful hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007.

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

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

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT FLINT HALL IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ERDISTON/CARRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Sir, the matter before the House relates to Erdiston/Carrington Primary School. The Chamber would be aware that for some considerable time, a new location for these two schools, which are to be amalgamated are under contemplation. Initially, a site at Tweedside Road, on the land of Dr. Stewart was contemplated and then it was thought that the location, though it has already been acquired, was not the best possible location for a primary school, that the environs were not the best in which to nurture the minds and bodies of our young people. A decision was therefore taken that another site would be selected and this particular property was selected for the construction of the school.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would recall that we came to Cabinet with a previous Resolution in respect of this matter but it appears that there were some additional parcels of lands on which the property stands which are also needed for the purposes of the school. It is necessary to come back to Parliament only with respect to the remaining portion of land. This Resolution, therefore, does not deal with the entire property at Flint Hall.

The portion which we are seeking the permission of Parliament to acquire today is 9754.2 square feet, the purpose of which is to align the acquisition with the full parcel, which was surveyed, because there was a disparity between what we came to Parliament to acquire and what the survey showed the parcel of land to comprise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is still the intention of Government that the school be located at this location. In addition, I anticipated that this school would house a number of students but the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will speak more fully to this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the last occasion this matter came before the House the issue was raised over what then would happen with lands at Dr. Stewart's Land at Tweedside Road, which has also been identified for the construction but which were then thought to be unsuited for this particular purpose. Parliament is aware that it was the intention of the Government to do construction at that site. Since then, we are revising the nature of the property, the type of property to be erected at Dr. Stewart's Land. Sir, a project was conceived but we are changing the nature of the project. The

reality is, that parcel of land at Dr. Stewart's Land has a very narrow entrance and opens up into a wider parcel. 10.50 a.m.

Sir, the question arose how best can we maximise the land space to facilitate housing, so, we are now reconfiguring the space from the initial design to facilitate a new housing project. At some point, the Chamber would have to be made aware of the revised details of the construction project for Dr. Stewart's Land.

Initially, it had been thought that only rental units would have been built at Dr. Stewart's Land. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is now our intention to rent and sell units. If it is the policy of the Government to empower people to be property owners, we have to give opportunities not only for those who need to rent and may need a buffer between the time they rent and becoming owners of property, we also must create opportunities for people to own property within the Primary Housing Programme and within a certain social economic income bracket. Hence, some primary homes would be placed at Dr. Stewart's Land as well as terrace units. There will be a mix of units for sale as well as for rent at that location. Sir, when the new project is fully defined, the details of it will come to Parliament.

Sir, the Attorney General has certified that the Resolution is fit to be brought before this Honourable Chamber. I think that I should make the point, though I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will give some details that we fully expect this school would be outfitted to be part of the EduTech Programme.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on this Resolution aware of the history that the Honourable Member for St. James South has given us on this particular issue. Since the two schools that are identified to be amalgamated to form the school on the new site are both in a serious state of disrepair, I feel moved to ask the Government to give some level of priority to this particular project.

Sir, the last time this issue came to the attention of this Honourable House, to which the Honourable Minister referred, is almost two years to this date. I am sure that it was sometime around July 2003 that we had a Resolution before us dealing with the change of use of Dr. Stewart's Land in Tweedside Road and the vesting of the said piece of land into the National Housing Corporation. I appreciate the

update from the Honourable Minister on that particular issue, which I will get back to.

Sir, I want to say that given the apparent slow drift that seems to be taking place insofar as seeing this project come to fruition, I feel compelled to say something. It appears as though that there is some Gordian knot somewhere that is inhibiting the smooth running of this project.

Sir, at the time that Resolution was brought in here, two years ago, I remember the Minister of Education, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, volunteered to show me, I did not ask, he had a huge drawing in his hand and it showed the site that was proposed for the Transport Board, which is where the school is going. Then it showed a little sliver of land next to me, which he told me had to be acquired in order for the project to go ahead. It has taken two years for that Resolution pertaining to that sliver of land – because that is what we are really debating in here today – the Resolution that we are speaking of, the land acquisition is 900 square metres, which is less than 10 000 square feet, about the size of two house spots. It is not an enormous piece of land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if it takes two years to bring the Resolution relating to this little sliver, what hope is there for the young people in Carrington Village and the surrounding areas that they will finally get this new school?

Sir, I know that there is some opposition on the Other Side to the location of the school in Flint Hall. I remember the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, the Member of Parliament for that particular area, expressing some doubts as to whether that was the most appropriate place to put a school with an 800-strong student body, questioning the issue of congestion. I can appreciate his concerns because he has to do what he has to do as the Member of Parliament for that area, but I have to do what I have to do as the Honourable Member ...

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to do what is right for the constituents of St. Michael South Central and their children. Sir, what is happening to the Carrington Primary School especially, and even Erdiston Primary School, is simply not good enough. Sir, it appears to be a lack of care.

Sir, we can hear a lot being said about EduTech and these fancified programmes, but what about the basic needs? The Carrington Primary School is in a bad state and it is impacting the quality of education that can be delivered at that institution. There is no doubt about it. The Carrington Primary School has as its catchment area many of the same areas of the Erdiston Primary School, but the performance there is a lot worse. It is not that the children are inferior to

the ones that go to Erdiston Primary School. They are from the same community but it has to do with the quality of the plant, by and large.

I think the Ministry of Education has to stand indicted for their treatment towards the Carrington Primary School. After a lot of lobbying on the part of successive principals of that school, finally a special needs teacher was assigned to the Carrington Primary School.

Sir, do you know what the Ministry did? They assigned a special needs teacher and then took one of the substantive teachers from that school, so that the special needs teacher not only has to deal with the special needs pupils but has regular teaching duties. Sir, they are doubling up and this is not right. I am suggesting that attention needs to be paid to these two school plants and do not let us get into this thing because there is a new school coming that you cannot pay attention to the needs of the existing plants, because it is affecting the quality of education that is being delivered at these institutions.

11.00 a.m.

I do believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that two years are simply too long to deal with what to my mind amounts to a minor bookkeeping matter, what was described to me. I still believe that we need to have a very clear position on the way forward from here.

We all want to see the project come to fruition. It has been a long winding road. The Honourable Member for St. James South spoke to it. There was a time when the site in Tweedside Road was approved by the Town Planner for the school to be relocated there. There was even talk before then, about having a new Carrington Primary School in another location. I believe the same Flint Hall, years ago, was once identified as a place to move the Carrington Primary School.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been through all of these changes over the years and I think you would appreciate that the people of Carrington Village and the surrounding areas – because it is the Carrington Primary School but there are several pupils from many of the surrounding districts in St. Michael who attend the school – have, in fact, reached the point where they do not believe much that they are told.

