
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 2003-2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 15, 2005.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10:15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P.(Deputy Speaker) Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Civil Service) Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House) Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.) Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.) Hon. Dame B. A. MILLER, D.A. B.C.H., (Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) Mr. G. W. PAYNE, Q.C. Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed.,J.P. (Minister of Public Ministry of Public Works) Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees) Hon. H. F. LASHLEY (Minister of Social Transformation) Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.) Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment) Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports) Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs) Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. J.P. (Minister of Energy and Public Utilities) Hon.

R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P.,(Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports) Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance) (Leader of the Opposition) Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS., J.P. Hon. Dr. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health) Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.(Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Industry and International Business) Mr. R. D. JONES. B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Ed.) J.P. Mr. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, November 08, 2005.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, November 08, 2005, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

Sir.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44, be suspended for the rest of this day(s Sitting).

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 14

ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that architects have contributed to our society and indeed to all modern societies, in a very tangible and enduring way. Sir, their handiwork live long after them. Their imagination and vision are carefully outlined in drawings and models, which are sometimes controversial and above the very imagination of the ordinary man.

10:20 a.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the architecture, climate, religious beliefs and culture of some countries have been left from one generation to another to inform present generation as to the thinking of our forefathers. Their work is part

of the wealth of the country. Sir, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance period, a consistent form was observed where architecture was purely of a religious nature. The expansion of education and health facilities beginning in the 19th Century created a widespread and consistently growing need for specialised architectural solutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, schools from nursery to university now demand not only particular solutions at all levels but structures for a variety of purposes within each level. Advanced education demands building for scientific research, training for trades and professions, recreation, health, housing, religious institutions and other purposes. There is now a need for the wider society to practise and indulge in modern techniques of architecture.

Mr. Speaker, one only has to consider the work of these ancient architects in producing the great pyramids of Mexico and Africa, the architecture of the Victorian era and the Spanish architecture as still exists in some of our Caribbean islands like the Republic of Cuba and the Dominican Republic. When one examines the English, Italian and French architecture over the last 500 years, one is left in awe that these great men and women were craftsmen of the finest art.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all understand designs, appreciate beautiful things, buildings and people but the various designs left in our cathedrals and churches today are a sight to behold. Those among us who like to preserve antiques and who like to refurbish old buildings and artefacts would appreciate the work of architects and craftsmen. Indeed, we would appreciate the world of all the craftsmen who have gone before us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Parliament has lovely stained glass windows with rounded,

oblong, square and other shaped windows. The Catholic cathedral in Bay Street and the St. Mary Church both have stainless windows as well as the St. George(s) Parish Church with its steeple and exotic tower. Sir, Government Headquarters, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Central Bank of Barbados, Grantley Adams International Airport and the new Government building at Warrens are buildings to behold and are part of our heritage of this island.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the housing stock of this country both in the 19th Century and the 20th Century is indeed the envy of the English-speaking Caribbean. Therefore, it is against this background that when this Government passed the original Architects Professional Bill, its intention was to give architects their own act similar to those Bills which provided engineers, doctors and teachers with their own Act. It was the design of this Government in 2003, to do just that, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for many years, there was no law governing matters such as the qualifications and experience required to become an architect nor were any rules established under the laws of Barbados for registration of members of this profession. Sir, before 2003, some unqualified persons held themselves to be architects but this trend threatened the integrity of the profession.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, many persons who were not architects practised the trade and some people can draw their own plans and have submitted these plans. Sir, there are many persons working for a long period of time within the trade and have called themselves architects. Those persons who studied the subject professionally believe that the time had come for them to have their own Act. Many of these qualified architects complained that untrained persons were practising as architects and lobbied sections of society including parliamentarians to pass legislation that would

put the registration and supervision of architects on a statutory footing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in April 2003, the new Architects Registration Act was passed by Parliament. One of the primary objective of this new Act was to protect the integrity of properly qualified architects in circumstances where unqualified persons were holding themselves up as architects and charging fees as such. The legislation then did not take into account that in the real world there was a category of professional draftsmen whose status was very badly impacted on in this legislation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of these draftsmen were practising their trade for well over 20 years and the new legislation somewhat restricted them to a mere 1 000 square feet and it was not the intention of Government to do so. However, immediately after the passage of the Architects Registration Act in April, representation was made to the Minister of Public Works and to the Government on behalf of the small independent draftsmen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government has always been cognisant of the fact that we need to protect small business people. This Government passed the Small Business Act in the last term and has been on record of promoting the use of small business practices within Barbados. Therefore, at that time, the Government gave an undertaking to draftsmen that we would listen and help them, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the intention was to amend the Act. We received many letters from a number of concerned persons. One letter addressed to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that this particular firm was doing designs for well over 22 years and had done a lot of work in Bridgetown, Speightstown and throughout the island and that, at this point, they felt that their business

interest was being comprised by the new Act. Sir, also from a social point of view, it was felt that we had to be more sensitive in how we deal with this proposed legislation. Therefore, a Committee was set up which I will discuss at this time.

H82/10:30

Sequence 3

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was felt that section 12 of the Act was creating problems for draftsmen and technicians. The provisions of section 12 were seen to be limiting draftsmen to family dwellings and one-story buildings and to structures of limited square footage. With regard to commercial buildings, they were limited to 1000 square feet. The Committee felt that was not the intention.

Sir, the reduction of status of draftsmen was observed and a Technical Committee of Cabinet was established and consultations were held. The Sub Committee of Cabinet comprised the Minister of Public Works, The Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, the Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development and the Minister in the Civil Service Ministry, along with a subcommittee comprising the draftsmen, architects and coalition service providers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a result of the various representations and consultations with stakeholders, the Ministry of Public Works made adjustments to the policy of the legislation for, (1) the clarification of eligibility to practice architecture;(2) the process of adjudication,(3) non discrimination against professionals whose duties are ancillary to

those of architects, draftsmen and technicians, (4) appeals where there is perceived injustice and (5) punishment for non-compliance with established standards.

This amendment is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Clarity of interpretation of qualifications.

- Improved professional standards.

- A clearer definition of the roles of draftsmen and architects.

- Standards in respect of architects who practice in the CARICOM area.

- Penalties for non observation of statutory observation.

Sir, these are some of the expected achievements of this Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is also expected that stakeholders who felt aggrieved as a result of the April 2003, Act, would now have their concerns properly addressed in this new Bill.

Sir, finally, the Cabinet at the meeting held on June 16, 2005, agreed that the recommendations made by the sub- committee should now form part of the Architects Registration Act. Therefore, we are asking this Honourable House to give effect to these changes today.

Sir, I want to go through some of the changes that were made in this Act. The first question was to be answered was of what is the skill of an architect. This had several interpretations to the architects(skill. It was felt by the Committee in its research that architecture is one skilled in the art of designing buildings to meet his or her clients(needs, in the organisation of contractual arrangement for

their constructions and the supervision of work and contractual administration until completion.

Sir, a major part of an architect's activities will be concerned with the preparation of contracts, obtaining and recommending for acceptance, estimates for builders, a selection of specialist contractors, the inspection of work carried out and the solution of difficulties encountered during the course of erecting a building, the issuance of a certificate under the terms of a contract and advising or ruling on disputes between the owner and the contractor. Thus, it will be noted that although it is the primary and vital function of an architect to create new ideas of designs and amenities and set these down on a drawing board, his duty extends far into other areas of technical knowledge and business management.

Sir, on the other hand, while he remains primarily responsible to the owner for all matters of design, modern techniques of construction and specialised building products and processes, in fact, expert skills would ensure that he has other personal qualities as well. The architect has to play the role of a person who captains the ship and to whom the owner will look to correct design failure, although not in all cases will he adequately discharge his total responsibility especially if he exercises due care. We believe that the architect must be seen as more than just drawing and designing, he is the person who carries the building from its conceptual nature to completion. He also handles all the costing arrangements for the building.

Sir, when we look at further definitions and we research the Law Review, we found that Architects Registration Tribunal has formulated a definition which was cited in a divisional court in London, *R vs Architects Registration Tribunal* in 1945. It states: (An architect is one who possesses with due regard to esthetics as

well as practical consideration, adequate skill and knowledge to enable him to originate the design and plan, to arrange for and supervise the erection of such buildings or other works calling for skill in design and planning as he might in the course of his business reasonably be asked to carry out or in respect of which he offers his service as a specialist.)

Sir, as stated, an architect does not merely design and supervise the erection of buildings, he also gives prospective building owners preliminary advice on the type of building to be erected and the cost of erection, since it is obvious that a design is wasted, which will produce a building costing considerably more than the owner's resources could meet. Therefore, an architect must possess sufficient knowledge of the cost of building and the cost of other work in carrying out these designs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was also felt that the architect's work impacts on the engineer as well, and it overlaps in most cases. Therefore, a definition should be clear as to what are the services offered by an engineer and by an architect. Therefore, the services performed by an architect and an engineer frequently come into play. A registered architect can plan, design and supervise the construction of a building as the practice of architecture and a registered professional engineer can plan, design and supervise the construction of a building as a professional engineer. This inherent overlap is recognised in statutory provisions, provided that although the practice of architecture does not include engineering, a registered engineer may perform architectural services purely incidental to engineering practice and a registered architect may perform engineering services purely incidental to architectural practice.

H82: 10.40

Sequence 4 Tuesday, November 15, 2005 House 82, sequence 05, 10:40 a.m. Continuation of Hon. G.A. CLARKE: At the same time, however, an architect may not hold himself or herself out to be a professional engineer. Since the enactment of the Architect Registration Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker, more than 60 architects have been registered under the Act and that is a lot. There was a time about 20 years ago, when there were less than five architects in Barbados. Today, the field has grown to be more than 60 registered architects and we believe that there are more, because we learned only recently that more persons are now seeking to get into the profession. When this Act is passed, we believe that those persons who were qualified based on time and, of course, those persons who were not qualified but were practising ten years or more, based on their experiences will be qualified to practise the trade. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers was not really happy with the existing definition of the practice of architecture, which suggested that architects were competent to deal with engineering inputs, and the proposed an amendment to that definition. It therefore seeks to remove any reference to the provision of engineering services by architecture. Thus, the amendment to section 2 which states that: (The practice of architecture means rendering one or more of the following professional services to clients: (a)advice;	(b)consultation; (C) evaluation; (d)planning design; (e) inspection of construction; and (f)other services where expert knowledge, skill and experience are required in connection with the: (i)erection, enlargement or alteration of any building, or accessories thereof; or (ii)creation of a building environment where public amenity is concerned.(Therefore, the definition of architecture has been amended and expanded. In this section there is the whole question of what is a building and this has also been amended. In this section a building is defined as a structure intended for use as a shelter for human activities and usually consists of foundations, floors, walls, windows, columns, beams, girders and roof or a combination of any number of these parts with or without other parts. It is now proposed that this definition should be amended to include the words, (excluding the industrial and storage facilities(and should now read: (building means a structure intended for use as a shelter for human activities, excluding industrial and storage facilities, and usually consisting of foundations, floors, walls, windows, columns, beams, girders and roof, or a combination of any number of these parts with or without other parts.(
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Therefore, section 2 is amended in the definition of buildings as well as to the practice of architecture.

Section 4 states that persons should be removed from the register if they have ceased to be domicile and resident in Barbados or are no longer holders of a work permit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this goes against the intentions of the CSME Agreement which are about freedom of movement and services. It is to be noted that section 4.(4)(b) and (V) of the Architecture Act which read:

(IV)(Have ceased to be domicile and resident in Barbados or (V) are no longer holders of a work permit(

The sections have been amended by the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, 2004-24, by the deletion of these words and replacement of the following:

(...not being citizens, permanent residents, or nationals of a member State of a CARICOM community.(

Sir, section 4 has been eliminated by virtue of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Section 5.1(a) allows the Board to set an examination where necessary. This is a new section which is being proposed to the Bill, where the Board is allowed to set an examination where necessary. This section is being inserted and it states:

(Where in respect of the application of registration of an architect, (a) the Board is satisfied as to the matter specified in paragraph (b) of section 5.1 but does not consider the qualifications which the applicant holds to be evidence of satisfactory training in architecture,

or (b) a question arises with respect to the evidence presented by the applicant as to his training, the Board may, in its absolute discretion require the applicant to submit to an examination, in such subjects as it considers necessary to establish that he possesses satisfactory training in architecture.)(

Therefore, if the Board is not satisfied with the qualifications of a person who wants to be an architect, the Board can now ask that the person takes an examination. This is a new section that has been added.

There is also an amendment to section 6.1(b) where the grandfather clause states that persons should have worked under an architect with qualifications before they may be registered as an architect. This is the one that caused a lot of confusion. Many architects or draftsmen felt that since they have worked for many years without the supervision of an architect, they are well-known in the industry and have persons who could vouch for them as architects that their qualifications, in terms of experience, speak for themselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while this is a very good thing, there are a few possible (grandfathers(who have never worked under an architect and the intention is not to prejudice them unfairly. Therefore, a full stop should be placed after the word, architecture and the words:

(in a responsible position under an architect with qualifications as described in section 5,(

should be deleted.

Section 6.1(b) should not read as follows:

(He has had before the commencement of this Act, 31st April, 2003, not less than ten years experience in the practice of architecture.(

Therefore, the question of having to work

under an architect does not arise now, once you have had before 31st April 2003, not less than ten years experience in the practice of architecture.

We have also felt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that section 6.(3) and 16(a) should go together. In section 6.(3) if persons feel aggrieved that they have been treated unfairly by the Board not appointing them as an architect, then they may appeal to the Architects Registration Appeals Tribunal. Therefore 16(a) is a new provision which allows persons who feel aggrieved to appeal to the Tribunal.

House 82, sequence 05, 10:5014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

This section authorises the Minister to appoint the Appeals Tribunal to review the decisions of the Board. Thus, the Tribunal shall comprise an attorney-at-law of at least ten years standing, an architect of at least 10 years experience and a person with knowledge and experience in construction and architecture. The members of the Tribunal shall be appointed by the Minister for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment. Any decision of the Tribunal with respect to the entitlement of a person to be registered under section 6 is final.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is therefore proposed that this section should now read: (A decision of the Board with respect to the entitlement of a person to be registered under this section is subject to an appeal by an Appeals Tribunal of three persons appointed by the Minister whose decisions shall be final.(

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have also looked at section 7(a) which reads that a person to be registered as an architect in another country

whose requirements for registration are in the opinion of the Board no less exacting than those required for registration in Barbados. This was amended by the CARICOM Single Market by the deletion of the words (in another country(and the insertion of the words (in a country other than Barbados or any other member State.(

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in section 7(b) the words (Architect Registration Board(should be deleted and the word (Barbados(inserted. Therefore, section 7(b) shall read (reciprocal arrangements exist between Barbados and another country.(Section 7(c) is being deleted altogether. It was considered that there was no necessity for applicants to have sufficient practical knowledge of local conditions especially in light of the amendments to section 4, 4(b) and 5, which relate to the provisions of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also took the opportunity to delete section 10. It was felt that a person who is engaged to do architectural work should be paid for his services. The Act should not legislate who should be paid. This is really a matter between the two parties. If an individual engaged you to perform a service, they have the right and an obligation to pay you. Under the present Act, section 10 is saying that if you perform a service for a person, even if he had engaged you and it was brought to the attention of another architect who complained, then the person who hired you did not have to pay you by law. We felt that was unfair, so section 10 is now being deleted entirely.

Section 12 (1)(c) should be amended and should read((providing architectural services for family dwelling.(This section as presently constituted restricted those persons who were not architects such as draught persons, architectural technologists and architectural technicians from providing architectural

services where the building concerned was more than one storey in height and utilised by more than one family. This section also prevented those persons from drawing plans where multiple production of houses was concerned. This effectively meant that these categories of persons were not permitted to draw and design duplexes or terrace units as in a housing development done by the National Housing Corporation. This amendment to this section will now allow all those persons to provide architectural services for family dwellings of any type or category including terrace units and multiple town houses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was also agreed that section 12(d) should be amended as well to provide architectural services for commercial structures of no more than 5 000 square feet or 465 square metres where no more than two storeys are involved. The present 12(d) limits the square footage. It says that a person who is not an architect could not provide architectural services for minor premises of no more than 1 000 square feet other than where no more than one storey is involved or where there is a multiple production of such buildings. This is now extended to 5 000 square feet or 465 square metres where no more than two storeys are involved. So we have taken out the 1 000 and we have replaced that by 5 000 and we have also included two storeys rather than one storey. That has been accepted by the architects themselves and agreed on by all concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the word (decorators(in 12 (2)(e) should be deleted and replaced with the word (designers(. This section should now read: (interior or furniture designers.(

Section 17 has also been amended. These amendments were made to bring the penalties in line with modern trends and circumstances and to assist in making enforcement of the legislation more meaningful. The sum of \$2 500 should be deleted and replaced with the

sum of \$5 000. It now reads: (where the architect refuses to pay the fine of \$5 000 the board may suspend his registration for no more than a year.(We felt that was in line with what is happening in the real world.

Section 18 (2) (a) and (b) are also being amended. In subsection (a) the sum of \$500 is being deleted and replaced with the sum of \$10 000 or two years imprisonment. In subsection (b) for each subsequent offence, the sum of \$1 000 should be deleted and replaced with the sum of \$25 000 or three years imprisonment.

Section 19 is also amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the following: (Providing for the conduct of examinations and related matters and the fees to be paid for such examinations.(This allows for the making of regulations with respect to the powers of the Board to set examinations as provided under the new section 5(a) that we included.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the queries raised by the subcommittee was whether or not the Architects Registration Act of 2003-5 was in keeping with the current practices in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and other jurisdictions such as the Caribbean and whether there was any provision for the registration of other ancillary persons under any of the Acts in other jurisdictions. As a consequence, a perusal of the following Acts was undertaken by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Public Works. As a result, I want to thank the legal officer, Mr. Coppin, for his very diligent search.

House 82 Sequence 6

11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Coppin found that in the Architecture Profession Act of Trinidad and Tobago, the Jamaica Architect Registration Act, the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, the Revised Statutes of Alberta, the Revised Statutes of Ontario, and in the United Kingdom Registration (Amendment) Act, 1969, that there were no restrictions in these Acts, neither did they permit persons outside of the profession to practise architecture. Persons had to be trained, qualified architects, to practice architecture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also found that with regards to the registration of other categories of persons, other than those meeting the minimum requirement, that those persons were not entertained. Sir, those persons who did not meet the minimum requirement were asking to be included in the Act and if such a provision existed outside of the Commonwealth countries. In this aspect, we found that, in all cases, persons had to be bona fide, qualified architecture, to practise the trade.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendments which are being proposed today, seek to address the concerns raised by those parties who felt marginalised by the provisions of the Act, as presently constituted. Sir, it is hoped that this objective could be achieved without compromising the professional standard and integrity of the Architects Registration Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the current Bill under discussion be withdrawn and that it be substituted with the amended Bill, which has already been circulated to this Honourable House.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that is the will of this Honourable House, so let it be.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg that the amended Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak to this amendment and to say that the architectural community of Barbados and more particularly, the Barbados Institute of Architects, which has lobbied long and hard across many Governments, to get a registration act put in place, must really feel somewhat hard-done-by, that this Government appears to be making such a meal of this whole process.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in April, 2003, an Act was hurriedly passed, I am not sure why because as I have said, there is no shortage of information from years of lobbying on the architects(part, insofar as putting an Act in place, but a piece of legislation was put in placed, which possessed a number of deficiencies, hence we are here today moving a number of amendments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, beyond that, even here today, it seems as though what was laid last week has had to be withdrawn for further amendments. Sir, as if that were not enough, there are still a number of deficiencies still existing. Therefore, I am only suggesting that the architectural community of Barbados must really feel somewhat hard-done-by, that it is requiring so much of this, to get themselves regulated, after years of toiling in the vineyards, to see that this day would come when they would have a proper comprehensive Registration Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, having said that, I would certainly want to laud the Ministry for

an effort at alleviating some of the concerns from the original Act. In fact, I can say that in one of my early speeches in this Honourable House, I had made a call to the Honourable Member for St. George North, to address some of the things that are being addressed today. Therefore, I can associate myself with those persons from the architectural community, who have been calling for a more all-encompassing Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no difficulty in giving credit to the Honourable Member for St. George North. I think, as Cabinet goes, the Honourable Member has been very cooperative with me, and I would like to laud him for his good work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is somewhat beyond me why the Honourable Member would want a consultant, far-less a discarded Minister to advise him, as he is doing such a wonderful job.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the Architects Registration Bill, which we are dealing with today, I think the Honourable Member has listened and has responded to it. I also think that it is a good thing that the draftsmen have had their concerns heard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North took us on a trip around the world, including Barbados, while lauding the wonderful work that architects have done, but what we must not forget that the draftsmen have also served this country well. Sir, we cannot escape the fact that the majority of the designs done in this country have, in fact, been done by these technicians and, therefore, it was somewhat unfortunate that they were left out in the cold by the original Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us not fool ourselves. The Honourable Member for St. George North cannot say I can. We must realise there are certain elements within the architectural community, who are bitterly opposed to what we are here doing today. They feel that the territory should remain rarefied for a group of elite professionals and that all the work should come to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we must, therefore, understand that it is not without some degree of courage on the part of Government, that they have been able to reach a happy middle ground, where all can be accommodated. Sir, I did not see a difficulty with that in the first place and would like to say that at the very minimum, the issue of the grandfather clause was dealt with. Sir, it was somewhat ridiculous that we are recognising professionals who have been operating for many years, then to tell them that they could only be recognised if they had been working under an architect and in many cases, under an architect who might not be as experienced.