I want to think that they will actually see something happen and that the project will come to fruition, in the interest of the young people in the area. It is not about the Member of Parliament and the Party he represents. It is about Barbadian children who deserve to be given a chance to enjoy an education like anyone else. Am I to understand that we are going to indict four-year olds, because of whom

their parents decided to vote for in an election? I sincerely hope not and if that is the thinking on the Other Side, I would like it abandoned with dispatch.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member who I really thought was merely suffering from amnesia, but he has gone into a realm now which is totally different. The Honourable Member, if his memory was working would know in the Estimates when we debated Education, I updated this Parliament on the issue of Erdiston tender.

Therefore, it is not a matter of whom they voted for or did not vote for, because the tender was in the newspaper. The Government provided the part funding for the tender. The CDB and the IDB objected to the award on technical grounds and, therefore, the process had to be gone over, in terms of re-advertisement and that that cannot translate into victimisation on anyone.

Sir, it is a project that is ongoing and the Honourable Member knows that because he was in his chair here in this Parliament in the Estimates. The records show the status of the project so he really should come with something else, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was also in my chair in this House when I was told that the project would have started in April 2004. This is now July 2005, more than a year, this piecemeal ineptitude that we would have seen from the Ministry of Education and, rather than get up and say something sensible about a way forward, he wants to get up and try to make *ad hominem* attacks on me, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not about me and if he gets some sort of pleasure from pompassetting and attacking me, I want to know about the children who are affected and what is this Government doing about them and that is the point.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member who is clearly into some form of deep ego massage and was obviously on the point of a climax of some sort but, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is making a very serious allegation that young children are being disadvantaged by reason of the fact of having him as an MP. While that might be the reality, because of the nature of the man, that does not come from any action of the Government, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all wait with bated breath to see if the energy and enthusiasm that we

see in here on the part of Cabinet Members will translate into action of seeing that project come to fruition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would only say as well, since I am on my feet, it is my sincere hope that when the schools are finally amalgamated that the site where the Carrington Primary School is presently located, will be looked at by the Government as a place where a community centre for the Carrington Village area could be established.

The school is conveniently located in the centre of the Baycroft Road side of Carrington Village. It is a site where the Church Army for the St. Michael's Cathedral meets on Wednesdays. Only this weekend, the CERO District Emergency Organisation had their meeting and both political parties have branch meetings there, one better attended than the other but it is a site, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that could be accommodated as a community centre.

The Erdiston School, I presume, could be reintegrated into the campus of the whole Erdiston Teaching College, so that will take care of itself but I would sincerely hope that the Ministry of Housing would look to do the necessary and see that such can occur.

Since from all I am hearing in here today that the construction is imminent in Flint Hall, it means that quite soon, the Government will have to deal with this question and, therefore, that is only my two cents worth in that respect.

I would say, also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I am prepared to recommend from the Floor of this House that the new amalgamated school is named after someone from the community who has excelled in the international field, someone who has been a champion in the field of medicine, someone who has been a champion in the field of politics, someone whom many Barbadians, including the Honourable Member for St. Michael East would have got his initiation, as far as understanding Afrocentricity. I speak, of course, of none other than the late Dr. Rameses Caddle. I would certainly want to see that he is given his due and the school is named after Dr. Caddle. It is on the record and I am prepared to say what needs to be said, Sir.

I would not bother to put, in the record, any comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central because he, apparently, is an expert on the psychological well-being of everybody including Honourable Members' mothers, during nationally televised debates, so I am not surprised to hear that kind of comment from someone of that ilk, when speaking about an eminent Barbadian like Dr. Caddle.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael East has already said that he would get up in here and support that this country has not done enough for Dr. Caddle. There are several people who walk around with all sorts of letters after their names that have not done a fraction of what Dr. Caddle has done for that community and, indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for Barbados generally. Therefore, I look forward to hearing from the Government in that respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to touch briefly on Dr. Stewart's Land in Tweedside which the Minister spoke about, and I very glad for the update, insofar as the decision to change the overall structure of that particular NHC project and to have part ownership and part rental. I think it is a good idea.
11.10 a.m.

My only concern is that I have heard that only 24 units could be accommodated on the site. I am not sure how the breakdown would be in terms of ownership and rental but I would sincerely hope that some priority would be given to some of the residents of that area who have had applications to the National Housing Corporation for a number of years because I do not think that it is the policy of the Barbados Labour Party to break up communities.

Sir, if it would make the Honourable Member for St. James South feel good, they do not have to come from the long list of names she got from me. If she is more comfortable with looking at the list from the former representative, I do not care because it is not about me, it is about the people, I do not care what political affiliation they have. The fact is that there is a need for housing and the Government cannot take a vital need like shelter and try to make any politics out of it.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He has indicated, by implication, that he has sent me a list of people whom he wants to see accommodated, but I have never received any list from him. He can parade that for the public but he has never made any representation to me, not even for a puppy to come to an occupation at Stewart's Land. He can fool the public with that but it is not the truth. I received no representation from him for anybody to occupy there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, every single piece of correspondence I have sent to the National Housing Corporation, I have copied to the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment. The reason she has not seen it is because all of the acknowledgement bears the signature of

her personal aide, one Sonia Marville. What nonsense am I hearing?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyhow, let us get back to the Resolution.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look forward to seeing that Stewart's Land is made into a successful National Housing Corporation estate. I look forward to seeing that the amalgamated school is constructed in Flint Hall and that the residents of St. Michael South Central and indeed all of the surrounding areas in St. Michael could enjoy real benefit and real improvement to their housing standards and from the delivery of quality primary education to their children.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would wish to add my support to this Resolution for the acquisition of just under 10 000 square feet of property in the Flint Hall area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it is really very unfortunate that all the initiatives that this Government has implemented for all these years could be brought to this level this morning where the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central speaks of not caring for the people of that community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the year 2000 we were making plans for the amalgamation of these schools. As you are aware, Sir, plans for acquisitions take time, designs have to be done, plans for acquisitions have to take place, the tender process has to be undergone and there must be transparency in the whole exercise, hence the delay.

Sir, if the Ministry of Education did not have any plans for the area we would not have gone to the extent of ensuring that not only is the Erdiston Primary School or the Carrington Primary School amalgamated but we are also including what used to be called the annex. This is a part of our mainstreaming policy where children who are mentally or physically challenged would remain in the regular school setting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central seems to have had a bush bath this morning in connection with the recommendations he made and therefore he has deviated from what is the policy of this Government that every Barbadian should have access to free education which has helped to promote the good and to create citizens that will make a meaningful contribution to the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to be sidetracked by the comments made by the Honourable Member, so I will go on to speak to the whole issue of the Erdiston/Carrington Primary new school.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the concept of the Erdiston Model School has been developed in the 1950s when Erdiston Teachers' Training College facilitated teachers from Barbados as well as the various other islands in the region. We know of the contributions that Erdiston Teachers' Training College has made but to have had the model school on that location meant that teachers who were living on the compound would have easier access for children to come in and be taught with their various activities, their plans that they have for their studies and their theses, and that continued over many decades.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the years the numbers from the regional countries diminished and we had to ensure that our Barbadian teachers had access to different locations, hence the expansion into schools in the various villages and in the city area. So teachers from Erdiston Teachers' Training College were sent into the community schools so that they could carry out their training because the training is a very important component. There were two five-week sessions in the two-year period that teachers are to be trained.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the condition of these two schools has deteriorated over the years. We have spent millions of dollars within the last 11 years trying to upgrade and to look after the needs of the schools that the last Administration totally overlooked. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last Administration cannot boast of any money being spent on Erdiston Primary School or Carrington Primary School. Over the last 11 years every year a sum of money has been injected to upgrade these old schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Erdiston Annex which I mentioned earlier where the physically and mentally challenged are housed is a new school that was built about six to seven years ago to replace the little building which was cocked on the hill almost to the bottom of the gap or to the entrance to Erdiston Teachers' Training College in which the facilities were so lacking that those poor little children could not be adequately taught in that kind of poor environment. They are now in a new facility which was built by students from the Barbados Vocational Training Board where they have space and adequate bathrooms. We are continuing to look after their needs because they will be incorporated into the new Erdiston/Carrington Primary School.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Erdiston Nursery School which is on the same compound caters to about 105, 3 to 4-year olds. The Nursery schools in Barbados do excellent work. I am boasting of the Government nursery schools, Government Hill, St. Stephen's, Eden Lodge and Erdiston.

My two grandchildren went to the St. Stephen's Nursery and I can boast of the quality education that they derived from attending that institution. I can speak of it because we have got the record and we have been to the schools and we see the quality teaching that takes place within those institutions. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the nursery school will remain on the compound at Erdiston and, as I said earlier, the annex will be amalgamated with the two primary schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Carrington Primary is a neighbourhood school and one where thousands of Barbadians from the catchment of Tweedside Road have been able to receive their education. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to call names but all of us in this Honourable Chamber are aware of the role that school has played for more than half of a decade. Sir, because it is a wooden building, it will entail more repairs than would be a regular concrete building.

11.20 a.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this time in 2005, that school accommodates approximately 167 children. We know that with regards to a physical structure that parents would want the best for their children. Therefore, we, in the Ministry of Education, believe that every school environment should be conducive to learning and to teaching and, therefore, there is the need for proper bathroom facilities for teachers and students and proper conditions within the school environments for all workers, including teachers, ancillary staff, and parents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the Carrington Primary School, there is nowhere where the children can play because it is so close to the 'paling'. It is a neighbourhood school, with surrounding houses, which makes this all very difficult for the students to be able to meet that standard. Sir, we have changed staff and if you would allow me, I would speak of Mr. Osbourne's involvement where, about six years ago, he was transferred from the St. Elizabeth Primary School to the Carrington Primary, and the roll of that school began to expand. As principal, he gave lessons. He interfaced with those students, making sure that they were all well-taught and trained. Sir, even when a teacher was absent, he would take over the class and teach and, therefore, the school began to look up again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one is living in an environment where the water leaks into the building, it becomes extremely difficult for persons to stay there and, therefore, I can see the need for that neighbourhood school to be amalgamated, to bring better conditions for those who have to attend there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all know that Barbadians have a preference for wanting their children to go to schools located in Bridgetown and I can understand the reasons. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. John knows better than I do, that his children did not go to school in St. John but to the Erdiston Primary School because of easier accessibility. We believe that if parents have a perception of a particular school and want to take their children there, that principals must follow the policy of first accepting the children from the school's catchment area or zone, then if there is space, to accept the others. Sir, as you know, there are no spaces available at the Erdiston Primary, Wesley Hall Primary, Luther Thorne Primary, Charles F. Broomes Primary or West Terrace Primary. These are popular schools where parents believe that if their children are sent there, that they would get good quality education. However, children at the Carrington Primary School have excellent brains too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will continue to work with those small community schools because I believe that they still have an excellent role to play. Therefore, for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to make mention about an uncaring Government is unreasonable, because last year this Government determined that the Before-and-After-School Programme would be piloted in 15 schools, to enhance the environment, to encourage parents to leave their children at school from 7.00 a.m., where there will be responsible adults to look after them and to teach them.

Sir, that is a way for us to be able to keep community children in schools within their districts. It is extremely pertinent because we are taking out the best brains from our communities, whether it is for school or living, and are actually giving communities the good quality lives which we all enjoy. Therefore, in the afternoon, those individuals involved in the Before-and-After-School Programme, will return to the schools compounds from 2.45 p.m., to look after the needs of those children.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the staff of the Erdiston Primary will tell you of the tremendous challenges they have, where parents living across Barbados sometimes cannot get to collect their children not until after 6.00 p.m. and therefore, because of this, a teacher would have to remain in the school acting as *locus parentis* because these children cannot be left unattended. This Before-and-After-School Programme will help to ease the schools in the urban communities and to fill back up those in the countryside.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we heard of the performance of schools such as the Boscobelle Primary, the St. David's Primary, St. Patrick's Primary or Sharon Primary. At Sharon Primary, we can hardly get those children who are living in Jackson and the surrounding districts enrolled at that school

because everybody is saying that it had full marks on two occasions and parents want their children to go to school there.

Sir, these schools have all built names for themselves and the principals and staff have a philosophy for these schools. Therefore, I admire them for working so feverishly in getting their children in, to ensure that the quality education is delivered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the principals of these schools can only take in so many number of students and though we respect and appreciate the love that parents would have for this school, we would want to suggest that the Erdiston Primary School cannot take in every student.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for decades the system of amalgamation has taken place in Barbados. Therefore, overtime we will have to amalgamate if we want to bring new facilities that will enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Sir, we knew when there was a Parry School and a Coleridge School. We also know that three or four years ago, three schools were amalgamated to make the All Saints School. That, too, is a good example of what the Erdiston Primary School will be, because the All Saints Primary School has a section which facilitates children who are mentally and physically challenged. That school was constructed with ramps, appropriate bathrooms for wheelchairs, *et cetera*. Therefore, those children are being mainstreamed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central may wish to go there and have a look. I believe that if he has made a request to see the designs, he would be facilitated because at the end of the day, it is a school for the public of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of our community schools had to be demolished. The St. Thomas Primary School had to be closed because the number of students was approximately 50. The economic cost was tremendous because the staff had to be paid. The Hothersal Primary School, St. John, was closed within the last ten years. The Clifton Hill Southborough, St. Thomas, was closed over the last five years. There are others that have been closed but the Ministry has worked with parents and other parties, in ensuring that buses were put on all routes, to ensure that children reach school on time and that quality education was being offered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Town Planning Department has indicated to the Ministry of Education that the entrance to this new spanking facility, which will now house approximately 690 children, should be placed on Flint Hall,