H:No82(7)1110 a.m.

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Continuation of Mr. R.L. SEALY:

Sir, it is good that the issue has been dealt with. It is also good that the tribunal has been put in place to deal with persons who feel they have been aggrieved by decisions made by the Architects Registration Board. In that respect, I want to say that the Board itself seems to have quite a bit of power insofar as determining who can be registered as an architect in Barbados. It is my view that it can be reviewed and look at, perhaps at the stage of regulations, I am not sure but, this idea that only the Board can determine whether your education is the appropriate one for you to practise architecture is a little autocratic.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in order for engineers to be registered, the Engineers Registration Board has a list of accredited universities around the world, including the University of the West Indies. There are several bodies around the world which go through various accreditation processes so the idea that the Board itself has that power seems too much.

Asides.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: I am simply suggesting that there should be an accreditation process on which you can lean. The Engineers Board does that but I am not sure why the architects seem to have, in my opinion, an excessive amount of power in that respect. Of course, the whole issue of reciprocity which the Honourable Member discussed would be made a lot easier if we are found to be conforming and recognising the accredited education processes that may exist around the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand that when you are dealing with architecture where there are so many variances. There is the study of architecture, architectural engineering, architectural technology or you can be an architectural technician. Sir, there are so many variances that it is probably not easy to determine whether someone has been through the appropriate matriculation or been through the appropriate training that they could practise architecture. Notwithstanding that, it seems to me that it would be an area that could be clarified a bit as far as the power which the Board has.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this process is not totally unfamiliar to us here in Barbados. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is in his seat. I believe the dental profession had a situation where the Board determined that persons trained at a particular university where not suited to practise dentistry in Barbados. He

came down on the right side of the issue because the ludicrousness of the whole issue was that the university was here in the Caribbean. It was not even to say that it was a the university practised in India where there were language or cultural issues. Sir, we have to learn from our mistakes and move forward. This is not intended to be any bitter partisan criticism. It is just an observation that should be taken on board.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, having recognised that there are good things that the Act is doing in embracing the technicians which the Minister outlined, it is my view, that the Act should have categories of persons practising architecture. Sir, I know that the architects are bitterly opposed to that. It is their feelings that lawyers have their set of regulations which are not diluted by paralegals, that the doctors have theirs which are not diluted by pharmacists or nurses, that the engineers have theirs and that the architects should have theirs. Sir, having said that, because a piece of legislation makes allowances for categories that it is necessarily in any way meant to diminish the prestige or standing of that profession.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are simply saying that recognising that the practice of architecture is so broad and that it is done by so many people that if the appropriate regulation is put around it that there is nothing to stop the legislation from recognising categories. We can have architects, architectural technicians and other categories under this as well, like draftsmen but we can still have categories. Sir, that is my view because it is done in other jurisdiction. I believe in the United Kingdom, it is possible for a draftsman to design anything, provided it is done within the context and I believe that categories can work here. The idea is that if you have the necessary raft of legislation that would spawn the various regulations, that the public interest would be protected.

Sir, we are not far away from seeing that happened in Barbados because the Barbados Building Code, which I hope would be soon implemented, would provide the necessary protection to the public. In other words, if you choose to go to an architectural technician or an architect, either way, they would have to comply with standards that are set out by the law. Therefore, the interest of the public would be protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in essence, that would adequately put pay to any notion that the architects may have insofar as suggesting that public safety would be at risk if you allow other professionals to practise architecture, in terms of technicians or draftsmen. I do not accept that there would be any compromise to the safety of the public. In fact, while the Barbados Building Code is yet to be implemented, already on the Statute Books is the Engineers Registration Act, which calls for all buildings in excess of two storeys and all buildings to be used for certain commercial processes to have a registered engineer certify that it is suitable for that purpose. While the monitoring of that Act might not be great, for example, insurance companies would not insure certain types of buildings unless they are satisfied that they have seen such certification.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the technicians have to operate within a framework that does not allow public safety to be compromised. Therefore, one can see the justification for what is being done here today. Sir, having said that, it is only obvious that the Honourable Member for St. George North should also move with the same degree of dispatch that he moved with respect to these amendments at making the Barbados Standard Authority a reality. I am sure the Minister will speak to this when he wraps up but you cannot properly and appropriately create the whole framework for this sector and leave out the issue of the

Building Standard Authority.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of work has been done by a Scottish consultant who came here under the Technical Corporation Agreement. He was very vocal and had his share of strong view but no one questioned his capacity. He had a staff of about 13 people and had done very good work.

H82/11:20

Sequence 8

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Mr. R.L. SEALY: Sir, there was a draft building code that was here for at least ten years. I believe an Australian consultant was involved. It was not a bad piece of work. It had its shortcomings. It was a little simplistic in some areas. I remember seeing the Building Code of the OECD, which was done through the UNDP, certainly, that was more detailed with specifications and so forth which were recommended. It was a lot tighter than the one that we had. I thought that it was progressive when the Scottish consultant was here to upgraded the building code and to see the implementation of the Buildings Standards Authority.

I believe that if we are really moving ahead, relative to improving the quality of our constructed product, which I believe is what the Barbados Institute of Architects, the Barbados Association of Architectural Technologists, the Government and Opposition want to achieve, then we have to make an effort to deal with the issue of the Buildings Standard Authority.

I understand that there may have been some issues relating to funding. I sincerely hope that has been or would be addressed shortly. As I said, this gentleman has not hesitated to express

his views. At one time he was suggesting that there was a holdup in here, in terms of the legislative process. Sir, I do not know to what extent that is the case, but the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, among others, has been very strident in their calls for the building code. Certainly, the Opposition is not in any way standing in the way of the Government, as far as that exercise is concerned. I would think that we could be moved to implement it. Sir, perhaps, Government can learn from the exercise that it is experiencing and ensure that some of the concerns expressed by the interested parties, so far as the building code is concerned, and that the excessive bureaucracy, could be dealt with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us not fool ourselves, as it is, the present requirement for developing a piece of land, residential, commercial and industrial, Town and Country Planning approval can sometime take months. Commercial projects are rendered less than viable, sometimes because of the gridlock perceived to be occurring in Town and Country Planning. Sir, the Building Code onto that now, there are some elements within the private sector of Barbados that are a little concerned.

I would sincerely hope that as you put that in place, and taking the ideas of Mr. Matthews et al on board, we would also consider some of what other interested parties have to say, so that we avoid passing something in here and returning two years later to redress its clear shortcomings. I do not think that we do not want to find ourselves in that position again. Sir, I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. George North will ensure that does not occur.

Sir, we have to be very supportive of what is being done, but there is just an area of two of the legislation that I want to speak to. I notice that section 10 in the original legislation is being deleted, which dealt with the opportunity for a person other than a registered architect not

entitled to any action or to recover fee, gratuity or remuneration for the practice of architecture. In other words, a person who is not registered cannot take any action, presumably court action, to recover. However, having abolished that, and recognising that the Act has been widened to include persons practising architecture and not just registered architects, then it would seem to me that section 18.1 (c) which in essence makes it an offence for a person other than a registered architect to charge monies, that would also have to be deleted.

Sir, I presume that I could raise it under Committee but I raise it now for the Honourable Minister and if necessary, for the Attorney-General to review it, because it just seems to me that if you cannot take action to recover, then obviously it should not be an offence to charge if you are practising architecture. Sir, you are widening it and I think that would also have to be reviewed. That is something for the persons responsible for drafting to look at because we recognise that they have made various mistakes.

Asides

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Section 18.1 (c) of the original Act says (A person not being a registered architect practices architecture for which he demands or receives any fee, gratuity or remuneration, whether or not such a fee, gratuity or remuneration is demanded or received in Barbados, is guilty of offence under this Act.) That is no longer the case, given what is happening here today. I suspect that it is just an honest oversight on the part of the persons responsible and it can be dealt with.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is back and she can look at it. As I said, when we are dealing with cleaning up the various aspects in Committee, we could, perhaps, deal with that at that point in time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is clear to me that this whole thing has been made an unnecessary arduous task but there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. We sincerely hope that all Barbadians could see some benefit in this. I think that we recognise the importance in rural and urban Barbados, the role that the draftsmen have played. It is not in any way to diminish the fantastic work that our architects are doing.

Sir, I had the opportunity to work with both professionals over the years and I think that it is a good thing for the Act to embrace all. I sincerely hope that the Government would do all that it could to see that beyond the subsidiary legislation more is done to develop these professions in Barbados and to recognise the real value to be had. For example, when we speak of exporting services, that these professions can play a role in that regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was very heartened to see that the Town and Country Planning Department will go to the schools and talk about their profession, because many people do not totally understand what the Town and Country Planning Department is about. They think it is only about approving plans. The Town and Country Planning Department plays a critical role in change of use applications and such things. I think it is good that young people understand that process.

Sir, having said that, I would also like to see that the role of the architect and the potential in that field, not only helps us in Barbados but also by way of exporting services abroad.

Asides

Mr. R.L. SEALY: I am making the point that not only the architects but the related professional as well, can export services the land surveyors, landscape architect and engineers, all have potential. Therefore, the

community needs to hear more and it can start at the level of the schools.

H 82: 11.30 a.m.

Sequence 9

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 10, 11:30 a.m.

Continuation of Dr. D.C. ESTWICK:

If the Government wants to make up for a lot of the lost ground over the last two years that we have been dithering with this and tangling and refereeing all the contests, perhaps, now you could give a good shot in the arm of this profession and all professionals generally.

I know we hear a lot of lip service about the whole question of export of services but I really do believe that architecture and to some extent my own field of engineering are areas where we have a comparative advantage.

There is clear evidence, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of where work has been done in many of our other Caribbean countries by competent architects and architectural technicians as well. Therefore, I think that we must now go beyond the Registration Act and get into the profession itself.

I would sincerely hope that even though it has been a long process, the Government would not necessarily see this as the end but perhaps as the beginning of a continuum, where we could see that not only would the Architects Registration Board function but the Government would do other things to develop this field and other related downstream fields, insofar as the construction and the infrastructural development industry is concerned.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. Ms. H.E. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As one who sat on this Committee, I really want to rise and give support to the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. George North, for the amendment before the Chamber today.

When this Act was first passed in this Honourable Chamber both the Minister and I carried different portfolios. Sir, it was very interesting to see the immediate reaction of those who were involved in the provision of these services, and the extent to which they then lobbied for what was seen as amendments in relation to the approach of the then legislation to address those who were not architects by training but those who provided critical support services to architects, within the context of architectural firms and, in fact, within the building industry in Barbados.

Our building industry is a very active high profile industry and the building stock in Barbados is of very high quality, comparable to not only the rest of the Caribbean but to places which would be viewed as the international world. We speak of the international world very loosely and do not seem to recognise that Barbados, by its standards, really is very much an international and developed country, in terms of its profile more so than developing countries. Therefore, our building stock here is of a quality that is a tribute to all of those who have worked in the multiple disciplines involved in the industry over the years.

It was never intended when this legislation was enacted to exclude from a revenue earning potential, those persons who are draftsmen, technicians, technologists and the various range of agricultural support services, who not only

provide services to architectural firms but to Barbadians.

This amendment today is critical for two reasons:

1. It reflects the fact, as so often is the case, that the Government is listening to the public and is responsive to their needs and concerns. Whenever we have misstepped, we have sought to correct it when we hear the voice of those whom we serve saying that they do not like what we have done in this instance.

This amendment represents our listening to that cohort of persons who are support specialists and specialists in their own right, in the performance of quasi and architectural services. I think I would wish to commend the Minister and my colleagues for being sensitive to what the public is saying.

It also reflects, Sir, a recognition of the role that these individuals have played in the industry. Immediately after the first Act was passed, a number of them wrote me and came to see me in my capacity as Minister of Physical Development, as I then was and I know they also lobbied the then Minister of Public Works. Elections intervened. A committee was established. We sent the information out for wide dissemination and comment. Now, we have come back with what, I think, is a much better piece of legislation, geared at meeting the needs of the wider public and the building industry.

2. This legislation ensures that by legislative framework Barbados provides for those individuals who really cannot afford architectural services which are high cost.

In the construction project, the provision of architectural services by a trained architect, including supervision of the project, can increase the project cost by as much as 20 per

cent in some instances and, maybe, even more. This is a high cost which the average Barbadian, including the average middle class Barbadian, who is building a house really cannot afford. Some can but a majority of Barbadians cannot and therefore, it was very important that we recognise the role played by the technologists, draftsmen and those other individuals who have, from time immemorial provided drawings and some form of architectural service for the wider public and a majority of Barbadians.

Sir, had we not affected this amendment today, (1) we would have been looking at further increase cost in the building industry; (2) the exclusion of those who have for years played a vital role to servicing a majority of Barbadians; and (3) the exclusion of those individuals from the right to earn in a profession in which over time, they would have gained tremendous skill and experience. Therefore, what we are doing today is important.

We need also to make to the point, I think, Sir, that if we are to continue with the provision of these services, they can only be within the context of this new legislative environment. What the Act seeks to do is to give the kind of professional standing recognition and legislative grounding to the work of a core of professions, in this regard architects, in the same way that protection has been provided for specialists services rendered by doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals - including physiotherapists who require legal recognition - acceptance of professional skills and training in order to deliver specialists services. It also gives by extension, the opportunity to charge for that level of training and the opportunity to protect the public from persons who seek to describe themselves as that which they are not.

In our country, we have many people who

present themselves as having skills which they do not have and charging people fees from a perspective of professional training, they are not entitled to charge because they do not have the requisite professional training. This is something which people need to be aware of and hence, in relation to the professional services, there has always been this level of protection, not only of those persons who are professionally trained but protection of the public from those people who are not trained. Therefore, all we sought to do was to establish a similar regime with architecture.

House 82, sequence 10, 11:4014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss. H. E. THOMPSON:

The architects themselves complained that there were too many people describing themselves as architects who had no such professional training and no such right to describe themselves in that way and who were earning monies that they were not entitled to earn in that regard. Mr. Deputy Speaker, while we sought to give this profession its correct legal place, it was not intended to exclude those other persons who are providing critical services to Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Act now recognises and strengthens the role and legislates a place in our economic structure for those persons who provide the range of services, which help to design and construct a building, outside of those who are architects and engineers which were the two professions previously registered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, from a practical perspective what we have now is a happy mix of professionals providing a range of services critical to the delivery of the house product. What we have sought to do as well by this

legislation, is to ensure that there are categories of services that particular persons can and cannot provide within the framework of the law. Where people seek to pass themselves off wrongfully, there is a penalty attached for so doing under this legislation. However, those persons who are not architects but who have design and other related skills now have a legally protected role to play in the definition, design, supervision and construction of not only homes but commercial buildings which previously they would not have had.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the fears was that the first Act did not recognise that draftsmen, technologists, technicians and other persons so styled, had previously been designing not only one storey homes which the Act limited them to, but were designing two storey homes, that were very large, and other commercial buildings, and had prevented them from having such an involvement. This piece of legislation corrects that and allows those persons who previously had that experience and involvement to again practise legally those kinds of design and supervision and other services related to construction, which had been made illegal by the passage of the first legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are today engaging in a very important exercise in terms of correcting that which went wrong in the previous Act and in the second instance in ensuring that a range of professionals are involved in the service. The Act seeks to include a range of professionals but in my view it could have gone further. The South African Act has a number of categories of professional players who are not recognised by law in Barbados.

As we review the legislation and as the building industry becomes more and more dynamic, it grows further, a new range and a wider range of technical support services technicians with various types of skill levels,

training and backgrounds are going to become involved in design and project delivery in the construction industry. Therefore, in my view, our legislation in the future would have to look at those models, such as the South African model, which identify a range of professionals who are involved in construction projects delivery and seek to give them a legislative presence here in Barbados by way of the definition of the legislation, and that is important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have not gone that far yet in recognising the full range of categories of persons who are recognised by the South African and other pieces of legislation, but in my view, in time, we are going to have to get there. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central spoke to the matter of the role of the Board. He and I are not ad idem. I heard him speak for the first time in two years in a restraint, structured and sensible way and I agree with much of what he said, but we have to depart on the role of the Board.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not share his view on the Board because where such Acts for professional registration exist, there is always a registration board however styled. The lawyers have it, the doctors have it and the engineers have it. This legislation gives a similar board for recognising and allowing entry to people who are trained in architecture and who seek to enter and practise the profession in Barbados.

As I understand it, the view of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is that the legislation, as the Engineers Board does, should have recognised a number of accreditation centres and use those as the guides by which you would accept a person for entry into practice into Barbados. I disagree with the Honourable Member on that. My experience, having been a Minister of Health and seeing how the Health Registration and the Medical Board and other related professional

boards operated, nurses, physiotherapists and so on, is that where the Board identifies an accreditation centre, only persons who have been trained by those accreditation centres can be allowed entry for practice into Barbados.

Sir, the way in which the Board for the Registration of Architects is drafted is a much wider legislation that gives the Architects Board a level of latitude that does not constrain them to go after only specific accreditation centres. Hence, if the Engineers Board, and I am going to draw an example, was recognising the accreditation of four countries only, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and New Zealand, it means that a person who is trained as an engineer in Czechoslovakia no matter how good their qualifications, even if they were trained in the best universities in the world, could not be admitted to practice in Barbados because they would be limited by a recognition of four accreditation centres only.

By its wide drafting, this piece of legislation gives this Accreditation Board an opportunity to look at individuals academic qualifications and their practice to determine whether or not they are entitled to entry. So it does not have to align itself to any specific accreditation centre or to exclude persons from practice because they are not from one of the accepted accreditation centres. So this is a much better provision which would allow recognition of persons who are trained in this discipline.

House 82 Sequence 11

11:50 a.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very important

thing because as the world opens up, as more and more training centres open up, as offshore schools become established and become part of the norm for academic training, there will be more and more educational opportunities providing training in disciplines, which we will need to take cognisance of. We will have to recognise the qualifications given by those institutions, when persons seek to come to practice in our country. Therefore, unless we have a legislative framework that is built with latitude to allow that kind of entry, persons who are legitimately trained can be excluded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is now discussion, for instance, whether people trained in Cuba should be accepted into the various professional disciplines. Therefore, we have to have the latitude to do this examination on a case-by-case basis, and I am satisfied that this is allowed by this legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, furthermore, there is an Appeals Tribunal, an important entity established under the Act. Sir, where the registration body makes a decision that a person is not entitled to practise in Barbados, that person automatically has a right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal, for a review of that decision which has declined them the right to practise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, there are mechanisms built into the Act, which will allow persons aggrieved by decisions of the Architects Registration Tribunal, to give those persons relief and remedy within the confines of the Act. Of course, there is always available to individuals, the opportunity to go by way of a judicial review, in the event that they are aggrieved by the decision of a body or of anybody acting under authority of law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this legislation also reflects an attempt on the part of Government, to ensure that Barbados has high quality

building standards and that our housing stock remains of good quality. Sir, that is done by the role played by the Town Planning Department and it continued strengthening. It is done by this legislation. It is done and will be done, when the new building code is introduced.