as opposed to Bridge Road because of the large volume of traffic associated with that road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the structure of the school is such that it will be two storeys high, with 24 classrooms, inclusive of the three classrooms for those specially-challenged children. We will be moving what is normally called the annex. I also believe that we should not be talking about annexes anymore because as soon as we place these annexes alongside the regular classrooms, it would mean that there is something wrong with those students. Therefore, this school, like the All Saints Primary, will help to build strong self-esteem. It will also help to educate the parents of those specially-challenged children that though that child is specially challenged, that there is nothing wrong with that child. Sir, if we are mainstreaming, we should not be ostracising or stigmatising children or anybody else for that matter.

11.30 a.m.

Of course, you can take out those children who have the ability to work in other groups and let them do the mathematics if that is their strength. Sir, if language or art is their strength, you would mix them accordingly with the regular classrooms because the facility is already made available.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are fulfilling the policy of our Manifesto that speaks to the mainstreaming of our children because it helps to integrate them and to sensitise little children that nothing is wrong with the minds of the children with disabilities but simply that they have some kind of physical disorder. Sir, at the end of the day, we must all come together because children who are physically and mentally challenged, more often than not, live in households with whom we consider to be normal children so they must not be separated in the classroom. Sir, as far as possible, they must be integrated into the system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the design includes ramps for the wheelchairs, specially designed bathrooms to facilitate wheelchairs and classrooms for the special children which would be larger so that the wheelchairs can be properly manoeuvred.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have not left out the teachers because in any school environment there should be a staff room and teachers' points where teachers would be closer to the classrooms to have an eye to the children but when they have to resort to the teachers' points, they can continue to do planning for the next day. There would be three teachers' points of which one would be on the bottom floor where children would be housed who are physically challenged.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there would be playing facilities, a pavilion and technology included in the building. Therefore, they would be an MIS building to help with the technology that would be infused in the programme and the curriculum offered. I said earlier that the nursery school would remain where it is presently but would be upgraded. There will be a nutrition room and bathroom on the bottom floor to facilitate them. Sir, there would be six regular Infant A classrooms on the ground floor and shower facilities in the washroom near the hall and the hall will have shutters not glass, to meet the required standard from CERO. We would appreciate that some schools have decorated blocks and glass and whenever there is a hurricane or challenge of that kind, it is extremely difficult to cordon off the area so these shutters will meet the requirements of CERO.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there will be the Principal Office and the school will have 30 classrooms. There will be an interview room because many parents go to the school daily and the principal must have a waiting area. Sir, children go to school and may fall ill or the teachers may fall ill so there will be two sick bays to facilitate this need.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I close, I also want to indicate that there would be car parking facilities if visitors come to the school and also parking for staff. There would be approximately 30 car park spaces to allow teachers to park their vehicles and also a storeroom because often schools have equipment, materials for pageants and equipment for stimulation for the young children but, unfortunately, there is no where to store them. This new school would have facilities for storage so that the various items and equipment can be properly stored for future occasions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would be aware that primary schools do not have much money but that parents and the PTA work together so to buy costumes this year and throw them out would not make sense because we do not support the 'mash up and buy back' culture. Therefore, there would storage facilities for the equipment of the school and costumes so that they would be safe in times of bad weather.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the expenditure for Erdiston School in 2004/2005 was approximately \$28,931.16 and for Carrington Primary, \$18,968.79. There was plumbing and electrical work done, the roof had leaks which were corrected and there was other remedial work. I was privileged to go to the school last year and had a chance first-hand to see the kinds of repairs being done at Carrington Primary and a similar thing happened at Erdiston Primary. This year we are spending approximately \$21,000.00 between Erdiston and Carrington Primary. Sir, Carrington Primary had the largest amount last year but this

year it will have approximately \$4 000 for plumbing and other small repairs while Erdiston Primary will get \$18,679.77 because there is leakage in the roof.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe we would continue to give these schools the necessary maintenance because the project might come to fruition two or three years from now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to lend my support to this \$5.7 million project that quality education can be offered to children so that they can come together and be given the opportunity through training and other extra curricular activity to become good citizens as we are. I am happy and strongly support the effort of this Ministry and this Government to mainstream those children who are in the spanking new facility of the annex which this Government ensured was made available for them because children who are physically and mentally challenged are people too. Sir, that is the major point I want to make in this respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I strongly support this Resolution and trust that other Honourable Members would give their support because I believe that quality education is for everybody. If we are to continue to reap the success we anticipate would be derived from these various projects with EduTech, the upgrading of facilities, the CHECKS Programme and so forth, the environs of the school must be pristine and conducive to learning so that, at the end of the day, we know that meaningful citizens would develop from these initiatives that we wish to implement today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak in this debate and to say that we have to understand that the location of a school is very important. Sir, in this day and age, we have to be very careful where we place schools. We also have to look at the environment in which we are repairing or building schools.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this Government needs to set a policy, implemented by the Ministry of Education, the location of new schools and the reasons for building in a particular area. Also, to understand that you do not just build a school in a particular area because the land mass is available. Barbados has changed and we have to look at the particular environment in which we are about to place our younger ones. We have to make sure that the influences that they see daily are positive and not negative.

Recently, I have been getting the impression that in Barbados, once we construct a building, the location and social environment are not important. It seems that in Barbados the masses must accept any and everything, and their social fallout is not important. Sir, you are begging and once you are begging we will deliver, for whatever is given must be accepted.

I also want to make the point that Parliamentarians are not elected by accident; I would hate to believe that they are, for I am told that I have been elected by accident three times by the people of St. Lucy. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas believes that there is no reason for the people of St. Lucy to vote for me, may be, the people of St. Lucy have been educated at one of those schools that do not have brains, that the Honourable Member spoke about earlier in the debate.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I never said anything about a school that does not have a brain. I wish the Honourable Member would quote the correct information or withdraw the comment.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know you were listening. I am also aware that the Minister of Education and other Honourable Members were listening when the comment was made.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I did not hear that comment. Please, proceed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Earlier this year I came to this Parliament and gave a justifiable reason for not reconstructing St. Lucy's Primary School at that particular location. When one listens to the news daily, one can understand and appreciate the point that I have been making. Not only did I speak about that particular issue, I wrote about and spoke about it on the platform; everything possible was done to impress the officials at the Ministry of Education that school should not have been repaired or rebuilt at that particular location.