Sir, in respect of rental properties, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment, is preparing a Paper for minimum standards, rent control and restrictions, which will be discussed in this Honourable House some time next year, which, together with these other pieces of legislation, will seek to ensure that all buildings in Barbados that are occupied by persons, either by rental or owned, are of extremely high standard, particularly in a situation where it is clear that our weather patterns are changing and we are more vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Sir, I believe this has been the longest and one of the most active hurricane seasons in Barbados(history. We are in November, when the rainy season is officially over, yet we are having continuous rains and where, at this time, we are expecting another tropical storm somewhere in the Caribbean.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, it is critical in this changing weather climate, at a time when we have to deal with the effects of El Nino, when we have to deal with the worst consequences of climate changes, such as very hot weather at times, while at other times very cold weather; very wet on occasions; water temperature changing and affecting marine habitats such as coral reefs; the snow caps in Alaska and the North Pole melting and having consequential impacts on the United States of America and Canada; loss of habitats of many species, et cetera. Sir, these are all reasons which justify Government(s insistence that even if there is an additional cost, ultimately it is for our own protection, to ensure that the

quality of our building stock is very high and is able to withstand extreme weather events.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a practice in the Caribbean, about which I am very concerned, which is springing up in Barbados. Sir, it is the construction of plywood houses. Sir, given the kinds of extreme weather events we are having, this practice constitutes high risks to those who are residents in these properties. Therefore, we cannot lower our standards if, at the national level, we are to be properly protected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we saw where a hurricane has devastated several States of the USA, with one State in particular being hard hit. The reality is, in my view, one wonders whether or not Barbados would survive and to what extent buildings would remain standing, if, unfortunately, we were ever to be hit by a category three or category five hurricane. Sir, we can only guarantee that we survive socially and economically and that buildings, lives and quality of life remain intact, if we seek to keep these standards at the highest level. Sir, I know this is neither the place nor the opportunity to speak to minimum standards but I hope for the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central has raised a matter, which I want to address, which is the exporting of services. Sir, Barbados has a history of qualified architects, both local and non-nationals, who are involved in the designing of buildings such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Government Headquarters, Frank Walcott Building and the National Housing Corporation building on Country Road. Sir, Government has been in the forefront of the purchase and use of architectural services on commercial projects in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our architects here are well-trained, well-qualified and they generally

do good work. Therefore, I believe this is one of the services which is ripe for export, not only to countries in the Eastern Caribbean but to countries in Latin America. Sir, all that would be required would be for our architects to invest in learning either French or Spanish.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the qualified landscape architects, who does a tremendous amount of high volume work, at a high price, on the West Coast, is a landscape architect out of Venezuela. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason why Barbados cannot be exporting these services outside of Barbados. It is the kind of service that can be transmitted by the use of CD, by the technology available, such as sending designs over the internet, or by FedEx. Therefore, all of our architectural firms should now be seeking to sell and to send services wider afield than Barbados. We now have a relatively large number per capita of architectural firms in Barbados.

H:No82(12)1200 noon.

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD:

It cannot be their base to continue selling services to Barbados alone because we would never have the critical mass to keep all of them in good paying work all year. Some of our local architects must therefore, see the Caribbean and Latin America as their horizon for establishing their services and firms and repatriating that money to Barbados and, in so doing, growing our economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, economic growth cannot only take place by firms resident in Barbados selling to people resident in Barbados. When we speak of the sale of services and the revenues to be generated therefrom, we speak in terms of the sale of

services to the Barbadian diaspora all over the world and in terms of the sale of Barbadian services to others of non-Barbadian extract.

Sir, there is much in Barbadian architecture that is worth learning, preserving and replicating. Sir, traditionally Barbadian houses were built in a way that allows wonderful airflows. There are breezy houses made of wood and materials which did not attract and retain heat, which is suitable for tropical climates. Our architects have to start producing some of those traditional designs mechanisms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our architects complain that not enough people use their services but in an economy as small as our own, not enough people will ever be able to afford to use their services but in the United States of America, you can go online or go into a bookshop or library and buy an architecturally designed house at relatively low cost which you can then adapt to suit to your own personal needs. I believe that every architectural firm in Barbados should have a set of basic stock drawings so that those persons who cannot afford to pay \$20 000 or more for the services of an architect should still be able to go into an architectural firm, buy a basic design and layout for a chattel house or wall bungalow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has one more minute.

Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Sir, the company having a core of stock drawings will help to improve the aesthetics of housing in Barbados generally, with the most efficient methods of using the space which the house comprises.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I close on this point. There is a need for the inclusion of green principles, more environmental principles in the design of houses. The escalating fuel costs have told us that we have to be more cost

efficient and careful to choose methods of designs, materials, appliances and equipment that are not high in fuel consumption.

Therefore, architects have a role to play in advising clients of the green products on the markets, the products which are low in fuel consumption and which help to ensure that our planet will live a little longer. Sir, there are solar lights that will reduce dependency on the electrical company. There is a need for recycling water in building.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I cannot speak to the many examples but solar heating is perhaps the best example of using an environmental service and good for the benefit of the construction industry. There are a range of others which must now be generally incorporated into our building standard.

Sir, I wish to conclude by thanking the Honourable Minister for bringing this measure before Parliament today. Sir, we are doing the right thing and I am glad to have been part of the Committee which helped with the change process.

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt that this House has been delayed by two years because everything we are discussing today was given to the Government who refused to accept that these changes were needed. It is clear that when this Act was first brought to Parliament that the (two-few) mentality was the leading light in bringing this particular Act to Parliament. There is a belief on the other side that there is not enough work for everyone to receive in Barbados. This point was well made by the Honourable Member for St. James South a moment ago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to again

congratulate the Honourable Member for St. James South for making the point that if this Act was allowed to continue that the cost of building in Barbados would increase. It is clear that we cannot continue to have this particular Act when we are supposed to be pushing a low-income housing policy yet still, Parliament is passing legislation which would automatically increase the cost of doing business to the masses of people in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, today I am happy to see that it has taken the other side two years to understand the point made two years ago from this side. They are not gloating about these new changes as if they came from the other side. Sir, if they need credit, they can have it. I need not call for the Hansard Records of two years ago when this was first discussed. I hope that the architect(s) body would recognise that they owe nothing to Government for these changes. They have to congratulate the Opposition for being so enlightened in pointing out to Government these things. It is clear to me that they were ashamed and could not accept the amendments given to them at that point in time so it was delayed for two years hoping that people would forget, they could slip it through Parliament and take credit for the enlightened policies of the Democratic Labour Party. Sir, that is nothing new. I am sure that with these enlightened policies of the Democratic Labour Party...

Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. One cannot slip anything through Parliament nor was there a delay of two years for any mischievous reason. The delay of two years took place because after the new Minister was appointed, there was wide consultation process with the architecture profession as well as with persons involved in the provision of support services. They have now established a number of associations with draftsmen and other

technologists. What caused the delay was the wide consultation with these groups, the establishment of a number of committees, Cabinet and non-Cabinet, technocrat committees from the Ministry, committees from the various people in the various professions and having people actually come and make presentations on their views. Sir, I am saying this not only to contraction the point I am raising in my Point of Order but to allow the public to know the wide consultation process which informed this amendment before the House today.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, after hearing the Honourable Member for St. James South, I hope the Press would understand the type of work being done by the Opposition. Sir, so much information was given to the Government that it took them two years to absorb it and implement it. I hope Government realises that we do not (skylark) in this Parliament. Some people believe that on Tuesdays the Opposition comes to Parliament and play games with the Government but that is not true.

H82/12:10

Sequence 13

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, the evidence has now been given by the Honourable Member for St. James South about the type of work that we do in this Parliament.

Sir, it is regrettable, that all the information I have given to them and the praise that I gave for Warrens, it was on this same Floor that I endorsed the policies of the Minister of Housing at that time, for employing a man by the name of Mr. Barrack, who had the common sense, instead of losing money at

Warrens, by driving piles at Warrens to use a floating foundation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one would have thought that after the experience of the Warrens project, the engineers now working on Kensington Oval would not have wasted the taxpayers money by driving piles one hundred and twenty feet down into the ground but would have used the knowledge which was given by the University of the West Indies to a gentleman called Mr. Barrack, whom they claimed not to be a contractor, to build a floating foundation, instead of wasting money at Kensington Oval.

Sir, not only was the location wrong...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, could you relate your contribution to the Bill.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, this relates to the Bill, engineering, et cetera. This is very wide. Sir, because I mentioned Kensington Oval, do not get scared. This is a wide debate. Sir, I know that you are interested in taxpayers money and you would not stop me from speaking about these particular points.

Sir, you know that the Honourable Member fo St. Andrew did a good job in allowing a floating foundation at Warrens.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we have a Bill before the Honourable House and I want you to stick to it.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, good engineering, architecture and draftsmanship were employed at Warrens. However, I want to know how you can employ people that do know nothing about Barbados not even that the sea comes in at Kensington Oval. Sir, if we had local people, good architects and draftsmen would have known that, and we would not have been wasting all this money at Kensington

Oval, where we should have used a floating foundation to correct the particular problem.

Sir, if we had good labourers at the Kensington Oval, like a gentleman from St. Andrew, who would have told them that the water runs into Kensington Oval. The Barbadian labourers would have told them that they cannot drive piles there. Sir, there are certain times when the bowlers swing and bounce the ball, the moisture in the air tells them that water is underground, but because they are all foreigners, they are not aware of what is occurring at Kensington Oval.

Sir, we cannot amend this Bill to give them knowledge about the conditions in Barbados. We have to understand that we are speaking about the taxpayers money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Act must make sure that we do not deprive our professional, for there is the belief that certain people are not professionals, but I disagree. There are masons in Barbados who are more capable of building than some who want to call themselves professionals. There are masons who constructed buildings in Barbados for over twenty-three years and not a crack has occurred. They are some professionals who have constructed buildings that have big spaces in the walls. cracks.

Sir, I am saying that knowledge from the village academy must be appreciated. We cannot allow any Parliamentarian to dilute this village academy knowledge. The masons, carpenters and plumbers have knowledge that you would never find in a text book. Actually, they should be writing books to teach the professionals. That is what is needed in Barbados. Those people with the knowledge should write books to teach the professionals. The professionals study foreign languages and cultures and want to apply them in Barbados, while ignoring those who understand the

policies and practices of the village academy.

Sir, this morning I do not have any time to waste in Parliament, what I said two years ago still stands. Honourable Members are only here to cover up, not in a negative way, because I know someone would jump up on a point of order, saying that I am suggesting that you are allowing Parliament to be used to cover things.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I was about to ask you that question.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, that is why I would never allow you to get that opportunity to do so.

We have to understand that Parliament is so important that today we should be in here discussing the amendment to the Guarantee of Loans (Companies) Act, instead of wasting Parliament(s) time. This should have been resolved two years ago when I moved the amendments, but shamefaced people do not want to points things from people who came from the village academy. If they were paying millions of dollars, they would have paid, accepted and signed the cheque ever since, but people from the (village academy(are not accepted in this land. We believe in people coming from India and all over the world, even if they cannot conform with the standards set by our local people who have developed this country.

Sir, I hope that this Architects Registration Act, Cap. 366 will help us to see and appreciate our people in a better way. We will understand that because there is something called globalisation, we cannot just buy into it by ignoring our people. That is exactly what is happening in Barbados. We are making laws for other people to be better off, while neglecting our own. We are not treating our people well, we treat them with little respect but we accept foreign people. That is all I have

to say today.

I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say a few words in this debate. I want to lend my support to this Bill. This is part of a larger process of regulation. All of the professions must now adopt certain standards, if we are going to be looking to a Caribbean Single Market and Economy and if we are going to be looking to sell our services abroad. There are many Barbadian firms in some professions, not only the architects, but in other professions, accountants, et cetera, who are in that process, it is highly competitive and it will require an element of reciprocity which they must live up to.

I am very pleased to give my support. I know that it has been long in coming before this Honourable House. It goes back a long way. The architects wrote a letter lobbying my support and I was willing and anxious to give it. I am glad that we have reached to this place.

Sir, I want to support the Honourable Minister of Housing in what she said in respect of building design and code. I am still waiting for the building code to get to a level in this country where whoever is building, no matter what it is that they are building, know that they have to adhere to the Barbados Building Code.

I am grateful that the Honourable Member for St. James South has made the point about natural disaster activity in our region. It has implication for insurance and reinsurance. Most of us reinsure in Florida and so do most of the southern States of United States of America. For example, let us take last year(s) hurricane Ivan, it did not even sideswipe Barbados, for which we should be showing more gratitude by

preparing ourselves better than we are. There is a lot of hubris. We are flying in the face of reality by not putting ourselves in a better state of preparedness for natural disaster. One day our turn will surely come. Ivan devastated Grenada; it whiplashed Jamaica; divided the largest Cayman Island into two; hurt Cuba and then went on to do major change in seven States of the United States of America, one hurricane.

H82: 12.20 p.m.

Sequence 14

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 15, 12:20 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, do you know what the implications are for insurance premiums now in respect of home insurance? Some people are well-prepared and are adhering now to the Florida Building Code. It seems to me that this is only after the fact of devastation in the Caribbean, as it happened in Antigua, the Virgin Islands and Grenada last year. Sir, the question is, do we put these measures in place? At the end of the day, the insurance is going to touch those who were not devastated and those who were devastated, so there are enormous implications for building design and building code.

Sir, we have a severe problem in Barbados, in respect of drainage. It is the one thing in 380 years that we are yet to conquer. We have all of the utilities in place. Barbados is not like our sister island Trinidad and Tobago where only 17 per cent of the people in the whole of Trinidad and Tobago have access to piped potable water. I saw it in the newspaper the last time I was in Trinidad and Tobago. I happened to have lunch the next day with the

Minister of Public Utilities who confirmed that it was so and I told her that would not happen in Barbados. We do not even have 17 per cent who do not have, furthermore 17 per cent who have but what I am saying, Sir, is that drainage is a matter we have to deal with in our generation.

If we are bearing in mind what Professor Gray of Colorado University has said - and we see it now happening - that in the first 25 years of the 21st Century, we are going to have more intensive hurricane activity.

Asides.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: Sir, we are seeing more intensive earthquake activity. We are seeing more intensive flooding, and not necessarily as a result of a hurricane. All of these have implications for building design, building code, where you build and how you build.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy giving forth about a floating foundation but there is a certain timidity in this country. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is staring me in the face. The old Barbados Mutual building at the bottom of Broad Street is built on a raft of Guyana Green Heart. Did you know that? But we are afraid of these things in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you only have to compare us with other islands. You see people building on the sides of hillsides in St. Lucia - well-known to the Honourable Member for St. John - and in Grenada and everywhere you go but Barbadians do not feel good unless they are over building. They are using 8 inch blocks where 6 inch would do and they are using 6 inch where 4 inch would do - You know that I am perfectly right, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central - and it has to be on flat land but there is nothing that good

architecture and good engineering cannot do. This building in which we are now meeting, the House of Assembly is proof positive. There is water underneath here. This is all old river bed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the architects of before knew how to build. There is nothing wrong with this building, so it is important that we learn now how to design and to build in areas where drainage is a problem, as is the case with every town in Barbados. Speightstown has a drainage problem. Holetown has a drainage problem. I virtually had to float home one night last week.

Asides.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: That is a fact. At one stage I was floating.

Bridgetown has a severe drainage problem. Oistin Town is not so bad because of the escarpment when you are coming down the Church Hill and the way Oistins Bay deals with it.

Asides.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: I am talking about towns you will find on the map of Barbados and not any imagination of Honourable Members.

Asides.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, despite the levity, this is a very serious matter. I want to use this opportunity, like other Honourable Members to give kudos to the old builders of Barbados and some of the present builders of Barbados who do excellent work. This very building again, look at what we have here. There is nothing imported here. This is Barbadian (soft) stone that was plastered and we removed the plaster and we saw the beauty and it will last a thousand years

and more. All of the desk at which we sit, the chairs in which we sit were built by the prisoners of Barbados, who can do good work, out of good old Barbados mahogany. These beautiful windows that you see were all made by hand in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all this goes to architectural design detail. More and more people are going back now to the old jealousy windows. The old people knew better than we do, for all the air-conditioning we have, they took advantage of natural air-conditioning and they understood how to pitch their roofs.

We are moving away from things we see in books coming out of Canada, United States of America and Europe but the vernacular architecture is undergoing quite a renaissance I would say, in Barbados but a lot of it is being vulgarised, if I may also say that, and so the very reason for which you employ it is lost because people see it as decorative and not as functional. They are putting form before function but form, Mr. Deputy Speaker, must always follow function. They serve a purpose, they have a function and they are formed to accommodate that function.

I want to give my congratulations to the members of the profession of architects in Barbados. They have done excellent work in the past. Tourists come to Barbados and admire that work. At George Washington House excellent work is being done again. I went on the site and saw the detail where copper headed nails are being used. People who live on the east coast and south coast of Barbados should build, as you know, either with copper headed nails or with a good steel nail because the brine will take away the nails of ordinary material and the side of a building will fall because the nails are all rusted. I am seeing this happen at my house where I have the old time jealousies. The pin to push it in is not steel and it is rusting already.

These are the details, Sir, and if we look at those countries, the Bahamas, Antigua, the Virgin Islands - and I believe now that soon Grenada will follow - where they have been stuck by hurricanes and they have adopted a building code that is followed that when the hurricanes come, the damage to structures particularly dwelling houses is not great. The damage tends to be to the infrastructure. Bridges get washed out, revetments get washed away and roads get washed away.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a country as small as ours, only 14 miles x 21 miles, we need to be more stringent about design and more careful about where people build. Sir, people have to stop that building across gullies watercourses and sending water in directions that it never went in before, which is putting people at a disadvantage because they could not have planned in their wildest dreams for that to happen. Therefore, architects have a social role to play in that respect.

House 82, sequence 15, 12:3014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Dame Billie MILLER:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make another point which I had hope the professionals on both sides of this House might have spoken to, but I am not afraid to speak to it, the vexed question of advertising. We have in Barbados across the professions a colonial attitude to advertising which goes even beyond Victorian times. The so-called mother country, the United Kingdom, has moved away from these old principles, but we hold on to them, it is like holding on to colonialism.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: I am a

republican by nature and everybody knows that, so I do not have to state my case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Honourable Member for St. John legal firm or the Honourable Member for St. Andrew legal firm wants to be doing business across the world, there are accountants in Barbados wanting to do business across the world, they are not going to be competitive if they cannot advertise their services. I am not talking about crude advertisement, I am talking about criteria laid down by the professionals themselves. Mr. Deputy Speaker, our professionals have to advertise outside of Barbados because we have what is called a blanket position in Barbados where no advertising is allowed in the professions, which is ridiculous.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is nothing new. For all the years of my life Barbadian professionals, doctors, dentists, physiotherapist, agronomists, agriculturists, et cetera, have practised all across the Caribbean. Barbadian attorneys get called to the Bar in other Caribbean countries to practise their skills. The late Sir Harold St. John, was one of the earliest in that line. There is also Sir Henry Forde. Dr. (Johnnie) Cheltenham who was a member of this Chamber for many years is following in that tradition. Many young attorneys need to go in that direction. We are talking about specialities of law now, environmental law and trade law. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I addressed them a few years ago and I could not even finish all of the special niches. These are the areas for the sale of services that Barbados will make its name.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central when he is not here on the Floor of the House on Tuesdays, I have to assume that he is in another jurisdiction selling his professional services, and so he should. However, he should try to organise his business so that he would be in here on Tuesdays. He fought hard to win the seat and he should make

sure that he comes in and sit in it and get up and speak like he spoke today. I was hoping that he would have had the courage and the testicular fortitude to speak to this issue. I am also hoping that other Honourable Members who are professionals will get up and speak to the issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the area of our strength.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member said she is on a roll in taking care of my business but my seat is never nearly declare vacant in terms of my travel.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the time is long past, and I see the approval on the faces of Honourable Members in here, and I wish that some of them would speak to this issue. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the Government would have to take cognisance if all of the professions or that an overwhelming number of them would put a position to the Government. Some of them are very antediluvian in their practices and we have to drag them kicking and screaming into a single market and into an extra-regional market for services as well.