Sir, I heard, and I agreed with the Ministry, that the initial intake for St. Lucy's Secondary School was not the same amount as at present. When that school was first constructed, the intake was from the surrounding areas and the environment was right. I am saying to you that the environment created because of the inflow is not correct and presents a problem for primary school children, who should not have been pressured at such an early age. I am saying to the Ministry of Education that if they are serious about education in this country, their primary concern is to ensure that there are no negative influences on the younger ones at an early stage.

Sir, it is an unnecessary pressure placed on three and five-year olds, with no logical reason. I am not speaking because it is occurring at St. Lucy's Primary School; I am speaking because I believe every politician in this Honourable House can speak to a particular negative in their constituency that is affecting the educational base of the young ones.

Sir, if you create an early environment, by the time they reach secondary school, you can understand what will happen. I am saying that it is the base we build that will create the right behaviour in this country. Sometimes I ponder if we have a situation where people are now being able to use the Ministry of Education to achieve what they want. Sir, if people are in a position to use the facilities provided by the Ministry of Education for achievement... Sir, if information is given and nothing is done, I can only conclude that the Ministry of Education is now the starting ground for the wrong things in this country; it must answer this particular charge because they have been forewarned and have turned a blind eye.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I do not want this to be generated into an education debate. It is really a Resolution dealing with land. Please, proceed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do want to take guidance from the Deputy Speaker, not the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I am listening, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please get back to the Resolution.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, what aspect of the Resolution, housing, land or education? I take your guidance, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, look at your Order Paper.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, when I look at it, I see land acquisition, which can be housing. It can be very wide, Sir. That is why I am seeking your guidance on this particular matter.

Sir, this Resolution has been before this Honourable House for over seven years relative to this particular school. It has been changed and reformed. This one has been lagging behind for too long and the time lag is too long. The Ministry of Education needs to understand what standards they set for young people and if a decision is made that the environment is not right for school children, seven years before construction is too long.

Sir, the impression is, that this school should have been built over seven years ago, therefore, there is absolutely no reason for discussion at this time. We also have to understand that when speaking about amalgamation, we have to be serious. The problem at St. Lucy's Primary School and Half Moon Fort presented a golden opportunity for the process of amalgamation. We had a golden opportunity when we were dealing with the problem at St. Lucy's Primary School we could have dealt with the problem at Half Moon Fort in the same time, under the process of amalgamation.

Sir, we need to review the education system in this island instead of adopting a piecemeal approach – this is all that this Government can do, adopt a piecemeal approach – a never presenting comprehensive approach to solve the problems of Barbados.

Sir, I am saying that the Ministry of Education needs a comprehensive approach to education in Barbados, especially primary education, with regard to the problems as they relate to primary education. Instead, they rushed to this Parliament with EduTech, which is another basis for this Resolution, but neglected the problems in primary education.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, how can you relate this to the Resolution of EduTech?

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not here to mash anybody's corns. Sir, your shoes will not hurt you. I am here to debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, get back to the Resolution.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, they have asked me to leave out EduTech.

I am saying that this Government has become very clever at converting revenue expenditure into capital expenditure, to make revenue expenditure a capital project, to international agencies for financing. They are so caught up in getting financing that they have overlooked the needs of the primary schools students' social behaviour and looked at the capital aspects of it, so that buildings are now more important than the students and I am saying it cannot be that, Sir. The students have to have the priority and the buildings have to come after, but the two must work hand in hand.
11.50 a.m.

Sir, we have to understand that we need a policy, which must be about improving the livelihood of those young students. On this particular matter, I am saying that

it has taken too long for it to be implemented. The new Minister must understand that he has to stamp his image. I have said this to the Minister. This Minister believes that he cannot interfere with anything that he has seen before him in his Ministry and that is not true. This Minister, young and vigorous must come and deliver the goods that I know he is capable of delivering and he must not believe that anybody else on high can interfere with his policies. He has a lot to deliver and he must understand that it is to his Ministry and he needs not fear anybody else.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My intervention hopefully would bring some level of enlightenment to the discourse on this particular matter. Sometimes we are saddled with many distasteful pronouncements that very seldom address the major focus which we are dealing with here, especially now, Sir, in relation to the lands at Flint Hall and providing the facilities to house the Erdiston students as well as the students from Carrington Village.

I have my reservations about the amalgamation of the two institutions and I will express them. I also want to make it very clear that I am very much in support of the call for a distinguished black Barbadian who has made a significant contribution to the development of Barbados. I want to use my judgment based on the people returning the Honourable Member for the then St. Michael North Central, over and over again, Dr. Rameses Caddle.

I strongly believe that we have to reach the level of majority and development, where we respect the contribution of our own people. I do not want to fall in the mold of those who conclude that the people are foolish. Sir, if the people elected an individual member over and over, and I am to believe that the public of Barbados and the electorate are educated then, I do not want to place them in a category of being ignorant in relation to their judgement on the election of that representative over and over again, as the Representative for St. Michael North Central.

Therefore, I am not going to sing in any harmony with those who dismiss and speak derogatorily of the man, as a man less than lucid. I am not going to call him a madman. I believe it is a dishonourable statement to be made by any member on any Side. I am not going to entertain it and I am not even seeing it as humorous because he worked assiduously for the development of the particular constituency, and I want to get that out of the way.

Sir, I am a little concern, as well with this whole concept of social planning and, like the Honourable Member who described it as piecemeal, I also believe it is a piecemeal attempt. If it was not so, this land which was acquired nearly nine or more years ago, for the purpose of having the Transport Board buses and staff being housed there but, very seldom we hear that being mentioned, but the building was there for more than a decade. It was supposed to be the location for the Transport Board buses, and for a short while, there were about six or seven buses parked in there, then they did some small renovations to the building.

Initially, the Carrington Village location was supposed to be the location for the school, then, we had a change. I do know what kind of scientific planning this is or who advised the different Ministers because initially, it would not have been the Minister of Education or the Minister of Housing and Lands. It would have started with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works. This thing has been going from one objective to another.

They have now reached the conclusion that the location will be used for a school. When they recognised that the location was too small to house 614 students from Erdiston, 164 students from Carrington School and 49 from the Annex, they decided that they will get an additional piece of land. There is something wrong with that kind of approach because, initially, if you had a really consummate plan and analysis of the size of the location, and the capacity of the students you want to move from the two schools, you would have taken all of that into consideration in the logistics, and arrive at a location with the correct size to facilitate those two schools.

I am asking myself who is advising the Ministers and the Government on this plan. It is a whole cohabblop of ignorance that is shaping the direction and at the end of the day, sometimes it ends up being a waste of money, a waste of Parliamentarian's time and, unfortunately, not even taking into consideration, the feelings expressed by the people in the community who did not have an opportunity to participate in modern planning.

I believe that if you are going into a location like that, no experts or technocrats should sit down around a table and come up with ideas, and impose the ideas on the people. Proper discussion with the people in the community and the neighbourhood would have enlightened you of all the dynamics surrounding the environment in which you intend to establish this school.

I would expect that the thinkers would have also taken into consideration, the whole fusion of Carrington Village and Erdiston because, I am hearing that the students from Carrington Village and the surrounding areas on the left,

journey to Erdiston. I hardly know 20 students from Carrington Village that journey across to Erdiston because their families seem to be very wealthy.

There is a manifestation that is very clear that if I use that judgement, it tells me that these people who journey to and from Erdiston on mornings and evenings cannot be from Carrington Village and not travelling in vehicles. This is not the Carrington Village that I know. I know that the Carrington Village people would travel from Carrington Village to Erdiston in a BMW and in some of the latest machines to carry to school their children because these people have become very affluent overnight. Now, all of a sudden, I am hearing, without any proper rationalisation that there will be a fusion between the students from Carrington Village and the students from Erdiston. I do not even know what level of contempt at the level of parental representation, which exists in the hearts of those persons who have children at Erdiston.

12.00 noon

I am one of the people who believe in the equality of education especially at the primary level and I believe that equality should go right through. I really believe that this foolishness in this country about which primary school and elementary school one attended and big men with their heads inflated because of academic success and who have done the greatest danger to this country because they are barracks of what they have actually absorbed in the school setting, should be put to rest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am one of the men who believe that there should be no sixth forms in the secondary schools and that there should be one level at the community level so as to stop that foolishness because it has contributed to social stratification and major social divisions in this society.

Sir, I am one of the people who believe that Erdiston Primary School and Carrington Primary School, based on sentiments, should be mixed, but I know that is going to give rise to serious discussions on genetic codes on whether children learn successfully because of the environment in which they are in or if it is because they have been born from certain types of social backgrounds.

Sir, studies by people like Shorey indicate that a large percentage of the children who have excelled to the level of Harrison College and even university came from professional or semi-professional backgrounds. I believe that you are going to see a great division. It is very glaring and very obtrusive if you look at the children from Carrington Primary and at the children from Erdiston Primary and their social background. That is something that we have to take into consideration, that is why I can sanction any view that it is a piecemeal unscientific lack of any consummate approach to analysis that leads them to be doing corrective measures in order to redress the imbalances in correcting this particular matter.

Sir, we have serious concerns as it relates to that location that they are talking about as a preference over the Carrington Village area. I once had the privilege to represent that location of Flint Hall, I am not the representative anymore, but I have given a special status unto myself as a *de facto* representative of the area. I believe that the people of the area also expect me to represent the interest of that area. The Speaker normally would be their representative but because of his position it is very difficult for him to speak openly on some of these issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the other area which is St. Michael South Central, the representative is from the Opposition party and I believe that coming from Haggatts, he is now learning a lot about the dynamics of poverty. However, he is not that versed in advancing a solid argument on the behalf of the people of Carrington Village, Fairfield, Flint Hall and the surrounding areas.

Sir, I live with the hope that he would be able to feel the pulse of the community and the environment there so that one day he could speak with genuine passion on their behalf. I hope that would occur at some time in his life. I do not know if the Honourable Members from This Side would give him the opportunity to serve another term so that he can come back here and reach that level of political maturity.

Sir, he should be aware of this because this is a simple point. Coming from Welches on evenings from the southern direction there is a lot of traffic coming out of Bridgetown that use that road. There is also traffic leaving the City of Bridgetown and coming across Fairfield Road and Bridge Road, so you have three major lanes out of Bridgetown converging on this small pocket just to the west of Archer and to the bottom of Flint Hall itself, where the Ministry of Public Works or the Police can tell you about the number of accidents that occur there as a result of the traffic coming out from Flint Hall and meeting the traffic that is coming from those three locations. I asked myself if the planners took that into consideration.

Sir, while the focus might be on the school and the capacity of the school or whether it has toilets or whether the roof is made of permaclad, shingles or what, there are other fundamental variables that must be included in the analysis. If you are not to do something that is going to create a social problem in the community, it might be wise sometimes for the ministers or the minister who now has responsibility to visit the location and to have a clear understanding about what I am talking about because you are going to have difficulties when those three major lanes of traffic meet.

Sir, some years ago they had to stop the traffic from coming straight down from My Lords Hill because of the difficulties they were encountering there, where there were accidents every month, and now we are going to add to that an average of 1 000 students with the kind of traffic that comes from Erdiston Primary School – because those children do not walk to school – and another 164 students from Carrington Village and their parents who are pedestrians.

Sir, a few hundred cars go into Erdiston Primary School on evenings and back up the traffic by Government House. You also have at that juncture Hilltop Preparatory School, the Close Brethren School, St. Giles' Senior School and St. Giles' Primary School and there is also the road that leads onto the Belmont Primary School and the Montessori School. All of that traffic is concentrated in that small pocket. Have the planners taken into consideration the traffic problem that relates to the establishment of a school in that location?

Sir, even if you put two gates coming back onto Bridge Road and to the bottom of Flint Hall you are still going to be in the same traffic on evenings, so you are now creating a major traffic problem in the same area and the ones who would suffer the most are the same children who walk coming from Carrington Primary School. The drivers would take care of themselves but you are backing up traffic and you do not know how many children might be injured as a consequence of trying to move through that traffic from the same Carrington Village, so you do not dismiss those things in analysis.

Sir, all of this stems from the fact that they purchased the land for a specific purpose and then midstream they change the purpose of the use of the land without any careful analysis, that is why they come back now and get another piece of land.

Sir, that is not going to be the end all of the problems because to the west of Sir Stanley Blanchette there is a whole set of houses and some of the residents are concerned if they would have to be relocated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fault is in whatever ministry that was responsible for it then and now in not getting involved in consultation with the people in the community, because if that was done rather than making one amendment now and coming with another instrument next week or next month we would have been able to come to Parliament and resolve the problem, not in ten years of filibustering. So rather than living in a dream world we would have to face the realities of all the dynamics that I am talking about. Sir, that is part of the contribution that I want to make.

12.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, politicians must take the bull by the horn. They can only do that if they are aware of all that is happening in the specific areas and with the specific projects.