In the World Trade Organisation, we are looking at these matters. There are some services that perhaps would be more sensitive than others, but even so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to take up a position. These are the niches that are the second leg of our economy. The best known of all the services is tourism, everybody knows about that, but they do not seem to understand that it is not service in servitude, but one of a number of services that we sell.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for years we have been selling professional services and we want to go

further afield with those services. There are firms in Barbados doing business in Fiji, in Africa and in Asia, and professionals want to be doing those services. In some of the services like architecture you may not even have to leave Barbados because you can do everything by computer now. The last time I had anything to do in architectural design, it was done on the computer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe, and I certainly would want to canvass for it, that all of the professions should come together and be prepared to adopt international standards, that is very important. You cannot come with a (poor) service and expect that anybody is going to give you business. If you have to reciprocate, we have to be agreed on standards across the world. Once they are prepared to do this and they are prepared to set down the criteria within the professions and it is done in a decent way and in a way that other professionals across the globe would appreciate...

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the precedents are myriad. It is time now for us to move on this matter of advertisement. Somebody had to bell the cat and I am prepared to do it. I am prepared to stand by my words. I am talking about doctors. There are international journals in which economists and doctors advertise. All of the professionals advertise in the United Kingdom. They have moved away from it and we are holding on to it. This does not make any sense in a jurisdiction that is saying that the sale of services is important to the economy. We are talking major revenues here in all of the areas of the professions that you can think of even in the less senior areas of the professions. There are Barbadian draughtsmen who could draw for anywhere in the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to recommend to the professions, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and architects, that they come to speak with one

voice to the Government, agree on standards and agree on which of the professions are perhaps more or less sensitive or so on, so that we can say to the world, this is what Barbados has to offer. It is being done everywhere else and we are losing business because we have this ancient and benighted attitude to something which does not mean anything to those who invented it in the first place.

In the United States of America people are advertising. There are new technologies, new techniques and new ways of doing business coming on stream every single day.

Sir, I would use this opportunity to throw out the challenge so to speak to the professionals of Barbados to come together and make a case, I would be the first in the Cabinet to support it. I also believe that it would get support on both sides of this House.

House 82 Sequence 16

12:40 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I commend this amendment to Honourable Members and hope that my challenge does not fall on deaf ears, as we have already taken cognisance of the Single Market and Single Economy, in respect to earlier amendments to this Act. Sir, in 2005, it is past time.

I am much obliged to you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable

House be suspended until 145 p.m.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Honourable House be suspended until 1:45 p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Honourable House accordingly.

H:No82(17)1241 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

RESUMPTION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This session is now resumed. The Honourable Member Christ Church West.

DR. W.F. DUGID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you for an opportunity to make my intervention into this debate. First, I would like to support the amendment to this Bill. Sir, there are absolutely necessary amendments. The previous Bill as it was then structured really disadvantaged a lot of people who had worked in this profession and industry for many years and provided sterling service to the provision as well as the community and country of Barbados.

Sir, for them to be disadvantaged by a Bill passed in this Parliament for them not to be able to continue their normal employment - some of them had worked in that field for 20 years or more - and for them to have the amount of work done reduced, is obviously an error. I must commend the Minister for having the fortitude and - Sir, I agree with Honourable Member for St. John - for having the good sense for coming to this House and bringing these amendments because the poor people of this country must be allowed to live like anybody else. We are in this Parliament to

represent the people, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. Sir, we are here to represent the good looking and the ugly even those on the other side.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have often heard a simple phrase which I have taken to heart that any policy that this Government brings must stand the test of reasonableness. Sir, the policy as it stood before did not stand the test. Therefore, it is absolutely....

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is giving the impression that the previous Act was not brought by the Government and it cannot be put in the records.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, proceed.

DR. W.F. DUGID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government has proven and shown that the amendments were necessary. This is why it had the fortitude and courage to bring them. They were necessary and had to be done in order to bring the Act into some semblance of being something good and right for the people of this country. Sir, I commend the Minister for this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to give people the opportunity to be registered who have been working in the profession of architecture for ten years is a real grandfather clause. It is not a requirement that you have to be working under someone else but the opportunity for people to be able to build two-storey structures which is what they have been doing year after year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us be straight about it. The type of work which is done by the draughtsmen and architectural technicians is not going to be any fancy Trademark building. It is going to be standard building which they

have designed month after month and year after year. It is going to be standard three-bedroom, one-bathroom structure with a simple roof and straightforward foundation. Sir, no developer or person interested in having a building over 5 000 square feet is going to contract a draftsman to do it.

Therefore, it is obviously good sense to let people continue to do well, what they have done year after year. I commend the Minister and support these amendments wholeheartedly, especially the amendment that allows draftsmen to continue to build and design structures two-storeys up to 5 000 square feet. I think the requirements for 1 000 square feet was significantly too restricted on their practices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we in Barbados have benefited significantly by good architects, excellent engineers and people who are of excellent standard in their professions. We only need to look around Barbados and see the significant buildings of glass and steel designed by wonderful architects who almost now have a trademark design which you can see. You can look at buildings and tell from their designs which architect designed it. Sir, some architects have a particular design called a portico, they design all their buildings with this portico, which is something under which you can drive at the front of the house. No draughtsman in his right mind would even contemplate wanting to design a building he knows he would not be able to handle. Therefore, you must give opportunity to people to do what they do best. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have heard Honourable Members speak about the Town & Country Planning Department today and as architects design plans to be approved by Town Planning, I could not let this debate end without saying a few words about the Town & Country Planning Department. There are two matters in particular which I want to raise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Town & Country Planning Department needs some assistance. I do not know if it needs more manpower or more facilities but it needs something. I cannot understand why in this country in 2005, you could submit a plan to the Town & Country Department and after sixteen months, the plan is not approved. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I said before, I think the Town & Country Planning Department needs help. Certainly, there is a bottleneck in terms of development in this country in the Town & Country Department.

H82/14:00

Sequence 18

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Dr. W.F. Duguid: I have respect for the Chief Town Planner and staff, but it is obvious that the amount of work coming through to the Chief Town Planner is greater than it can handle. There is need for more facilities and staff. I heard many stories of files being lost where people would have followed due diligence and even employing an architect for the design. It was not a design done by a draftsman. Sometimes there were designs done by reputable architects. These designs reach the Town and Country Planning Department, spend fourteen months there before the Town and Country Planning Department responded that have lost the files and new plans have to be resubmitted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is making a significant bottleneck in this economy and country. If we want this country to develop, we must put the facilities in place for entrepreneurs who want to spend money and to develop this country, they must be able to have their plans processed through Town and Country

Planning. To achieve this, you must give them the facilities, manpower, computers and whatever, to make sure that Town and Country Planning does not continue to be a bottleneck for development in this country

Sir, while I am on Town and Country Planning, this also applies to how designs are done in this country. There is a requirement in Town and Country Planning for water tanks. I want to speak a little on the water tanks. Sir, if you are going to construct a building above a certain size, there is an absolute requirement for a water tank. Town and Country Planning will not approve plans without any indication of a water tank. That water tank is used to catch and store water from the roof.

However, if you walk around and enquire from people about their water tanks and how often they are emptied, they replied that they are never emptied. Most of the those tanks hold water that is stagnating month after month and year after year. Do you know why they are never emptied? They are never emptied because they do not have nothing to water. There is a requirement for a water tank so that you can water things such as the gardener, there is building has no lawn or as constructed without a lawn, so there is anything to water, and no need for the water tank. Yet, if the water things is not in the plan, you are not in compliance with the Town and Country Planning rules.

Sir, a building was constructed in Bonnetts, Bonnetts Resource Centre. The water has been in the tank for five years creating a problem in the area. A lot of mosquitoes are living in the tank.

Asides

Dr. W.F. Duguid: I am not saying that the policy is wrong. I am saying that it has not been fully thought through. If we are going to give

tax concessions for water tanks; if we are going to have a requirement for water tanks, then first, you must give people the opportunity to prove that they do not have a lawn or anything to water. Then you must relax the requirement for water tanks, because they have no use for the water. Secondly, if you are require people to capture the water, then you must encourage them to use that water.

For example, the building can be designed to capture water for the use of toilets only. The building will be designed for the toilet would take water with a pump mechanism from the tank, separate from the water used in the kitchen, for instance. Hence, as the water is captured, it can be used. I think that would be a better policy. We need to think the policy through and bring it to its proper conclusion. I think right now it is something that is not being utilised properly or effectively.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am practical person. I always was and always will be. I think that if you are going to design something, design it to function, function properly and effectively, and the investment made would be worthwhile. That is what it is all about.

Sir, I want to speak on a matter which the Senior Minister raised. It has to do with professions in general in this debate. Obviously, it is a matter very close to my heart. The Honourable Member said that professions and professionals should be allowed to advertise in this country.

Sir, I support 100 per cent the call by the Senior Minister for the professionals to come together, with a case to Government to allow advertising of the professions. If we are allowed to sell our services, we must be able to tell people what our services are. You cannot hold your service as the best kept secret in the country. You have to let the people know what your services are.

Sir, in Barbados, as a dentist, I cannot advertise. It is against the ethics of the profession, but if I were registered in Antigua, I could advertise because dentists in Antigua can advertise. Many times we have people in Antigua advertising to people in Barbados. I am disadvantaged by a law, first set up in England, but in England people can advertise. It makes absolutely no sense. We need to get with it. We in Barbados need to get with the times.

Sir, there is no way that you can tell me that you are asking professionals in this country, Trinidad and Jamaica to move into other markets and offer their services, but how would the people in those markets know of your services unless you advertise. It is a matter of urgency. I too will have to join with Senior Minister, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, and call on all the professional bodies to get together and lobby Government to change the laws so that professional people will be allowed to advertise in this country.

Sir, this is something that we absolutely need in this country. If we are going to make ourselves Caribbean Single Market and Economy, World Trade Organisation and Free Trade Areas of the Americas ready, we must be allowed to advertise our services. I agree with the Senior Minister that it has to be tasteful advertising.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Canada and the United Kingdom you submit your advertisement to a body, they approve the advertisement, sometimes with amendments, and you can proceed. It is not reinventing the wheel. This is a regulation that have been in place in the UK and working for over ten years. We can bring it here as an absolute necessity. That is something that we need.

Sir, there is one more point which I want to

make. I do not know if I will bring it up in Committee but I will mention a bit of it here. It has to do with the architecture and the amendment to the Bill, whether the Board can register people.

Sir, this is something that we are seeing in my profession. I want to take your mind back to a Bill that was passed in this Parliament about Accreditation Council. If we get the Accreditation Council in place, then there would be no question what the qualifications for a particular profession would be.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I believe that the Honourable Member is misleading the Honourable House. There is no way, having passed that particular measure so long, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West could actually be saying that Council is not in place. That was one of the most important things to be done to facilitate the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I cannot believe it.

H82: 14.20 p.m.

Sequence 19

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 20, 2:10 p.m.

Continuation of Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON:

Sir, the Honourable Member will have to be misleading the House if again he is attacking the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is obviously sleeping on the job, by saying that the Accreditation Council is not yet even in place. This is unbelievable, so he must withdraw that and it must be struck from the record if it is not true.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I certainly am not aware if the Accreditation Council is in place but I would hope that it would be, like the Honourable Member for St. John but let me go forward.

The Accreditation Council is necessary in order to give accreditation to the various institutions and universities. If that Accreditation Council can give accreditation, then there is no question as to a person's professional qualifications and that is what we are saying in this amendment. Once the Accreditation Council is doing its job and accrediting institutions, there would be no question as to a person's professional qualifications. This is why I would make the call again for the council to be in operation because there are other Barbadians that are suffering because they are not able to get their accreditation matters sorted out.

The Honourable Member for St. James South spoke about people who are graduating from Cuba. This is important. These are young people who have spent time, money and effort trying to get their qualifications and they need to get the necessary support so that they can come back and make their contribution in this country.

The final point I want to make, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is about the Bill in particular. As I said in the beginning, I will support the Bill 100 per cent. I think it is timely. It has obviously come to give support to people who otherwise would not have an opportunity. It has come to help the poor draftsmen and the poor people of the country who would have been disadvantaged otherwise. I have no doubt that it would be commended by all.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable

Member for St. George North.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am indeed grateful for all those Honourable Members who have contributed to this amendment. Indeed, I believe that this amendment here today is in good time and will go a long way in addressing some of the problems that the Board had over the last two years.

I am referring to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who made the point that this amendment will not necessarily go down well with the elite persons in the profession. It is true that most of those persons who believe that - architects and to some extent, surveyors - few people can get into those fields. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this will help to address the concerns of those young persons who have not really gone to the professional schools, but who have worked hard, as one Honourable Member put it, in the school of society, who have not really worked with any professional architect but who may have gone to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and learned or may have practical experience, this would help to address those concerns.

Sir, section 16(a) puts an Architects Registration Appeals Tribunal in place, so that if the Board should refuse any architect, they can now refer to the Tribunal, which will have the last say in this whole affair and this is important.

It is also important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to note that in all professions, there is need to look at integrity, rules and regulations and we are hoping that the Board and certainly all those concerned with the profession of architecture and other professions, would help to put systems in place that would help to regulate their members and keep them in good standing.

Sir, mention was made of the Building Code and the Building Act. We are now in our final stages in preparing the draft building Bill, which will inform the Building Code. It is true that the code was around for a number of years, I believe, almost ten years now and most professionals are building according to the Building Code. We still need the Act in place that will help to police and guide the code but this will be signed off on very shortly, I think before the end of the year, I was told by the Ministry and the CPC. It was sent back from the Attorney-General(s Chamber and we are now doing final preparations at this stage, so that will come shortly. I know members have been speaking about it for a number of months now and we are hoping that we could sign off on it very shortly. We are very worried about it as other Honourable Members are, and we are working as tirelessly as possible in order to get it through to Parliament.

Members talked about the Accreditation Council which is necessary for this profession and all professions. The Government is hoping that this could be brought to conclusion very shortly. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is concerned and Government is also concerned. There are a number of other things that have to be done before the Council is finally put in place, which is now being done.

I also believe, like the Honourable Member for the City Bridgetown that there is a need for professionals to not only come together but put a system in place where they can advertise the services across Barbados. It is important for professionals to behave in this way. We are becoming a high service economy and there are 60 architects that have registered today. I do not know how many engineers there are but they are both important for the building industry.

I believe that most of them would have to sell their services abroad. The Government cannot

possibly find work for all 60 architects but they definitely need to go outside Barbados to find work. There is a lot of work to be done throughout the Caribbean and we have trained people. In some islands of the Caribbean there are less than three architects and I believe that work could be found there for architects, draftsmen and all persons of all professions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that we have spent a long time on this Bill. I would like to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central who has drawn to our attention, the clause 18.1(C) which deals with a person who is not a registered architect, practices architecture for which he demands or receives any fee, gratuity or remuneration, whether or not such fee, gratuity or remuneration is demanded or received in Barbados is guilty of an offense under this Act.

I am being told that 18.1(C) really does not apply to persons who by virtue of subsection 1, practice this aspect of architecture specified in that subsection.

House 82, sequence 20, 14:2014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are looking at it, and I understand that the Attorney-General will move an amendment when it reaches the Committee stage.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank all Honourable Members who have contributed to this debate. I would like to thank the Subcommittee, the members of the Ministry of Public Works and the Attorney-General(s Chamber for bringing this to a happy conclusion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those remarks I

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. Dr. W. F. DUGUID, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. R. D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 6 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 7 was called.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Works, I proposed an amendment to the Bill. With your leave, Sir, I propose an amendment by adding this clause (c) so that there would now be a paragraph 7(c).

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: I beg to second that.

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

Clause 8 - 11 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. Dr. W. F. DUGUID, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of one Bill as amended in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the Separate motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded Dr. W. F. DUGUID, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Architects Registration (Amendment) Act, 2005.

ORDER NO. 16

RESOLUTION THAT THIS HOUSE RESOLVED ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND.

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

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

(a)RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 200 547 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2005-2006 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 6, 2005-2006 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

House 82 Sequence 21

2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, at this time, this sum is needed to supplement Head 45 Ministry of Public Works, Programme 511 Drainage Services, Subprogramme 515 Maintenance of Drainage to Prevent Flooding.

Mr. Chairman, in Object No. 1 EX02 - Other Personal Emoluments, the sum of \$48 843 is needed, in order to provide a 24-hour staff

presence at the pumphouse during this season.

It is proposed that for the period starting September to December 03, 2005, to have a staff fully deployed as follows:

Mondays to Friday, there will be one worker from 7:00 a.m. to 400 p.m., and two workers from the 400 p.m. to 700 a.m. shifts.

Saturdays and Sundays, we are hoping to put one worker for the 7:00 a.m. to 700 p.m. shift and two workers for the 700 p.m. to 700 a.m. shift.

Mr. Chairman, this is necessary at this time because the pumphouse is in need of having a 24-hour service. The pumphouse, which is situated in Bridgetown, helps to pump off any overflow of water at the drainage, in the area of New Orleans, Princess Alice Highway, the low-lying areas of Bridgetown, Barbarees Hill, Chapman Lane, King Street, Lower Baxters Road, Emmerton Lane and Lakes Folly.

Mr. Chairman, for those of us who know the pumphouse, would know there are three pumps that are used to pump off drainage water which flows from the low-lying areas of Bridgetown. Sir, over the past weekend, we have had lots of rain and for this year the rainfall seems to be heavier than in previous years. Therefore, because of this, one would expect us to keep a constant presence and to ensure that the pumps are in working order.

Mr. Chairman, those three pumps were installed since 1959. They are not ordinary sized pumps but are massive and, therefore, one has to use a crane and heavy equipment in order to install or to replace them. In fact, every year a lot of money is spent in repairing them, as one not only has to use specialised equipment but also specialised persons, to repair and to replace these pumps.

Mr. Chairman, during the last 46 years, these pumps have undergone special servicing, the electrical motors have to be cleaned because debris constantly gets into them. It must also be noted that for the past ten years, the Ministry of Public Works has incurred significant maintenance cost in repairing and servicing these electrical motors.

Mr. Chairman, at the beginning of every hurricane season, an annual maintenance programme is normally carried out. This year we found that the three pumps have failed, I believe because of their age or on account of our inability sometimes to acquire parts.

Mr. Chairman, because of this factor, we have had to borrow pumps from the Barbados Water Authority. In fact, the pumps now being used belong to the Barbados Water Authority, but we have helped to maintain the drainage system with equipment belonging to the Ministry of Public Works.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that the heavy built-up of debris in the pumps have contributed significantly to the malfunctioning of these equipment. Even though maintenance is carried out, the built-up of debris, which sometimes comprises of old beds, stoves, cups, pots, all forms of plastics, is causing severe problems. In fact, I would want to use this opportunity to ask the public of Barbados, to help their communities by disposing of their garbage in proper containers, in a proper manner, for collection by the Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the Ministry of Public Works, the Sanitation Service Authority and other Government agencies are constantly involved in cleaning the areas of Lakes folly, New Orleans, Emmerton Lane, et cetera. Therefore, we have to encourage those residents to help Government by properly disposing their garbage. This, in

turn, would help them because when a flooding occurs, they are usually the first persons who will be affected by flooding.

Mr. Chairman, at this time of our development, we have to encourage all Barbadians to help in the cleanup of their country. Sir, we find that locals and visitors alike are indiscriminately disposing of their garbage on the streets throughout Barbados. This garbage then clogs the manholes that are there to take the run-off water.