Sir, I am not condemning bureaucrats, I am condemning the bureaucratic system but if we sit and allow the bureaucrats who are victims of bureaucracy itself, where people sit in offices every day and plan but never feel the pulse of the community or even witness all of these concerns...

Sir, ordinary people ought to be involved in modern planning. When making an analysis, these bureaucrats have to go out and talk to the people, in order to feel the pulse of the community. Sir, the unfortunate thing is that these bureaucrats believe that they have a special monopoly on thinking, and do not believe that the average man can assist them in their decision-making. Bureaucrats have to deal with the knowledge of the ordinary folks, their culture and their experiences, to help them to avoid some of these incumbrances that many politicians face on a regular basis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make the call for the Government to reconsider this location, otherwise they would have to come back to Parliament for more adjustments, if they want to provide recreational facilities for the children. I do not know if Government is going to build the school towards the northern side, which is to the west of Sir Stanley Blanchette's property, who probably would be very disturbed because he would no longer be able to enjoy the comforts of peace and tranquility. Sir, having lived behind the enclosed wall all his life, he will now have to hear the noisy voices of the poor children from the Carrington Village area, what they would normally describe as down in the ghetto. I know that at this stage of his life, on the eve of his departure, he will need as much rest as possible.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at a certain age we have to face reality, especially men. This morning before coming to Parliament, I had to be running through my constituency, explaining to persons that I am not dead, because somebody had made a number of calls that I was dead. I do not know if they meant politically dead or not but I had to explain to my constituents that I was very much alive. That is why I am here representing the interest of the people of St. Michael East and St. Michael South Central.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want Government to re-examine what they are doing and to spend some time, probably with the Parliamentary Representative or with the people of the community, so that when we do things, that at the end of the day, the community would be satisfied. Sir

we are making groundless assumptions that because we are going to transfer students from a board building which houses 164 students, that the students are going to be enjoying some benefit by that or some level of comfort.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want Government to engage people who are involved in the whole social psychology of what happens as a consequence of such an uncommon fusion. Sir, to be honest, it is not that I want it to be that way, but this society has had a long evolution of stratification, from the level of the educational system. This society has made it that way because the colonialists believed that this is a colonial outpost and has, therefore, re-bred and re-cultivated poverty. We then tried to make sure that we have a reservoir of talent for manual labour, and it will always be that way, as long as it is a colonial outpost.

Sir, capitalism itself strives on those social divisions. Where is the reservoir of labour to work at the Sanitation Service Authority, the Ministry of Transport and Works, or at the National Conservation Commission?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these people enjoyed the pleasure of those social divisions because it gave them a level of social importance, and there are some of us who want to perpetuate these social divisions in the system itself. Sir, the example of what we are witnessing in the marriage between the Carrington Primary School and Erdiston Primary School, must be placed within that context. Therefore, these questions have to be answered.

Sir, no planner gets up and says that he is going to build a building three storeys high, seven toilets, two bathrooms, *et cetera*. That is peripheral to the major focus here. It is about the development of people and, therefore, if in these modern times, that modern thinkers still operate within that framework, it is still a sad day in the history of the governance of Barbados. When speaking about modernisation, we have to be more enlightened by taking those things into consideration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that most of the things which I have said to you and to this Honourable House are the echoes of the people who I represent, including the people of Carrington Village and Bridge Road. That is why I believe that in matters like these, that I should know about the structure of the building or about whose legacies that we will name these buildings after.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hear much talk about George Washington House, a place where President Washington slept for two or three nights. On the other hand, where black

people have lived for many years, when we build these new buildings, nobody talks about naming any of them after any black person. Nobody wants to preserve the contribution or the legacy of black people in this country. There are people in this Parliament who would like to gag people as they speak about black people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support Dr. Rameses Caddle as a man who has made a major contribution but when naming these buildings, I would like to hear them talk about King Jah Jah too. I want them to take that name off the Nightengale Home and talk about Prescott. These are people who made major contributions and even the colonial powers who distorted history, could not take them out of the history books.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have now come to Parliament, where we are trying to promote and perpetuate the contributions of people, who, if anybody who had a cursory understanding of history, would not at all highlight them for their contribution to the development of mankind. Therefore, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is making a valid point. Doctors Rameses Caddle and Don Blackman are fitting and proper examples of persons and if I had the opportunity, I would name that after two great leaders who represented the constituency. Sir, it has nothing to do with which party they represented. They represent many parties like me, but they represented the people. What was common about them was that they were grounded in something more fundamental than party politics, they were grounded in a philosophy and had never, at any time, swerved from the commitment of that philosophy, whether it was National Democratic Party (NDP), of which I was a Member, the Barbados Labour Party, or the Democratic Labour Party. It is about representing the interest of people. 12.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to tell you a story. When I ran, people warned me that I have been in so many parties and my friend from St. Lucy, classified me as a 'political grasshopper' but the people in St. Michael East did not look at me that way. They knew that I am what I am and will always be. This is why I speak with a sense of pride and without any sense of fear because my identity is clear. I speak on behalf of the people that many of them in here cannot speak about because they are victims of an inverted mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want you to feel a sense of support for me and for the people of St. Michael East because we do not get as much as we would like to get from this Government. I do not know why this is so that is why I speak for the voiceless in my community and all over Barbados and give to them the little that I can give. Sir, I

want to give proper representation to them even in relation to areas which I once represented and are no longer part of my constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to urge the Minister of Education to reconsider this location. Sir, in reconsidering it, you can produce the kind of conducive environment provided that you go a little further in correcting what was bad judgement from the inception. Sir, the Government has now to acquire land and the houses on the western side of the land that once belonged to Sir Stanley Blanchette and people are concerned about it because you cannot have two outlets within that small pocket.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want all these variables which I have highlighted to be taken into consideration. Sir, I made this contribution because I believe it was worthwhile and because it would serve Barbados and the Government well in the long run.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a number of issues have been raised on Both Sides. I go first to the single point raised by the Honourable Member from St. Michael South Central who seemed to make much of the point that there was no acknowledgment from me of correspondence coming into the Ministry. The reality is that if one listens to the Honourable Member carefully, one would see that he indicated that he wrote the Ministry and the National Housing Corporation and that copies of the letters were sent to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you write somebody and send a copy of the letter to another person, you are not seeking to ask the person to whom the letter has been copied to engage with you on the matter because you are not the person for whom the letter is intended. Therefore, since the Honourable Member did not feel that I was worthy of his direct discussion about his constituents but merely copied letters to me as an afterthought, it was appropriate that they were acknowledged by my Personal Assistant.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I responded to a specific point made by the Honourable Member about never having received even a request for a puppy. I said categorically that it was an untruth. I said what I had to say and stood by it. Why is the Honourable Member trying to twist up what I said earlier? She spoke about Members putting things in other persons' mouth so she