Mr. Chairman, as we prepare to better ourselves, not only for Cricket World Cup, 2007, where we have to involve every Barbadian, but we have to do more for our country. Sir, there is a lot of garbage lying about in the City of Bridgetown and I am sure that, over the last few years, the Sanitation Service Authority has been doing a wonderful job in getting Bridgetown cleaned up. Sir, I would want to encourage them to continue. We know they have washed the streets of Bridgetown daily and that they collect garbage on a regular basis. They have just received a number of new trucks and I hope that they would intensify their garbage collection programme.

H:82(22)240 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE:

Sir, if Barbadians could join hand in hand with Government and the various agencies, we could see a better city and country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a difference in the country where there is a lot of overgrowth of bushes and where a number of landowners do not clear the hedgerow and they are now

growing into the road. We have to invoke the Highway Act in order to penalise those persons who own lots of land where the bush is now growing into the road. Under the Highway Act, landlords are supposed to clear the hedgerows leaving a full passage for pedestrian and vehicles. We have used Government Information Service to sensitise the public as to the clearing of these lots. We have to work with the Minister of Health and the National Conservation Commission and the Minister of Public Works will do its part.

Mr. Chairman, it is really unfair to ask weeders of the Minister of Public Works to go on the lands owned by landlords who have massive amount of land to clean the hedgerow.

Sir, there was a time when landlords used to plant chus-chus grass, this is not done any more. They are allowing the lands to run into elephant grass and river tamarind. We need to ask landlords and householders to help in this regard. Mr. Chairman, even though the drains outside the homes of householders are clogged, they do not even take a broom or shovel and remove the debris.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Public Works cannot be at every street corners each time it rains but we do our best to help. Every time there is a heavy downpour, our officials go out and clean the roads. I am satisfied that we have a Drainage Unit which was established in 1996 for the sole purpose of helping to clean and clear gullies and roadways. They have been doing a reasonable job over the years but this year we have noticed that heavy downpours with constant flooding and we have to look at better drainage as we go along.

Mr. Chairman, two years ago we did tremendous work at Headley Lands when the canal was renewed and new culverts put in. Sir, Phase I was completed and Phase 2 is about to begin. A lot of work has been done in

the Bank Hall/Hindsbury Road area right down to the globe and water is flowing in that area quite satisfactorily. Sir, we have to do more work in widening the canals.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Public Works would have to continue to use new techniques in doing a number of things. We have recognised that some of the openings to the grills need to be widened. Sir, there is always flooding by Bussa Statue and this is because the openings to the grills are too narrow and we need to widen them. I have shown them the systems used in Washington and Miami where water does not remain on the roads for any length of time. Even though the water runs off the roads within an hour in Barbados, I think this is still too long and we must do better than that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Ministry has continued to employ new techniques and put heavy-duty workers in low-lying areas like Speightstown and Holetown and in the flood prone areas of Bridgetown, Maxwell, Christ Church and in Durants Village. It is my view that the public must help. I was happy to note one day while traveling along Martindale(s)/Hall Roads that some residents came out during the rain with shovels and cleared the road. I stopped my car and complimented those persons for doing a good job. Sir, all residents should come out and do the same.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have complaints that there was a lot of rain and that the roads had broken away. Sir, the Ministry will do its best but people also need to help. The Honourable Member for St. James Central and I recently went to Holetown and out of his initiative a private/public sector partnership was generated and we met with the landlords, business community and people in the area who are interested. We also met with business community when we visited the Lagoon,

which is being spearheaded by the Minister of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment, who are working together to clean up the environment in the Holetown area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the business people of Holetown are not only lending their voices but spending money. They want to be involved because they recognise that when there is flooding in Holetown that there are problems. Sir, sometimes there is no rain in Holetown but there is flooding because of the highlands in St. Thomas which causes Holetown to flood and cause problems. We recognise this and have met with the owners of the land in Farmers and the area east of Highway 2A. We hope we put in dams and other systems to improve the culverts in Holetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the business community has employed engineers to help the Ministry. We want to repeat this effort in other parts of Barbados. We have also met with the Honourable Member Christ Church South in the Goodland area and when the committee meets, it will respond to Government.

H82/14:50

Sequence 23

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Hon. G.A. CLARKE: So far we have connected a number of wells and I hope that solutions have worked. I have not heard of flooding in the Goodland area. I am hopeful that through these two initiatives, we could arrive at a solution working hand in hand with communities to solve their problems.

Sir, I would like the communities in Bridgetown, Emmerton Lane and those around the Princess Alice pump, to help Government, they must stop throwing debris and waste water

into the swamps. That is a problem in the St. Michael area. Domestic waste water flowing from the homes into the streets is a practice from the past. It is something we inherited over the years. I have seen it in Bank Hall, Bush Hall, New Orleans and Martindales Road areas. I spoke to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, about the domestic waste water coming from homes in Martindales Road on the streets. It also happens in the Ivy. It is a problem across St. Michael.

Currently, we are working with the Ministry of Social Transformation to arrange a system which encourages the sinking of small wells and placing septic tanks at persons' homes to alleviate this problem.

It is a problem that Government will have to address. In fact, about two years ago when the Bridgetown Safety Improvement Road started, a pilot project was done in the Black Rock area, where persons sunk small soak-aways in their backyards keeping the water on their premises. I believe this may be the answer to the problem and Government would have a solution to this.

Mr. Chairman, we found that most of the workers are reluctant, especially the heavy-duty workers, to go into certain areas because they feel that the water coming from the homes is dirty and prefer not to have their hands and feet smeared, even though most of the times they are wearing gloves and heavy-duty clothing. We have to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, for example in Bank Hall, where the water flows all day, even though it is not raining, water is flowing from people's homes onto the street. We have to address this because workers do not want to go into the street in order to repair the roads or weed in those areas. Of course, in these days where the unions are very militant, instructing their workers that they must not do these things, we have to take note and address it.

I believe that this Supplementary today is to provide these two pumps and a generator. We have to provide a generator because we have seen what happened in the New Orleans, United States of America. Sir, because there was no generator in place, we saw what happened to millions of households in that City. We cannot allow this to happen to us. Bridgetown is below sea level and we have to be alert. When flooding occurs, a similar situation, may present itself.

Mr. Chairman, that is why we have taken the initiative to put a standby generator in place, so, this Supplementary is not only to replace two pumps. The cost of one pump is (135,000. These are not small pumps. They are massive pumps which must be installed with the use of a hoist.

Sir, I do not know how many Honourable Members have visited the pumphouse. There are three pumps working in succession, one works and cuts out, the second one cuts in and cuts out and then the third one cuts in, et cetera. We have to purchase at least two pumps, and also a standby generator at a cost of \$150 000. We are hoping to buy two pumps this year and the third pump in the next financial year.

Sir, with those few remarks, I beg that Head stand 45 part.

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

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary could not have been brought at a better time. It is regrettable that a Supplementary of this type could be brought at this level. There is no way after experiencing so much rain in Barbados that we could have a Supplementary for \$1.1 million to deal with

drainage in Barbados. When you look at the addendum, it has nothing to do with the whole of Barbados but only a particular area, when every Member of Parliament is complaining for money to be spent on his/her constituencies. The \$1.1 million could not fix the potholes in the road at Spring Garden, St. Lucy, where I took the Honourable Minister.

Sir, this Supplementary is needed as part of the Supplementary for the constituency of St. Lucy to fix the road at Spring Garden. I am calling on the Minister not to allow this Supplementary to be passed but to request the Minister of Finance to this Parliament to seek permission for it to be upgraded, after so much rain has fallen in Barbados, even the airport recorded high levels of rainfall. I do not understand how a Minister of Public Works could come to this Honourable House for \$1.1 million when he knows that he needs over \$40 million to correct the drainage problem in Barbados. It is like (making sport) at the potholes, Barbados and the drainage problem.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister knows that he brought this particular Supplementary today because every Parliamentarian will speak on it and he is hoping to divert the attention from what is happening at Kensington Oval. Sir, that matter cannot even deal with the drainage problem at Kensington, where you must drill piles one hundred and twenty feet deep, as reported by the Chairman of World Cup Barbados.

Asides

Sir, that was said on television on Sunday night that they are driving piles one hundred and twenty feet into the ground. I understand that there are hundreds of piles to be drilled at Kensington Oval, and the Honourable Minister is here asking for \$1.1 million to deal with drainage problems, which cannot even tackle the problem next door to the Kensington

Stand.

Sir, I am saying that with this \$1.1 million, I want to move an amendment to spend it on Spring Garden Road, St. Lucy and nowhere else. If the Minister understands his job, he would spend the \$1.1 Million on the Spring Garden Road, then he would have an excuse to present to the Minister of Finance for more money to deal with the problem in Barbados. This is minute.

Mr. Chairman, this is serious business. After three consecutive days of rain, I cannot believe that any serious Government can come to Parliament to only deal with drainage in one location. They are only dealing with pumps. This is not a micro issue. This is a macro issue when you are speaking about drainage.

H82: 15.00 p.m.

Sequence 24

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 25, 3:00 p.m.

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

Sir, if this Minister can present the details for this amendment to make sure that the right amount is put in the supplementary, the Opposition stands ready to support any amount of money that the Minister wants from this Parliament today.

We cannot honestly believe that any serious Government which understands the problems of the people of Barbados will bring a Supplementary for \$1.1 million to deal with a particular area that has not been identified due to the rainfall that occurred within the last three days. I want an assurance from the Minister that if he is not prepared to move the amendment now, he will bring it back to

Parliament next Tuesday.

Sir, I have a problem in Spring Garden, Rock Field, Pie Corner, Josey Hill and all over the constituency. I want to see the drainage problems throughout Barbados corrected. Sir, if Honourable Members did not know of them before...the Minister can claim to be innocent today but after the last three days of rainfall, he cannot say that he is not aware.

I know, Sir, that all the depots of Barbados have reported to his office. The officials in his office would have been able to calculate the quantum of money required and I stand ready next Tuesday to support this Minister, if he cannot do it today. If he does not do it next Tuesday, I will have to write a column telling the people of Barbados that this Minister I believe in has no interest in them.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. A.P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give my full support to this vote of \$1.2 million for the purchase of these pumps and the standby generator. As the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said, the debate on this particular item is timely, given the amount of rain we had over the last three to four days. I am aware that persons located at different parts of the country would be crying out for the flooding which took place in their respective areas.

We should also remember, Mr. Chairman, that what occurred by way of rainfall over the last three to four days was a little unusual. It was an extremely heavy downpour and areas that usually have average or normal rainfall in bad times would not be flooded, would have flooded over the last three to four days.

Mr. Chairman, having said that, I need to

bring to the attention to this Honourable House some issues pertaining to the constituency that I am very proud to represent because there are some areas in my constituency which flood over and over even in times when we do not have heavy downpours. I would be the first to admit that if the situation did not arise in times of normal or average rainfall, I would understand that over the last couple of days with the downpour so heavy, we could expect additional areas to come under some stress as a result of the magnitude in the volume of the water.

I have a difficulty and I represented this to Honourable Member for St. George North on numerous occasions and he has been kind enough to do a couple of tours in my constituency, in times of fairly slight rainfall to see the problem for himself. There are consequences to the economy when we have poor drainage systems in place and we need to move with some alacrity in understanding the magnitude of the problems and also the magnitude of the consequences for the economy.

I have areas in my constituency that when it rains, the people cannot leave home, so there is loss of production and loss of productivity. There is also a situation where children cannot get to school so it effects the learning process. There is significant damage to some of the roads as well to which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke. There is damage to agricultural crops, property and other valuables in areas where the drainage system is fairly poor.

I have been representing the cases in areas like Mangeta Drive and Ibis Avenue in Gemswick Gardens. We have a situation close to House No. 53 in Atlantic Park where an individual, in trying to make himself and his family very comfortable, has seen it fit to enclose the well in the area by placing a guard

wall there. It is not short of six years that I have been trying to get this matter resolved.

Mr. Chairman, within the last two years, one of the affected persons living on the other side of the street has been kind enough to signal to the Ministry of the Public Works through myself and directly, his willingness to give a portion of land so that a new well can be dug to deal with the drainage problems they are experiencing. Frankly speaking, in times of only average rainfall, the folk living along that stretch in Atlantic Park are unable to leave their homes.

We have another very unfortunate situation, one that is well-known to the depot in Six Roads, where the well that is virtually in front of St. Martin(s/Mangrove Primary School on Harlington Street, in times of even slight rainfall, the many children going to that school are unable to access the school from the Harlington side. We hope that it could be dealt with, in the not-too-distant future because we have been waiting for many years to have that situation addressed.

Sir, we have a problem in the Long Bay Development. We also have a difficult situation in Heddings New Road and this was highlighted in the newspapers today. Once again, persons living there are unable to get out of their homes in periods of heavy downpour.

Mr. Chairman, it should not be all doom and gloom as it relates to dealing with the drainage problems in this country. I know the Honourable Member for St. George North - and yourself previously - have been trying your best to deal with this situation but we have to be honest to ourselves and understand that the magnitude of the task at hand is fairly sizeable.

We also have to understand that the Drainage Unit might need access to more resources. We are treating to the matter today to give \$1.2

million to get these pumps in place to deal with the problems that exist in the Bridgetown area, all of us need to have our issues dealt with even though we cannot get them all dealt with at once.

The Ministry of Public Works, I imagine, would have some sort of pecking order, based on the frequency with which they have been getting requests and the magnitude of the problems in particular areas, they may just need additional resources in order to have these problems corrected.

It is not all about what the Ministry of Public Works should be able to do.

House 82, sequence 25, 15:1014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. A. P. WOOD:

The Honourable Member for St. George North indicated that there are things we can do as a nation cooperating with each other to ensure that the intensity of the problem can be reduced, not with us as an administration having to expend inordinately large amounts of resources.

The Honourable Member for St. George North spoke to the need for more cooperation by communities and landowners in ensuring that the drains, the tunnels and the wells are free of unwanted debris.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have reached the stage in this country where persons like to pass too much of the responsibility for having things done for their own benefit onto others. Mr. Chairman, if we would only understand that simple actions on all of our part in respect of clearing the drains when we see the need for them to be cleared, instead of thinking that we have to call the Ministry of Public Works depot

or the Minister each and every time that there is a flooding problem, and if we could see it fit in communities to clear the drains and stop throwing unwanted materials close to the mouths of the well, this would go a long way in allowing the water to flow more freely.

Earlier, the Honourable Member for the City made mention of the placement of structures which impede the normal flow of water. We have this situation time and again where persons are being given the opportunity to erect structures along watercourses which then result in water having to find another course. Mr. Chairman, you would see, as I had experienced yesterday, where flooding, that did not take place previously to the construction of two houses, has resulted now because there has been an interruption of the natural flow of water which has caused the water to flow elsewhere and has caused flooding to occur close to one house in Ibis Avenue, Gemswick Gardens, St. Philip.

The Honourable Member for St. George North also made mention of the fact that landowners must take more responsibility in ensuring that the overgrowth from their land is promptly removed. When you drive the length and breadth of Barbados, especially in the rustic areas, you see this problem time and time again.

Mr. Chairman, we have a situation on private properties where wells may have been placed to alleviate the flooding problem but not enough attention is being paid to those wells in those areas so as to ensure that the areas around the wells are kept clear so that the water can find its way into those wells.

Mr. Chairman, just as I started, I want to end by giving my full support to this supplementary. We know the potential for flooding in the St. Michael area. Sir, we hope, that this Honourable Chamber would give its

support to this measure, so that we would see, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy asked for, the Ministry of Public Works better equipped to function with a little more nimbleness. We also hope that the Ministry would become a little more proactive outside of the rainy season to ensure that there is an accelerated programme for the clearing of wells and for the sinking of wells that need sinking further before the rainy season hits us, starting with St. Philip South and branching out to the areas that are mentioned where people have been suffering for years, namely those that live in Mangeta Drive and Ibis Avenue in Gemswick Gardens, St. Philip and in Atlantic Park near house number, 53 which has been the source of the problem, so that after six or seven years of asking that this matter can be dealt with.

We also hope that the problem that exists in front of the St. Martin(s)/Mangrove Primary School, that the problem in Long Bay Development near house No. 166 and that the problems in Heddings New Road and Agard Road near St. Martins could be dealt with. Sir, I give my full support to this measure with the hope that we would get some more relief in the constituency of St. Philip South.

Thank you very much.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a very short contribution. I am happy to see that the Government is paying some attention to the question of drainage as it affects areas in Bridgetown. Mr. Chairman, as you would know Barbados is actually developed along terraces, that is, if you come from the centre of the island to the West Coast you would recognise that it comes in stages as the coral develops over the years. The drainage systems of gullies were the means by which the country naturally drains itself, but the development that has taken place over the last 50 or so years have caused considerable

damage to the natural system.

In St. Michael, it is not only the provision of housing that created a drainage problem but also the building of roads. For example, since the road that comes from Hinds Hill on the highway right down to the bottom of Cave Hill next to the university has been built, there has not been a maintenance programme. Therefore, when water comes off Hinds Hill, it is normally expected that it would go into Hinds Hill, go into a culvert and go on the side and be collected by an almost natural gully and taken on its natural course, but because of the failure to maintain the drainage system the water comes along the road itself and then finds its way through University Drive, comes out at the back of St. Stephen(s Hill and then becomes a major problem for the residents of Goddards Road and the surrounding areas. In addition to that, water comes off Stephen(s Hill itself at a very rapid rate and it is unable to take the corner to come around by Golden Acre and instead goes right across the property of Mr. Niles, and it is so powerful that it creates for itself a canal, then it disappears underground into a cave and reemerged in Goddards Road and has created major problems for the residents of that area.

Mr. Chairman, apart from that as you would know, St. Stephen(s Road separates the constituency of St. Michael North West from the constituency of St. Michael West Central and there is also a major problem of flooding that occurs in your constituency next to Hinkson(s shop and into that area there.

In addition, were it not for the fact that the water leaves the main road and goes into Goddards Road, that well next to Hinkson(s shop would have to take all the water coming off the hill.

House 82 Sequence 26

3:20 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Chairman, there is a natural descent and then it creates problems somewhere at the back of the residents on St. Stephen(s Road, closer to the Church, but there is a major problem there.

Mr. Chairman, years ago a canal was constructed, which was repaired after some time, but on the other side of the constituency, the canal was not continued. Therefore, when the water got across the other side of the road, just near Carters Gap, another major problem was created because of the fact that there was no canal to carry the water through.

Mr. Chairman, in all of this, the Ministry of Public Works visited the area earlier this year and have faithfully promised to dig two wells on the property of Mrs. Niles. We, in fact, met with her and she has agreed in principle that there was no harm in allowing the water to be collected in the two wells that were to be dug by the Ministry. Sir, apparently while having allocated money for this project, the Ministry could not find the required funds to dig the wells as promised.

Mr. Chairman, while this is not right, one must understand this is not an issue that could be strictly political, in the sense that almost every constituency is going to be affected by flooding, which has more to do with the lack of careful planning over the last 20 or 25 years, than anything else. Sir, I wish to suggest that there is the need for a comprehensive programme to understand precisely how the excess water impacts on the various areas, especially the St. Michael areas, which also collect water coming out of St. Thomas.

Mr. Chairman, believe it or not, in the same way in which Holetown, St. James, is affected,

even though no rain would fall in Holetown, because of the run-offs from the country area, which causes flooding in Holetown, the same thing happens in the St. Michael areas, at several points, where water coming out of St. Thomas also comes into St. Michael and causes additional flooding.

Mr. Chairman, this is certainly an area that needs to be looked at, and Government can certainly maintain the drainage system on the highways, so as to allow for a more natural flow of water coming off the highways into some areas. Sir, I cite the Cave Hill area in particular because it is very obvious there. Therefore, because of the failure of Government to maintain the drainage system, the water comes from the constituency of St. Michael North, into St. Michael North West, then finds its way into Goddards Road.

Mr. Chairman, people would believe the problem is one that could be assigned only to St. Stephen(s, but when one checks on any rainy day... Sir, I have had the privilege of having gone on a tour with the constituents, to show that the source of the problem is not directly as a result of how the land lies in St. Stephen(s but more so because of the building of the highway and of the failure to maintain the drainage system. Therefore, the water naturally finds its way along the highway, then it diverts itself off University Drive.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, a simple example like that can be replicated across the country for us, first of all to understand, rather than to believe that we understand, what are the real causes. It is the same way in which the (Mighty Carew(might have been a victim of a drainage system. Therefore, I think that, in similar vein, if we try to understand the source of the problem, then it is going to be easier for us to solve the problems which we are seeking to solve.

Mr. Chairman, I think this concern has come too late because this matter has been debated repeatedly over the last several years. Therefore, now to treat it as an issue at this late stage in the rainy season, to my mind, is to misplace proper planning. Again it opens itself to criticism, because the concerns now being expressed about drainage within the Bridgetown areas, are as a direct consequence of Cricket World Cup, 2007.

Mr. Chairman, when one makes those kinds of connections, one might be criticised, but it seems as though decisions are being made on the basis of a larger project that is impacting on the ordinary folk.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: There can be no other explanation for it because it cannot be the case that it is not known. In fact, a few months ago, the Democratic Labour Party spent some time touring the area of Lakes Folly and expressed a number of concerns, which were supported by the Honourable Member for the City. We recognised the drainage problem was directly related to the failure of the pumps at the Princess Alice Highway. We actually visited the site, to the extent where we know that - and perhaps the Honourable Member needs to tell us this - the sluice gate does not work at all.

Mr. Chairman, to say now that Government is buying three pumps at the cost of (135 000 each, is a lot of money. Sir, I feel that in today(s world, there must be an easier or less expensive way of pumping water off the land, than purchasing these pumps at such a cost. Therefore, in this exercise, a simple pump is costing almost BDS\$400 000.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Do you really feel that we cannot find a way for a local entrepreneur,

to try to find a solution to a problem that is going to require almost \$1.2 million?

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Chairman, it is, in fact, the degrading of the land to have a slope or gradient, which is causing some of the problems, especially with respect to Lakes Folly. I am, therefore, saying that perhaps we need to see how we can resolve that problem. If we go to the area next to the Sewerage Plant, we would recognise that the water there is almost stagnant and that it is there year round. Therefore, the extent to which we can deal with the matter requires some other initiatives, other than the pump itself. Maybe there is need to get the (advisor(on board, to see whether the (advisor(can look carefully into a matter such as this and provide alternative thinking for the Minister at this stage. Sir, I believe something else could possibly be done to increase the capacity of the water to flow. Sir, the fact that the water does not flow becomes a serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, the drainage system that surrounds the Sewerage Plant is in need of an analysis. If one goes to the back of the Sewerage Plant, one would see that a pipe has been constructed to allow excess water to flow into the canal. Therefore, it is not only the water that comes off the land that is being catered to, but the Sewerage Plant system itself has constructed two pipe lines which take the excess water or the water for cooling the engines, which is then channelled into the back of Lakes Folly.

H:82(27)330 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Mr. C.A. MASCOLL:

This also adds to the supply of water which

has to be taken care of in that area. Mr. Chairman, suffice it to say, the drainage system is a much needed thing for the entire country.

I have a problem in St. Michael North West where, coming out of the Farm there is no channel built but it is a natural channel that comes from the back of the Farm, passes Brandons and comes behind Burdoo(s place of business. In actual fact, the channel that runs from Workbench Furniture could actually be split in such a way as to allow for a proper drainage system to come through the Farm to the back of Brandons and go straight into the channel which goes under the Spring Garden Highway and ease the pressure of water which flows behind the area of Brandons.

Mr. Chairman, it cannot require that much money but would solve several problems associated with drainage and flooding in the constituency of St. Michael North West. In fact, since the building of the Spring Garden Highway, there has been a blockage of the natural system because there was a natural watercourse next to Workbench Furniture that would have been one of the last areas of wetlands that was in the Brandons/Brighton area but that was interrupted.

Mr. Chairman, we need to spend some time looking at being more innovative and seeing how we can solve some of the real problems which affect the people of Barbados.

Sir, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was going well except for one point. He tried to stretch a thin point to its limit by indicating that matter of the expenditure of this \$1.2 million is a matter connected with the

World Cup and that there was a solution other than this one.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say to the Honourable Member that even back in 1959, when these pumps would have been commissioned, it would have been recognised that the system of drainage and the capacity to pump water out of the City had to be built for peak capacity because we are dealing with a flood situation. In fact, the system is designed in such a manner that all of these pumps would not ordinarily function. The reality is that in a flood situation, given the natural contours of the land, especially if there is a flood at high tide, there would be no natural flow. Therefore, you need a system of forcing the water out of the City into the sea.

Mr. Chairman, we take our responsibility very seriously concerning the need to protect life and limb in the City in the event of a major situation with respect to flooding. Sir, this project does not stand alone. The matter of replacing the pumps at the sluice gate by Pelican Village has to be seen alongside a number of other major drainage works with which you, Mr. Chairman, would be familiar in and around the City. These works are to be done to restore, renew and expand the drainage under Broad Street, Swan Street, Tudor Street and Baxters Road.

Sir, you would recall that the whole City was dug to put drainage under the roads and take the water out to the sea. Sir, you would also recall the work which was done at Headleys Lands. Sir, Headleys Land would have been big news on a weekend such as this one, ten years ago but not anymore.

It pleases my heart when I drive by the Globe Cinema to see the water flowing through the canal created by the Ministry of Public Works to ease the residents of Headleys Land. Sir, as we speak, work is going on at the Careenage

in respect to the Swing Bridge and the Charles Duncan O'Neal bridge to continue further inland up to the Globe Cinema.

Sir, this is not only part of a beautification campaign but a major drainage system not just for Bridgetown but for the western part of Barbados from areas like St. Michael and for St. George and St. Thomas. Sir, we need to make sure that the silt which has built over the years is removed and that the drainage system is able to protect the life and limbs of our citizens in the event of flooding.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Public Works is working on a number of these major initiatives. This proposal to change this pump is one of the high-tech solutions which is required. In fact, the situation in Bridgetown is not dissimilar from that of New Orleans, United States of America and several other cities around the world where parts of the city are slightly below sea level. In the case of New Orleans because of electrical failure and other reasons, the pumps could not work to move the water out of the city fast enough but, Sir, that will not happen here. Therefore, this expenditure of installing new pumps and stand-by generators is to make sure we are able to draw the water which is then taken by force and deposit it into the sea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, whilst I am pleased with what the technical officers of the Ministry are doing on these very important projects, they are some of the little things in communities around Barbados to which I also want them to pay attention. Sir, I will give two examples. I live in the north/eastern part of Christ Church in the constituency of St. Philip West. I suffer at my residence from the problem of a lack of coordination between the owners of the plantations nearby and the work of the Drainage Unit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a box drain next

to my wall which is now full of silt because of the run-off of soil from the agricultural lands which has blocked the entire drainage and the water which used to run under drain now runs through my yard and flood my lawn. Sir, I spent the entire day Saturday shovelling soil from my driveway which came from 300 yards up the hill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it rained over the last two days in the constituency of Christ Church East and without having to think, I knew exactly where I had to go to check to see what the flooding situation was like. If I know that, Sir, the officers of the Minister of Public Works should also know it. I make the point that there is a clear understanding that everything that has to be done across the island cannot be done at the same time. I know there is an aggressive programme of well- cleaning and well digging across the island and that hundreds of wells are allocated to contractors.

H82/15:40

Sequence 28

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Hon. R.R. FARLEY: I make the point that in supervising those works, the officers need not to do it simply on a simple geographic basis, you start here and work along to the end of the island, but they should know the low-lying and flood prone areas and you must concentrate on those areas first.

Sir, I knew immediately, based on the rainfall, to go, for example to Waverley Road, because it is flood prone. That road is always flooded, pedestrians cannot use it because there is a (saucer shape) in the road. Sir, there are three spots in Ealing Grove that automatically flood. On one side opposite Roy Smith's Shop, pass the Spiritual Baptist Church near some

farm lands and over by Allenvale Guest House. Again, these are areas with which the Ministry of Public Works is very familiar and for which localised remedial work is needed. There has to be a balance in their work programme, between these major national works and maintenance at the level of the community, because we are all in this together. For example, I know I have to check on Golden Glover Road where, again because of the shape of the road in the development, a relatively new development, this specific area always floods when it rains.

Of course, road works are executed, sometimes not by the Ministry of Public Works, but I believe, must have an obligation for careful inspection. We had a situation where on the road going past Wilcox Development, through Parish Land towards Gibbons Terrace, where the water followed a traditional pattern, down the hill, turning right onto an unoccupied lot, that road was dug up to lay the new pipeline from Oistins to the Airport. The road was smoothly resurfaced, or so we thought, by a firm on behalf of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited, as a result of that resurfacing, the water now comes down the hill and dips left rather than right. On the right an open lot where the water would just dissipates on the left are two houses, No. 14 Wilcox Development and another new house, the number which I do not know. As a result for the first time that development had water of approximate two feet, opposite Mr. Bourne and another neighbour.

Sir, I am making the point that even at the level of road reinstatement by independent contractors for the utility companies, the telephone company, Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, the gas company, et cetera, this is not work done by the Ministry of Public Works, I am saying that there is need for an inspection concentrating on drainage to make sure that new work does not create the problem

of changing the natural travel pattern of the water.

Mr. Chairman, in the area of Bournes Land, this was the case, work was about to be done on a well where the flooding would have occurred. I make the point that as we give support to this Supplementary, which is essential, well-designed, conceptualised and which will ensure that even in very adverse weather, Bridgetown will not be under a flood threat. Honourable Members who are familiar with Bridgetown know that this is not so much to protect commercial interest, but is designed to protect the residential parts of Bridgetown. When this sluice gate is not working, the areas of Emmerton, New Orleans and surrounding areas feel the brunt of it because it directs and controls the drainage system. We need to make sure that the officers of the Ministry of Public Work do not become so caught up in these very exciting large projects. Sir, the sluice gate, Headleys Land and other areas are also very important and I am not speaking against those at all, but it is the little well in front of Miss Cox that may need cleaning. It may be the little grass in front of the well in Bournes Land, that will need keeping in check to ensure that there is a steady flow of water. These are the difficulties that affect the lives of ordinary Barbadian taxpayers.

Sir, that work will not make the headlines, it may not be the kind of work that technical officers apply to their CVs as evidence of their expertise. It enhances your CV to say that I was an engineer or a technician of the sluice gate or the Headleys Land Development. The maintenance of a well or drain, inspecting that road to make sure that in its reinstatement by the utility companies, that there is no problem of diverting the water flow from its traditional path, these are what will impact on the lives of my constituents and other ordinary Barbadians. Sir, that is my simple plea.

Mr. Chairman, I support the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West. I believe that it is his only point or best point for the year. He seems to be improving as the year rolls on. He is my friend and I can give him trouble, Sir. The Honourable Member was really onto a very solid point, when he recognised that the gully system has to be utilised. Gullies have been here from the time there was a Barbados, and the water, before man got in the way, found its way by natural drainage. Sir, we must incorporate them into the drainage system.

Sir, there are two things we need to do every dry season, the seasons are known and the rainy season must not take us by surprise. We all know the rainy season and the dry season. The programme of well cleaning, for example, I use my constituency to indicate that as non Ministry of Transport and Work persons, we know where the spots are. Therefore, MTW knowledge as well there should be an aggressive programme of well cleaning in the dry season, with a formal drainage report presented to us at this level, that confirms that at the end of the dry season, these specific areas that we know are flood prone have the their wells cleaned. Where we notice that water settles, and there is no well, in the next dry season, a well will be dug there. Sir, this will then become a standard part of the programme, structured as to allow the department to respond as a priority.

Secondly, all of the proposals for drainage have to incorporate the use of gullies. I believe that it will kill two birds with one stone because we have a major serious national problem of illegal dumping in our gullies. It is unsanitary and it creates problems with drainage. It will contaminate our water. Gullies are usually not frequented by anybody. I believe that if we in a formal way incorporate them into our drainage system, including them in our dry season programme to ensure that they are maintained

with no blockages, people would generally realise the importance of avoiding flooding on their premises depends as well on the use of those gullies. Sir, we will then, not only use the natural system but preserve that important part of our ecology, our gully system.

In closing, I want to salute the Ministry of Public Works on this important work for Bridgetown and other major work, and to urge them to ensure that the depots are in a position to respond. I am still waiting on the depot at South Point to respond to three specific areas that I requested. At 6 O'clock yesterday morning, I did an inspection and reported nine areas. I did another inspection at 6 O'clock this morning and there are three remaining. At 2 O'clock today, they had not as yet responded and I will be checking on them and will speak again if necessary.

H82: 15.50 p.m.

Sequence 29

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 30, 3:50 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. R.R. FARLEY:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a very short intervention. While I support this Resolution, I would want to make a call to the Minister responsible for Transport and Works that even though I appreciate the fact that the Ministry may very well be under tremendous pressure, with respect to problems in general of flooding in Barbados, problem with drainage and wells and so on, I believe that part of the problem could be alleviated if much more effort and much more money is used in upgrading the various

Ministry depots around the country and equipping them effectively.

Mr. Chairman, I went around the constituency and looked at areas that were prone to flooding and had other drainage problems. When I went to the Six Roads depot and spoke to the appropriate persons, I was told that there is a fundamental shortage of equipment. It is unfortunate that at Six Roads, there is one bobcat which may have to service St. John, St. Philip, parts of Christ Church and St. George.

It is indeed quite unfortunate, Sir, that if in constituencies where there is known to be flooding and where drains may have to be made that the equipment just does not exist at the village depots to assist the workers in carrying out their particular responsibilities.

Sir, quite recently, much of the work that had to be done in the area, had to be stopped because the equipment that would have been used at the Six Roads depot and within the St. Philip West constituency on various road projects were actually borrowed to be taken elsewhere within the country. This indicates quite clearly that the Ministry has to spend much more time and look much more closely at rationalising, not only the use of the equipment but they have to spend much more money on effectively equipping the various depots around Barbados.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, I think there is something also fundamentally wrong if the equipment at all the depots have to be sent to the Ministry of Transport and Works(workshop in the Pine to be repaired. Sir, that creates a fundamental bottleneck because all the various equipment from all the depots around Barbados have to go there. I think it would be a progressive move if the various depots around Barbados would have the necessary trained staff to do certain types of

repairs, as opposed to having those particular pieces of equipment go to the Ministry of Transport depot in the Pine, where they have to stay there for sometimes six months to a year. This does not make a whole lot of sense to me.

Mr. Chairman, in the constituency of St. Philip West, there are several areas that need urgent attention in particular Berlin Road in Woodbourne. This area gets so bad when a small amount of rain falls that one has to call the Barbados National Oil Company to get their trucks to assist constituents in getting out of that particular area. We also have significant problems in the area of Evelyn Road and Sinclair Alley, also known as Hampden Road. I would want to ask to Minister to pay special attention to the Old Factory Road in Charnocks because this road is in an extremely horrible condition and floods very easily. Residents have indicated to me that they have submitted petitions to the Ministry since 1992. There are multiple petitions and they are (fed-up) with the concept of sending another petition. We have a similar problem also with respect to area over by the Moseleys and Waldrons, where the water comes down that hill and runs straight into the Moseley(s) house and the house on the left.

I would just want to say to the Minister that I understand the pressure that the Ministry may be under but if one would look at really equipping the satellite depots and effectively staff them with the type of personnel that can do short term and immediate repairs to keep these equipment working, then I believe that we could make some necessary headway.

I concur with most of the other Honourable Members who spoke before me that even though there is pressure with respect to the continual clearing of drains and wells, I feel very strongly that residents have to play some part in this matter. I believe that they have to also come out from time to time and do the

necessary preparations, with respect to areas around themselves to effect drainage off their properties.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to give my support to the Resolution and I thank you, Sir.

Hon. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset that I, of course, support the measures that the Ministry of Public Works is putting in place to secure the safety and longevity of our capital city, Bridgetown but I am also crying, Sir, for some much needed attention in terms of drainage to other parts of Barbados of equal value.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that by now, given the recent very heavy rains, attention would have been drawn to the public of Barbados of the serious difficulty which some of my constituents are encountering in Fruitful Hill, St. Andrew and another district called, Cane Garden.

Mr. Chairman, it is very much a tragedy and I am forced to call on the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. George North, to put in place some emergency measures to rescue the residents of those districts. Sir, because I am here today, I have not been able to go and see it but certainly several members of my own team have seen it and they reported to me that we need to put in place emergency measures in relation to Fruitful Hill. It is a situation which caused none of the residents to be able to make it to work yesterday. Some parts of it remain under a severe threat. I believe if we have another day of heavy rain, some people may well be cut off entirely.

We have several situations like this across the constituency of St. Joseph, Mr. Chairman, and sometimes we put things back waiting for another day but nature however does not accommodate our plan. We really need to put things in place to ensure that the necessary road

works, drainage and gabion work are put in, so that the people who live there can live their lives without threats.

I have said publicly, I do not believe that whenever there is a problem of slippage, the solution is that we should relocate people. It must be a last resort when you cause people to leave the place where their (navel string) is buried. Sir, these are all communities that are still vibrant but they need desperately the support of the Ministry of Public Works to ensure that their viability continues. These people have all made significant investments in their homes and to drag them out and transplant them into new areas that are unfamiliar to them is a last fix solution. It is not a solution that I would like to support.

The residents have asked me to convey to the Honourable Minister the urgency of the situation. The Minister and I spoke.

Asides.

House 82, sequence 30, 16:0014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. D. D. MARSHALL:

Mr. Chairman, the Fruitful Hill road stretches from St. Joseph into St. Andrew. The Minister and I spoke yesterday on this matter and I explained to him the urgency of it and he promised me that he would try to ensure that the depot is able to deal with it with some dispatch. Mr. Chairman, there are other areas that need similar drainage works and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the Ministry of Public Works on its work in relation to securing the fortunes of the residents and businesses of Bridgetown, but I am calling for equal passion to be devoted to the plight of my humble constituents who when rain like this

falls do not know if they can sleep the night in safety. Therefore, I am calling for remedial action from the Ministry of Public Works.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this supplementary for the Ministry of Public Works. However, I must say at the outset that I do believe that there is a need for more efforts at dealing with drainage in Barbados. I hope that some of the statements I have heard from Honourable Members of the other side which state that this is just part of the process, is indeed the case.

I have no difficulty whatsoever, Mr. Chairman, with saying that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew when he was the Minister of Public Works was instrumental in establishing the drainage unit as such. That was a very good thinking. The Ministry of Public Works was in fact dealing with drainage issues but to have a unit established for the sole purpose of dealing with drainage was naturally a good idea.

Mr. Chairman, I think that he would recognise, as indeed anyone who has been associated with the Ministry of Public Works, that it is severely under-resourced. Two very fine young men work in that department who have responsibility for dealing with drainage matters that are referred to the Ministry of Public Works from the Town Planning Department sometimes, for overseeing and supervising the implementation of drainage structures that may be put in place and for overseeing the maintenance programme of the Drainage Unit itself. Mr. Chairman, this is just too much for them. Therefore, it is clear to me that when we speak about resources, that the Drainage Unit needs not only financial resources but also human resources so that the whole drainage matter can be dealt with within the comprehensive manner in which it needs to be dealt with.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the day where we do not have to come in here as representatives each with a shopping list and have the Honourable Member for St. George North just making notes all the times. These are matters for which we would like to think that we have systems that work and function.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: He is doing a good job but I am saying that this whole issue of drainage should be almost trite. We talk about being a developing nation that is on the threshold of becoming developed and this is a matter that perhaps we can look at dealing with in a more comprehensive fashion. Studies have been done on this issue of drainage in Barbados. David Lashley and Partners did one in 1972 and that firm is still in existence. I think it has gone through a metamorphosis where there have been some changes to the directors and so on and it is now DLN Partners Inc., but they are still here. A study was also done in the 1990s by a Canadian firm, Cummins Colbourne, I believe it was, and that study I presume is still available.