should not put any words in my mouths either. Sir, I dealt with the issue and that was it.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree because the issue was whether or not he had written to engage me. He specifically said he had sent a list and made representation to me. Sir, I am making a point to this House that no representation has been made to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to move to the issues of substance that was raised. Sir, an interesting discussion has emerged about the amalgamation of schools. We have seen in Barbados over the last ten to fifteen years a shift in social dynamics and demography resulting in concentration of communities in different locations to those which existed before and hence, the notion of community schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was of primary school age, I lived in the City and went to St. Mary's Primary School. Therefore, particularly in urban Barbados you found that as communities shrunk and the concentration of residences within certain areas of urban Barbados dwindled, there were not large enough numbers to sustain as many community primary schools as existed before and, hence we are seeing the phenomenon of the amalgamation of these schools. I believe it is also true in certain parts of rural Barbados and as people have shifted to have different suburban settlements, you are seeing the establishment of certain primary schools away from the traditional rural primary school we saw in the past.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a phenomenon that we are going to continue to experience as Barbados shows an ageing population profile with fewer and fewer people. Sir, our birth rate is now 0.3 per cent, it is not even 1 per cent which is very low so the number of persons going into primary schools is shrinking all the time. Hence, we are seeing more and more amalgamations of primary schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East who confessed to being peripatetic in his political affiliation over the years, raised an interesting philosophical and sociological point which I think we have to confront. It is the issue of when these schools are amalgamated, who constitutes the population of these schools, what values they have and what are you bringing together.

Asides.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Sir, children have no prejudices unless you teach them prejudices but it is a question of parents because some parents see themselves as being better off and do not want

their children to mix with people of a lower social class in their perception and that they may be problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not share the view that we should continue to have a segregationist policy. I believe that we must have a social policy where children of all social and financial backgrounds come together, learn together and learn to relate to one another. Sir, that is how social cohesion is built.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, where we continue segregationist policies and approaches it reinforces notions of classism which is the very notion we would want to see minimised. Therefore, Erdiston Primary and Carrington Primary are going to have to come to an amicable social blend and each community learn from one another. Sir, it is a challenge which the Ministry is going to have to confront very early on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is right. The Erdiston Primary School has been the choice of many parents. It has excellent results, a very good reputation and has been one of the premier choices of middle-class Barbados for the education of their children. Sir, I believe that some of them may have difficulties with the idea of the two schools being amalgamated and it will be interesting to see those who determine they no longer want their children to go there. Some of that will occur.
12.30 p.m.

Sir, Barbados has had a certain amount of social strength from what we called 'big houses' next to chattel houses, no gated communities, with having people from all persuasions living within close proximity. Prior Park is close to Haynesville; the West Coast has traditional seaside villages where people live in chattel houses. It has been part of the social charm of Barbados but it is also a part of the foundation that has helped with our social cohesion. The notion that we are not creating communities built on an idea, of 'us and them'; when you say 'them', you skin up your face.

I believe that there is good to come out of the joining of communities that find themselves educated at Carrington Primary School with the communities educated at Erdiston Primary School.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, for a very interesting exposition on what is happening in primary school development across the island and particularly with a focus on the expenditure at this location and the plans proposed now that the area is going to be developed further for the growth and development of the school. It was information that needed to be put into the public domain, and I am grateful to her for it.

Sir, I am particularly pleased, and would want to encourage the integration of persons who are physically and mentally challenged into the wider school community. The reality is, persons who are physically and mentally challenged have been stigmatised by those of us who regard ourselves as normal, even though many of us have several personality problems. We have to allow people who are challenged to learn to exist in the wider community; equally we must create an environment that people in the wider community can accept, embrace and assist those who have challenges.

Sir, it is important if we are going to break down prejudices that we start with young people. This experiment at the primary school level is, therefore, going to be a very important exercise. I hope that it bears good fruit. I am advised by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that such an experiment is already in place at All Saints' School and is going particularly well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, finally, to answer a question raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central. Initially, the proposal for Dr. Stewart's Land site was four blocks of terrace units, west, east and south. As I indicated, we found, with the launching of the Primary Homes Programme, that a number of people who would have no means of owning property from the private sector, as a result of the price; and who had applied to us for rental, because there were no alternatives were now applying to own primary homes. Therefore, we thought that it would make sense to give people from the area an opportunity of ownership rather than supplying all rental units.

Sir, I must confess that it is also a fact, as I have said before in this Honourable Chamber, that 60 per cent of the tenants of Government's rental units in housing estates are in arrears. That is the reality. The more rental units you build the more the problem is going to be perpetuated. Hence, if you rent some units and sell other units, the potential for arrears is automatically reduced within the National Housing Corporation, creating the opportunity for property ownership; when you are selling units, you are receiving cash, defraying expenses and costs for providing more housing solutions.

Sir, there has been a pattern in Barbados, of both public and private sector interest, constructing housing developments with very little green or recreational space. We have to resist the creation of urban slum dwellings across the country. It is critical that we ensure that when we build houses, they are attractive, well proportioned, spacious and comfortable for those who will occupy them, but that there is also adequate green and recreational space for the community.

Sir, we perpetuate the phenomenon of 'boys on the block' when we build communities with no recreational space, green space; or where housing units are small, with large families, people have nowhere else to go but on the 'block' because there is no space provided in the community.

Sir, I did not want to see at Stewart's Land intense housing, little green space in a lot that starts with a very long, narrow opening. So, we moved from the concept of four or more blocks of terrace units, which would add a certain bulkiness to this site, to two sets of terrace units on the southern side, with some duplex units and some detached units of the type being promoted for sale under the Primary Homes Programme. That is the concept at this stage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Board and I now have to sign but I will share with those who have a constituency interest, like Mr. David Gill and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, all of the information available so they will know what the final decision is relative to the configuration of this particular location.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those are the issues. I believe that we have now completed the two housing Resolutions which are on the agenda. We will have, in due course, more housing matters on the agenda but I believe those matters which are on the agenda are now complete.

Sir, as I indicated during my preface when I spoke initially, the Honourable Attorney General had certified that the Resolution is in good order and I do beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for today's Sitting. Honourable Members may want to be aware that in light of the pending weather that is likely to affect us this week, the Leader of the House, who is also Minister of Home Affairs, is addressing that matter now and during the course of the afternoon, Members would be required to attend a number of activities related to our preparedness. Accordingly, I beg to move that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

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

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

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The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 5, 2005 were confirmed.

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Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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SEALY, Mr. R. L. (St. Michael South Central)
THOMPSON-McDOWALD, Hon. Mrs. H. E. (St. James South)