Mr. Chairman, that is not to say that with the changes that we have seen in our built environment that we might not have to have another study. We can only glean certain aspects of the earlier works that have been done because clearly when you had so much development it would impact your flow over land in terms of the rate in which it would occur and the quantities in where it may develop. That again underscores the need for a more collective approach to the whole issue of drainage.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West was very glad to hear that the Headleys Land problem is on the verge of being resolved, many years and many million of dollars later, but it could easily be a problem

that goes from Headleys Land to some place else because that is the nature of how drainage works. Therefore, we would want to think, and he would agree with me, that perhaps we should take the holistic approach.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke about what has been happening in terms of the underground drains in Bridgetown, Broad Street and Swan Street. I happen to know for a fact that there was an issue involving the invert levels as the drainage from Swan Street met Broad Street, which was a potentially disastrous situation, but it was resolved.

I said all of that to say, Mr. Chairman, that we cannot look at this matter constituency by constituency or community by community. I think it needs to be looked at in a more holistic fashion. I believe that is the point. In doing that, we need of course to consider the depots. The depots are doing wonderful doing the same things they have been doing for the past 30 to 40 years like clearing drains and cleaning wells, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, I think that if we dovetail that work with what I was speaking to earlier of a properly resource Drainage Unit then maybe again we could have the beginning of a serious drainage plan for Barbados. It is true that very small sections of Bridgetown are below sea level. We do not have any situation where there are levies or sea walls or where huge areas of the cities - because Holetown, Oistins and these areas are very flood prone also - are significantly below sea level that we should find ourselves encountering huge pumping cost.

Mr. Chairman, while I am support what we are doing here, I believe that if we look at a more comprehensive approach to dealing with the drainage issue, including some of what was contained in those earlier studies, we might

very well find that what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was saying might be the case, that is, that our pumping cost might go down because as we know pumping is very expensive. The Barbados Water Authority is the largest customer for the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited because electricity is required to pump the water.

Mr. Chairman, if we are talking about rain water that basically is falling under the influence of gravity, it would seem to me that if we could trap it at an appropriate point and let gravity do the rest of the work it would work out a whole lot cheaper. Therefore, in the context of a comprehensive look at our drainage situation maybe we could see some improvement in the drainage situation in all of our constituencies. For example, we could look at some of the things the Minister mentioned, like the whole question of our gullies and dams and a combination of drainage features and retention walls and retention ponds and of course the traditional soak-aways and suck-wells, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, before I take my seat I should also mention that private developers have been playing a role also in creating a lot of the drainage headaches in Barbados. It is true that the Town Planning Department does its best. Sir, as I understand it when such drainage concerns come up, the Chief Town Planner would immediately refer the matter to the Ministry of Public Works who of course would have their people advise them on it. Having said that, I still believe that we are going to have to go a step further.

Mr. Chairman, in other jurisdictions one is not only required to provide for drainage concerns in a way that does not impact one's neighbours and the public at large, roadways et cetera, but to maintain those structures.

House 82 Sequence 31

4:10 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, it is all very nice for the Town Planning Department to approve something that has all of the drainage considerations at the onset of the proposed development but what happens five or ten years later when there is no maintenance, when the wells or drains become clogged and the various structures may start to erode? Therefore, there is going to be the need for policing work to be done as well.

Mr. Chairman, we have already spoken to the Building Standards Authority and to the Drainage Unit, which have their hands full, so I am not too sure where we go on that. Sir, it is something which we need to look at because clearly private development, especially housing subdivisions, et cetera, where the surfaces of former rab lands are taken and then hardened, is having an impact on our water disposal system.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the effort of what is being done in Bridgetown being located within a more comprehensive effort, so that not only my constituency, which has flood prone areas, but that all over Barbados would benefit from this. The Honourable Member mentioned Halls Road, Martindales Road, sections of Brittons Hill areas, where we would see all of that dealt with in a comprehensive manner, where we would not be confronted by many of the problems which we have experienced here and of course, to protect us against potential horrors from natural disasters. Sir, when people think of hurricanes, they normally think of winds, but very often it is actually the rain and water that

do the bulk of the damage. Therefore, we cannot under-emphasise the need for drainage considerations.

Mr. Chairman, I am much obliged to you.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, like other Honourable Members before me, I want to make an intervention which is partly national and significantly parochial. There are opportunities like this which present themselves for us to declare our parochial and constituency interest and for us to speak to those at some length. Sir, this is one such occasion.

Mr. Chairman, I would start by making the point that it is a pleasant surprise today for me to find myself repeatedly agreeing with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, because his contribution has been such a departure from the norm.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, clearly the Honourable Member is assuming to himself the powers of Prime Minister, but in the fight for leadership in his Party, he is not even recognised as an almost leader. There have would-be leaders, out-going leaders and leaders-in-waiting but the Honourable Member is not even recognised as an almost leader.

Mr. Chairman, I have sat in this seat for 11 years and since 1994, Honourable Members on the other side have been telling me that I was about to leave, that I was not going to stay in this Honourable House for very long. Sir, I have seen many of them come and go and I will yet see many of them going before me.

Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make relates to the question of a comprehensive approach to drainage. Sir, I am of the view that

the time has come when a national drainage plan should be laid before this Honourable Chamber, so that we can discuss the issue of drainage in a comprehensive way. We recognise it is an issue which has implications for development, disaster management and planning, disaster mitigation, and disaster preparedness. We recognise it has implications for the quality of life for all our constituents, yet we have treated to the issue of drainage in a very ad hoc way, having debates, from time to time, focused around singular issues, without having the benefit of seeing a national drainage plan, which would allow us to come to grips with what it is that the Ministry of Public Works and the Drainage Unit envisage as their long-termed plan for drainage in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, as a Parliament, we need to know this. We need to be told the cost of having a proper national drainage plan. We need to be told how to resource the Drainage Unit, both in terms of equipment and human resources, and with what kind of skill, in order to service Barbados in a very comprehensive way. Sir, the kinds of issues that we are speaking to today, arise out of a lack of a comprehensive treatment of the subject of drainage.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, all of us, in one way or other, have either alluded to it, spoken to it directly or have attempted to do so and have done so in a tangential, rather in a frontal way. Sir, it is a concern for all Barbadians. It is because of drainage issues that people indicated today there are still Barbadians who leave home with two pairs of shoes and people not being able to get out or into certain communities, in the event of heavy rainfalls.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, as an Honourable Member of Parliament and a Minister, I want to see a national drainage plan for Barbados. I want to know how much it is going to cost us. I want us to determine what we need to properly

equip a national drainage unit. Sir, I want us to stop fooling with the issue of drainage because until we do so, especially in these times of increase in severe weather events, the issue of drainage is one that has serious implications for Barbados, especially in the event of a hurricane. Mr. Chairman, it does not seem to take a hurricane anymore but with two or three days of rainfall and the country would be in trouble, hence I would like to see this problem being addressed, as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I would also wish to hear to what extent has drainage problems resulted in Barbados, as a result of weaknesses in our drainage planning and in our maintenance of existing drainage systems. Sir, throughout Barbados, there are gutterings, culverts, wells, and a number of things that are intended for drainage, but I know from my experience as an Honourable Member of Parliament, that invariably in many communities, wells are poorly positioned.

Sir, in 1956, when a community would have consisted of only four houses, a drainage system would have been constructed to accommodate those four houses, but in a situation where more houses were built, when the water flow in that district would have changed, the Drainage Unit did not come back and modernised a drainage plan for that district. Therefore, one may find that a well would be too small, the culvert would be poorly positioned or the mouth of the drain would no longer be positioned where the water run-off exists.

Mr. Chairman, these are the kinds of practical problems that I have seen in my constituency, which the Drainage Unit, in its present iteration, does not appear to be addressing, which it needs to address, which, if we had a comprehensive plan, it probably would have addressed. Therefore, the issue of maintenance of existing drainage points, existing drainage

systems, and the upgrading and modernisation of drainage systems, are critical to addressing the drainage problem. Therefore, I wonder what level of maintenance of wells, culverts, drains, takes place; what level of regrading or modernisation takes place, and whether there is, in fact, a review every five or ten years, as demographic shifts take place and drainage in developments and various locales change because of increase hard-stand in the form of housing. In addition, there has to be a more serious linkage between the Drainage Unit, the Ministry of Public Works and the Town Planning Department, if this problem is to be dealt with in a comprehensive way.

H:No82(32)440 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD:

Mr. Chairman, I say this from the perspective that invariably, when Town & Country Planning Department permissions area given, the Minister of Public Works has to make a comment in relation to drainage of the development. Sir, what happens is that invariably in many instances a lot of developers do not do all the required drainage by the Town Planning Department but they do the minimal drainage. Sir, I see it in my constituency where areas which are major catchment areas of water, which Town Planning permissions have been given and where all the wells required by Town Planning has not been sunk and, as a result, residents keep having problems with flooding in those districts because the solutions of the engineers, which should have been provided for the development, are not fully in place.

Mr. Chairman, I was speaking of the need for liaison between Town & Country Planning Department and the Drainage Unit because

there has been significant deforestation of Barbados for house building. Invariably when people are going to build, if there are dunk or pear trees, there are not retained. They hire bobcat operators who seem to have an aversion to things growing and alive. The bobcat operators denude the site entirely of every blade of grass, tree and all the top soil thereby taking off all the material which would catch water on the site causing increase surface run-off because the root systems are not there to capture the water. Also, though Town & Country Planning requires it, few developers act on the Town Planning requirement to put a tree on every site, which is part of the conditionality prescribed by Town Planning for approval of a development.

Mr. Chairman, people build houses and put concrete all around it rather than a greenscape. There is denuding of site taking place in Barbados for the creation of housing and other development with the commensurate replacement of the root systems like trees, greening and grassing of these areas.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members alluded to the matter of illegal dumping, which also has implications for drainage. The recent study on national gullies has identified approximately 420 illegal dump sites in Barbados and this has tremendous implications for drainage. People who are paid to legally dispose of bulky, industrial or domestic waste will go to areas further away than the national landfill and illegal dump in watercourses and gullies, thereby creating habitats for rodents and vermin and creating a problem relating to health, causing a potential risk and damage to the water system and water catchment area and blocking the gullies which are the drainage system.

Sir, water is diverted from the natural drainage path into areas where it should not be going and flooding is experience at locations

where it does not ordinarily take place. This remains a problem which we have to address at the national level. Mr. Chairman, even though we have a relatively good collection system and a readily available disposal site, some Barbadians are prepared to take their vehicles and drive long distances, further away from their residences than the landfill or further away from the point of origins than the landfill and dump illegally.

Mr. Chairman, in a small country it is a national disgrace that there are in excess of 400 illegal dump site situated in gullies in Barbados. The Drainage Unit cannot work without some level of corporation and coordination with the persons responsible like the Solid Waste Unit and the Sanitation Service Authority. Sir, central to this issue of keeping proper drainage channels open is addressing the issue of illegal dumping.

Mr. Chairman, we speak in terms of flooding in Hometown and other low-lying areas but what are the point of origin of the water that floods these areas. I have spoken in terms of a national drainage plan to seek to reroute, capture and identify those areas. If we are going to have a discussion about rain water at any level for us to address the whole issue of the harvesting of water whether rain water or waste water, the treatment of it and it reuse for secondary sources or where possible to bring it to potable level within the context of the household... Sir, as the Minister of Environment it is a matter of concern to me where Barbados is one of the 20 most water stressed countries in the world - I think we rank somewhere at 11 - that this issue of how we treat waste water and how we deal with rain water is a matter that we cannot ignore or leave unattended. It has to become part of our development thinking and ethic as to how we would bring water into use to facilitate national development in a situation where there is increasing development, more construction

going on and people applying for large scale facilities like golf courses and where the water supply appears to be shrinking with us being ranked as a water scarce country.

Mr. Chairman, you have indicated that I have two minutes more. I am going to conclude at this point because I want to come back and make some parochial points in relation to St. James South but I have spoken to the national issues as I see them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Mr. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give support to this Resolution and must compliment the the Honourable Member for St. George North because, in my dealings with him, he has acted above aboard. In fact, when I send correspondence to him, he normally responds quickly.

Asides.

Mr. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have to speak to this matter because the Honourable Member for St. James South outlined some flaws in the approach of Government to drainage problems and I have witnessed some in constituency. Indeed, in my constituency in the area of Coles Terrace, I witnessed residents cleaning a well and assisted them in that regard. Sir, they echoed the sentiment that as taxpayers they should not have to do this job because persons are employed to do it.

H82/16:30

Sequence 33

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation Mr. M.A. LASHLEY: They worked two days in order to get the well

cleaned to facilitate smooth passage to the houses.

Sir, I said in this Honourable House that the roads in my constituency, St. Philip North, and I think the Honourable Member for St. George North would agree with me, are in a very bad condition. In fact, I mentioned the area of Sandford, the road leading to St. Philip Parish Church and Bushy Park, Lucas Street, roads in Fortesque and Butchers Road. In fact, in some areas members of the communities are putting their money together, buying material and repairing the roads which they have asked for years to be fixed.

I am asking the Honourable Member for St. George North, I believe that he is competent and would respond urgently to matters of these sorts, to move swiftly to repair the roads in St. Philip North.

Sir, yesterday in Eastbourne, a lady was trapped in her house where the area was surrounded by water. I journeyed to the depot at Six Roads for assistance. In addition to that, there are a number of roads to be repaired and I believe that the Honourable Member for St. George North would have a list of them. I am pleading with him to pay close attention to the roads in St. Philip North and to ensure that the workmen from his Ministry quickly attend to the problems in those areas.

Sir, in the area of Windward Cricket Club, that host some of the regional cricket games, the road there is in very bad condition. If the Windward Cricket Club is in a position to host some of the trial games, practice sessions or the World Cup games, we would move swiftly to repair that road in Lucas Street, which is very close to Windward Cricket Club.

Sir, with that short contribution, I implore the Minister to move swiftly to assist me in getting the roads in my constituency repaired and in

good condition.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George North.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, I must say from the outset that I have appreciated the contributions made by Honourable Members. I want to say for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Philip North...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of Honourable Members, the Honourable Member for St. George North is not winding up. He is just making a contribution.

Hon. G.A. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have recognised that the roads in St. Philip and parts of upper St. John, Highway F, are in bad condition. In fact, I visited Ticketts Road and it has deteriorated to almost a cart road. It is in bad condition. I have spoken to the Officer in Charge of Operations, in fact, he is here today. I have asked him to put in place a special team to address some of the concerns of the residents in St. Philip, St. John and Christ Church. I have also visited the depots in those areas and hope that we could address these matters before the roads return to a state where they would be very difficult to rehabilitate.

I must say that our efforts have been bearing fruit. We have been working with the private sector to ensure that we have a fairly good system in place in order to help address the concerns.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph mentioned the conditions of the roads in his constituency. We are aware that the Upper Parks Road has broken away altogether and is going to require a considerable amount of

manpower as well as equipment and material. However, we are hoping to address the concerns of the Honourable Member.

Sir, I can only say that we are aware of the conditions of flooding in the past three days. We also recognised that this is an unusual situation. There was flooding all across Barbados and we have paid careful attention to the complaints that were made over this period. I am assured that the Drainage Unit and its operation sections are working hand in hand to address some of the concerns.

Sir, I want to give Honourable Members the assurance that I have asked the depots to pay special attention the needs of constituents. This is very important because I believe that the role of the depots needs to be redefined. I also believe that the once the depots are properly structured, with manpower and machinery, this should help the situation.

Sir, I also made the point that the depots need to keep in contact with the Member of Parliament for the constituency. The Honourable Members of Parliament, from both sides, must be aware that there is a depot in his or her constituency and must work with depots.

Sir, from the time I was responsible for the ministry, and I know that it was before. I have asked the depots to work with the person who is elected to represent the people, whether it is Barbados Labour Party, Democratic Labour Party or whatever. We asked that this be done. Therefore, there should be no problem at all.

Mr. Chairman, over the last year we worked to ensure that the depots keep records. I do not believe that we should be in here asking the depots to clean a culvert, that should be routine maintenance. We are moving towards a system where the depots will be computerised. I have worked with the Information Manager over the last three months, to present a package to the

Ministry of Finance to ensure that depots are computerised so that they can feed information from the main headquarter to them in order to ensure that everything works well.

I believe that with proper record keeping and routine maintenance, the depots should be able to properly maintain the street, repairing and cleaning them within a particular area. I have no problem with that approach. I believe that we have to look at an approach where the depots would manage the various areas.

Sir, for many years, even though we have the satellites, as referred by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, at the same time the depots should be looking after some aspect of their own management. However, I think decentralisation of the depots would be a modern approach, where we provide the resources, money and machinery. The Depots should be able to run their affairs within a particular location and move to ensure that it is properly maintained, while the central department oversees what is happening. I think we need to move towards a modern approach as we go about our business.

Sir, I understand what the Honourable Member for St. James South said. I could agree with her that there is need for a national drainage plan. I know that a number of studies have been done over the years, for example, Bridgetown, Speightstown and Holetown, but we need to put them together to come up with a national plan.

H82: 16.40 p.m.

Sequence 34

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 35, 4:40 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. G.A. CLARKE:

She is asking for the full costing over a ten-year period, and its implication for Barbados.

I believe that there is a need for more engineers. I think that the Drainage Unit has been asking for Hydrologists and they are not coming forward. There are not many persons in this field of work in Barbados and we look within the CARICOM area or even the Commonwealth.

We definitely need to look at more staff and machinery for the Drainage Unit. Again, I do not think this Government could be blamed for not providing machinery. So far, we have provided more money in the Estimates this year for machinery and we are hoping that it comes shortly in order to help but the lack of machinery in all the depots across Barbados has been one of the problems over the last five or six years.

Mr. Chairman, based on the plans that the operations section sent me, with proper machinery, I believe that we should be able to do a good job. The Officers in that department have tried hard and they continue to do good work but the problems they encountered are the need machinery and a better system for moving machinery from one place to another. We are hoping within the next couple of weeks to be able to ensure that each depot has the basic machinery.

I also believe, Mr. Chairman, that we really need a clean-up day. I am proposing to use Saturday of this month as a national clean up-day. I am going to ask the staff of the Ministry to be involved and get their trucks to clean up, especially, in the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. Chairman, through this Supplemental, we are providing money for a 24-hour supply of labour to the Pump House. This is the first time it is being done. The Pump House will be

managed by a team from Monday to Sunday.

All the residents in the New Orleans, Fontabelle and throughout the area of Bridgetown will definitely need help in the collection of their garbage. We are hoping to work with the Ministry of Health to provide the necessary trucks and manpower so that they could at least put the garbage on the truck to assist in cleaning the City of Bridgetown. We have a beautiful city but we have to maintain it and the only way to do it is to work with the residents in the City and across Barbados in providing some form of help.

Again, Honourable Members spoke about the various needs of their constituencies. Sir, as we go along, we could meet some of the needs. We will not be able to meet all of the needs at the same time but we will try our best to do some of the work in a short term. I hope that once the weather is good within the next week, more could be done to ensure that the country is cleaned up before the Independence holiday.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important that some of the issues which have been raised by other Honourable Members in this Chamber are really the experiences that I have, Sir. I believe that as mentioned some developers who have been developing a number of areas, particularly for housing, have really breached a number of regulations, where the Town Planning Department is concerned.

In the parish where I live and represent there are numerous developments that, as a lay person, I can see going on in some watercourses. I raised these issues on numerous occasions. I will not identify the

specific areas now except to say that I have written officially to the respective agencies over the past three to four years, indicating my concerns and I know that some aspects of interest have been taken by the Ministries, particularly the Town Planning Department to stave off the particular development.

My biggest concern, Mr. Chairman, has to do with Lion Castle Road. It bothers my mind day and night. I know that I had discussions with the Honourable Member for St. George North, the Minister of Public Works and Transport concerning that road. Only three weeks ago, Sir, I wrote and outlined my concerns to him, where the Water Authority has been there over the last six months and having done their work, but they have not been able to reseal the road. Therefore, the residents have been complaining on a daily basis, and rightly so, that they have been removed by the Barbados Labour Party from wearing two or three pairs of shoes in the past...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please wait one minute.

The Bell was rung.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, please make sure we have a quorum on the Floor at all times.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas, please continue.

Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was making the point about the Lion Castle situation. Sir, to compound matters, the bridge has collapsed, thus making it difficult to enter Lion Castle for anyone visiting the area. I had the experience two Sundays ago of going in from the entrance at Lewis Village. The only thing that can enter there now is a truck. Sir, because no vehicles were able to travel on the road during the last

year and a half, the grass has grown even in the centre of the road. It has now become a haven for illegal dumping so you would understand the concerns I have regarding this road. I trust that my communication with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport will bear some fruit in having the bridge reconstructed and the road put in a condition that those residents would be able to travel with a little more comfort and freedom.

My other concern, Sir, has to do with the Scotland District and the really serious issues that have been raised and, of course, the drainage that is involved. In Carrington Village the whole of the CBC property is slipping and therefore four houses were to be removed since 1999, again, this is another problem with drainage. I do not think that houses should have been placed there in the first place. Therefore, I would wish to call for some assistance in the Carrington Village area from the Town and Country Planning Division to ensure that people do not put houses in restricted areas.

House 82, sequence 35, 16:5014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE:

You would appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that there are houses in White Hill, St. Andrew some of which had to be removed and some of which were seriously damaged by land slippage. Sir, the National Housing Corporation and the other agencies then have to go back to those locations from which people have been resited and ensure that the houses are demolished because people from communities all over Barbados move into those houses that have been left.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that the whole exercise is turning over because if you look at

Church Village you would see that some of the houses of those residents that were resited have been demolished. I think that should continue because you would get more people coming in and the numbers are mounting and the roads are getting no better and the properties are still slipping.

Sir, the other major concern I have, which is also a parochial one, has to do with the Bloomsbury Road. The members of the depot at Bagatelle, under the chairmanship of Mr. Marshall, and previous to that under the chairmanship of Mr. Anthony Brathwaite, are extremely professional and I have nothing else but praise for them. However, my concern is that they cannot get materials to work with. Therefore, when we are talking about empowering those at the depots as the Honourable Minister indicated, there is no point in having very good supervisors and workers and there is no equipment to carry out the work, that is my biggest concern. If the depot has a bobcat and it is working and facilitating the needs of the people of St. Thomas and a bobcat breaks down in town or wherever that bobcat is borrowed. Sir, even the truck and the roller are borrowed and then everything in the parish comes to a halt.

Mr. Chairman, I wish that we would be able to ensure that every depot has the minimum amount of equipment and materials so that those persons who are enthusiastic, as my people at the depot are, could effect all of what they have to do. They build roads and sidewalks, they move steps and they do all kinds of excellent things, but limited resources and equipment have been inhibiting them.

Mr. Chairman, I have written officially, and I will write again, indicating to the Ministry of Public Works that the Bloomsbury Road that runs from Sturges going up through what we call the Pond Hill to take one into the area of the Flower Forest and St. Joseph, is surely

going to collapse. A year and a half ago we had visits, things worked out well, but nothing has happened and today the area is still cordoned off because the limited equipment is the challenge.

Mr. Chairman, on Sunday morning I visited the area that we call Bean Tree Hill locally and it is now leaning. It could collapse and go down through the back of the Flower Forest, so we need urgent attention from the engineers in order for that road to be rehabilitated. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that the road be diverted to the right of where it is situated now in order for safe passage.

Mr. Chairman, I would not like for that road to collapse and go more than 40 feet deep down when a school bus taking children to the Grantley Adams Memorial School or a truck laden with bricks or goods to be delivered is travelling on it. I know of the danger that would create and that is another niggling problem that I have that I would wish to express.

Mr. Chairman, the final problem I have has to do with Chapman Village. Two years ago the Ministry of Public Works did an excellent job in rehabilitating that road which is the route that is taken by the Shorey Village bus to go to Trio Path, Springvale and so on, and I would wish for a similar effect over in Bloomsbury to bring a measure of ease to the people.

Mr. Chairman, I know that drainage is a problem at the bottom of Ayshford Hill. The workers have been trying, but again they can go no further because there is absolutely no more material, so they have gone off to Rock Hall where another challenge has developed that is not a Government problem but a problem for Cable and Wireless. Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a spiralling of the issues and not a coming to conclusion as a result of a lack of collaboration, perhaps I can say, with the other

utilities companies as well as a lack of equipment and materials which is the major thing.

Therefore, I would wish to lend my support to this debate. Sir, I ask the Honourable Minister, through you, Sir, that when this aspect of the planning in the city is undertaken that a little look be taken to the centre of the island to be able to help me to rehabilitate those roads so that the residents of St. Thomas can boast of the good roads and the opportunities where they can go out and come back and the bus can come in to the communities and so on, so that they can live the quality life that they have known before.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I hear any more speeches just let me say that 36 minutes remain in the debate and the Honourable Member for St. George North needs some time to wind up. There are about four more persons who have indicated a willingness to speak and I will just give them all a chance. I will hear from the Honourable Member for St. James Central, then the Honourable Member for St. James South and the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: I am obliged to your honour. However many minutes I am given I must speak to this issue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go on please, you have ten minutes.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: This is a matter that has employed my attention from the time I became a Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown. The three pumps at the Princess Alice Highway are not known to the average Barbadian. Since Pelican Village has been rebuilt, some very nice tiled work has been done which camouflages the pumping station

and also quite a large canal, so to speak, through which the water must flow.

Sir, the bridge that you see on Trevor(s Way is not ornamental or decorative, it really is to allow access across the mouth of the channel through which water would flow to the sea. This all arises from the fact that two-thirds of the City of Bridgetown is, like New Orleans in the United States of America, below sea level and so water has to be pumped to a level which would allow it to go out to sea.

Mr. Chairman, the nature of the west and the southern coasts of Barbados that there are coral terraces which rise up at various levels. There is one at the Paynes Bay level, the Walmer Lodge level, what we call Highway one, then we have a higher level which is what we call Highway 2 and there is a level even beyond that, and the highest point of course for this purpose is Sturges. Water comes from as far as Sturges, in St. Thomas and finds its way into the City of Bridgetown in which there are a number of stormwater drains, the best known of which I would venture to suggest, is the one to be found at Murphy Pasture. There is also another one which runs along the side of Goudy Gap, off Lakes Folly, and they all go to this central point where water then has to be pumped out and this is what helps to keep Bridgetown from flooding.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members may recall that a couple months ago there was severe flooding in the City of Bridgetown, which happened because none of the three pumps were working. The fact is that the pumps have outlived their useful lives and as soon as you fix one, another one breaks down. The worst thing that could happen to Bridgetown, as happened several Fridays ago, is for a cloud to burst literally over the city and the pumps are not working. That is what caused the flooding, and we are always going to need to have this.

House 82 Sequence 36

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that we are now about to resite the capital City of Barbados because not only is there severe drainage problems in Bridgetown, there are severe drainage problems in Speightstown and in Holetown.

Sir, Bridgetown is experiencing severe drainage problems because to a large extent, we are dealing with old river bed or old swamp land. Emmerton was also old swamp land. Pondside is not Pondside by chance, it is old Pond Bottom. There is also Pond Bottom next to St. Mary(s Church , which, also is Old Pond Bottom. Sir, this is the nature of Bridgetown. We have learnt very well how to reclaim land and how to make good use of those lands but we still have a severe drainage problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the issue of drainage is critical to the operation of the City of Bridgetown as a centre for business and commerce and a place where people live. Sir, cities cannot survive except people live in them. When people begin to move away from cities, cities begin to die. Therefore, for Bridgetown as a city, to operate in this way, we had all three pumps operational at optimum at any given moment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the weather patterns in Barbados change from time to time but in my lifetime, November has always been a wet month. As a child going to exhibitions during the first week of December, we always had to walk in mud. Our mothers would have insisted on children wearing white shoes, but on reaching our homes, we would have had to

wipe the mud off.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, that is nothing new. What is new is that we had to put a lot of concrete in our towns at Bridgetown, Speightstown and Holetown, so that water has to be dispersed somehow, and it will find its way out, even if means taking real estate, buildings, or sometimes people with it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bridgetown needs to have its pumps properly installed and well maintained on an ongoing basis. In all my years as an Honourable Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown, as soon as I see there is heavy rainfall in Bridgetown, I instinctively drive to the pumps. Sir, people do not know this, even my constituents in the City of Bridgetown do not know it but I go there all hours of the day or night, and by now I can tell by ear whether or not the pumps are pulling in water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we need to replace these pumps as soon as possible because we have no way of forecasting when we are going to get a cloud burst over Bridgetown. It does not have to be in the hurricane season or in what is called our traditional wet season for it to be happen. Sir, it is particularly important because of the threat to public health. When waters back up in the storm drains because people would have dumped garbage into them or because these drains cannot contain the flow of water coming down, if we have several days of rain, we would then be looking at a severe public health hazard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the Murphy Pasture, there are squatters, who, because the water table is so shallow... All through New Orleans, Emmerton and Chapman Lane, one can meet water at less than one foot sometimes and therefore it is difficult to get a well dug. Sir, many of these persons are throwing raw sewerage into an open storm drain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member on the other side, who is a doctor, can tell us that is an open invitation to typhoid fever and to a whole raft of diseases which we would not like to see happening. Sir, there was a time when it used to be that way but we have long passed that time. Therefore, we need now to put an upgraded pump system in place that could, if necessary, be operated by remote control, one that could take the increase volume of water which comes into them simply because there are so many new buildings and concrete surfaces over which the water now runs, where, ten or twenty years ago, there would have been a certain percentage of absorption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope the Ministry of Public Works have taken these elements of concern into consideration. One cannot replace with exactly what there was before and these pumps had to be custom-built for Barbados. I also hope that people have looked to see what volumes of water are coming through these drains which drain Bridgetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bridgetown is our Capital City. Therefore, it concerns me greatly that many of Barbados' major installations are located in flood-prone locations in Bridgetown. Our major fire station is located in a flood-prone location. Our Central Police Station is located in a flood-prone location. Our General Hospital is built on the edge of old Peat Bogg, the old Constitution River bed, but mercifully that was built - and the late Captain Thomlin has to be thanked that this was built there - on a high cliff of rocks where the old Deanery of the St. Michael Cathedral used to be. It was deliberated cited there. We have CERO, which is flood-prone. Sir, I have visited CERO in a moses in relatively recent times.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to think strategically about how we would defend our

city. Sir, the worst case scenario is something like what happened in New Orleans, United States of America, and I pray that day would never come in Barbados, but we have to think in that way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have written, at great length, to the Deputy Prime Minister, who has responsibility for these matters, for disaster preparedness, CERO, et cetera, to say that in any master plan for disaster preparedness or disaster mitigation in Barbados, there has to be a special plan for Bridgetown within it, and these pumps are an integral part of that plan because it deals with prevention in the first instance. Again in the event of a flood disaster in Bridgetown, then evacuation has to be considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my constituency branch and elsewhere, I have already talked to people about this. I have said that we need not wait until the event occurs, but that from early stage, we can identify somebody who is living on higher ground than any of us and to think which family person we could move to, where we can help ourselves. The Government(s) agencies will have to look out for those persons who cannot help themselves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a worst case scenario, if there were ever a water surge, water would go as far up as Martindales Road. It would go up the old Constitution River and in a matter of minutes, Martindales Road would be flooded. Sir, it is not as outrageous as it sounds, to say that is what a surge could do. A surge could also back water up through these very storm drains. If we were ever to have 25-foot rains, I shudder to think what could happen in the centre of Bridgetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our first line of defence, in terms of drainage, is these three pumps. Therefore, if they are working optimally, they would pull the water out at a terrific rate. It is a

riveting sight when one stays there and watches the way the pumps takes the water out.

Asides.

Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is the need to buy standby generators because the pumps are electrically operated. Sir, in the event of a disaster, one has to assume that the electricity would go and, therefore, there would be the need for standby generators, which can generate enough power to make the pump operate at their maximum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a technical matter but it is not so complicated that ordinary people cannot understand it, but the people who live in the areas, who the pumps protect, know what has to be done.

H:No82(37) 510 p.m.

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Continuation of Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER:

There is a storm water drain that comes through Lightfoot Lane behind a place called Philips Land where people have a little bridge to cross over the open drains to go into their homes. Sir, that water comes from outside of Bridgetown because Bridgetown is a drainage point just as Holetown is a drainage point and just as like Speightstown is a drainage point. We have built our towns at the mouth of natural drainage systems for purposes which made sense 380 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, when I was a little girl, Constitution Road was tidal up to the Globe roundabout. I remember schooners and boat coming up Constitution River and this was a way of getting goods down. I remember the days when schooners brought sugar from Speightstown to Bridgetown for boats to take

across the sea.

Mr. Chairman, this is not unusual because everywhere in the world, the mouth of a major river is usually a trading post which grew into a town, a city and then into a metropolis and Barbados is no different from that. Sir, in all those cities, like New Orleans and the River Thames in London there is a new barge that was built not long ago to protect shipping and London from flooding. The same thing happens in New York and Washington because all major cities in the world are built on rivers as they enter the sea because that was the point of commerce and trade when one traded only by ships.

Mr. Chairman, the more we build concrete in the suburbs that feed into Bridgetown and which feeds into the strong drains that brings water from gullies and elsewhere, the more the volume of water will come so it is essential that new pumps are built with larger capacity. Sir, these pumps are over 50 years old and have done a good job. They have save Bridgetown from certain flooding time and time again and at times when people did not know that it was happening. For the future, we have to look for larger capacity because the worst mistake to make now is to have the same capacity so that water coming down would overtake what you put in place.

Mr. Chairman, I want to give my support to this. I would like to think that I had a little bit of influence in getting it here before this House but the important thing is to get the new pumps which are being custom built for us, on the ground as soon as possible. Sir, I am down to prayer when I see rain set up over Bridgetown.

Sir, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This debate is generating a lot of comments from Honourable Members and rightly so because right now our

constituencies are siege. Therefore, I would like someone to someone to move the motion to extend this debate for a further 30 minutes.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, I thank you and commend you on the initiate taken to extend the time allocated for this very important debate.

Mr. Chairman, if one might begin at the point where the Honourable Member for the City left off, one would have to accept that we did in fact make the decision to develop major cities, Barbadian standards, at the mouth of drainage area. If I could speak for the constituency which I have the honour to represent, in Holetown one is faced with a significant population which is now existing on a flood plane. Mr. Chairman, above and beyond that, not only is there a large element of our citizenry living on the flood plane but there is the reality of significant economic installations on that flood plane. Mr. Chairman, I want to cast my contribution in such time that is available to me against two backdrops. The first one is that I am conscious of the fact that officers of the Minister of Public Works have risen to the occasion in lending assistance and, as the Honourable Minister pointed out in the initial presentation which he made, we have made significant headway trying to build, for the first time, a public sector and private sector partnership in Holetown to tackle the problem of flooding.

Sir, I have some of the statistical figures in my head which I would share with you. I want to thank the members of the public service who have participated in that and those gallant and socially conscious members of the private sector.

Sir, the second backdrop I want to speak against is the need for us to be ever mindful of the fact that we need to create linkage and to strengthen those linkages which exist between

the planning that we do and the work of the Drainage Unit. Mr. Chairman, I want to say the Drainage Unit began as a satellite of what the Ministry of Public Works was about in 1994. While it obviously has some working relationship with the Town and Country Planning Department, it is abundantly clear that there are instances where we have to strengthen the degree of collaboration.

Mr. Chairman, if you are going north into St. James Central and you get to Paynes Bay, on the left side of the road, as we speak, substantial development is taking place right next to what has traditionally been a watercourse. Sir, part and parcel of that development has been, in essence, to build across the area which was the watercourse.

Mr. Chairman, I made a representation to the Town & Country Planning Department, I know that CERO has made representation and concerned residents in the area have made representation based on local knowledge that the risk of narrowing the watercourse could result in substantial aggravation of the flooding problem in Holetown. Sir, if we cast our memory back, last year when Ivan passed by us, that one death Barbados recorded was at Paynes Bay where a Barbadian/German lady lost her life when she fell in the gutter trying to rescue her cat, which had escape, because there was substantial downflow of water through the channel.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look further. If we go into several other parts of that constituency, in Jamestown Park, immediately behind Halcyon Heights, there are people who have chosen to dump and to so construct the back parts of their homes with guard walls that they have changed the natural flow of water thus aggravating the problem of flooding in Holetown.

Sir, I do not say this lightly because I know

that collaboration take places as mandated by law but there is a need to strengthen and deepen the degree of cooperation which takes place between the planning aspects of our building and the work of the Drainage Unit.

Mr. Chairman, I want to underscore that from where I see it that this issue of drainage has, as the Honourable Member for the City put it, been placed in the context of disaster management. We are trying to grapple with and economic fundamental in a developing country.

H82/17:20

Sequence 38

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Continuation Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, Holetown is arguably the tourism capital of Barbados. It is also a centre for financial service, a commercial centre and in every sense an economic mainstay of the northern part of the island.

Therefore, when one has a situation where the whole of Holetown becomes impassable, it means that the capital become inaccessible. Several people have to forfeit a day or two days work, in some instances. Above and beyond that there is a further economic sequel, there are a number of people who are resident in the area and when you have three feet high flood waters in someone's home, there is destruction to the tiles, furniture, electronic fittings, et cetera. To add to that, flood insurance is the hardest type of insurance to come by. We, therefore, have to look at the reality. Sir, I make this point to the people in the public service when I have to interface with them.

Mr. Chairman, this is not an ordinary problem. We have through Town and Country

Planning been given permission and the Drainage Unit is coming on stream. As many have said, we have not been able to keep pace with the way in which developments are changing. We have created a situation where we have in Holetown, also in Bridgetown and Speightstown, several thousand people who are economically affected every time there is more than average type of rainfall.

Sir, for the last three days we had above average rainfall. The figures I remember are in 1991 when there was about twenty inches of rain in the general district of Holetown, St. James. We came very close to that in 1994 when there was about sixteen inches of rain. If I am accurately informed, approaching mid-November, we already had in excess of ten inches of rainfall. It seems to me that we are dealing with a situation where we are going to have above average rainfall in certain months and years. Therefore, you have to pay greater attention to the fallout as a result of that level of rainfall.

Sir, we heard much talk about the so-called western steps. I had the pleasure of walking with persons from CERO through the gullies and watercourses and we all know how badly polluted there are. I think that we also know how potentially beautiful they are. It only further reinforces the point, in my mind, that there needs to be an even greater degree of collaboration across ministries. I know that the Ministry of the Environment had initiated Clean Up Barbados programmes. I am happy to hear that the Ministry of Public Works is about to come on board.

Mr. Chairman, the idea of the partnership came about when residents, along with CERO, the NGO and persons in the public sector, made it their business to trace the watercourses to find the genesis of the problem. We went as far as Farmers and Apes Hill. I am very happy to say to this Honourable House that part of what

has been verbally agreed is the recognition that we are, perhaps, talking too much about being a water scarce country to the point where we accept it, because we are allowing hundreds of gallons of water to just run downhill and out to the sea. Sir, insufficient work is being done to build the check dams, create the necessary retention ponds and sinking the wells which would serve as water catchments for a more gradual runoff on the one hand with water that can be used for alternative purposes on the other.

Asides

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, the terminology used is harvesting the water. That is the philosophy behind the partnership that is being imagined.

Sir, I go further than that. At the foot of Holetown, and much discussion has gone into this, there are some people in the private sector who have substantial commercial interest and they have not balked at the fact that in their best commercial interest this terrible situation of flooding cannot continue. Equally, they accept that there is a social consciousness which they must play as business people in Barbados. They are prepared to work with the Government to try to rectify the problems at the level of the flood plain, to find new and innovative solutions to the drainage problem.

I want to commend those people who have given of their time and who have committed themselves to this project and I said in my constituency two months ago, when we were at the stage of waiting on the good officers of the Ministry of Public Works to come up with the Cabinet Paper. We are at the stage where I am told that the Cabinet Paper, in draft, has been completed but is yet to be fully finalised. I understand that it is the first time that we are doing something of this nature but I want to underscore the urgency, because it was on October 14th or 15th, 2005, when persons... I

have not asked for permission to call anybody(s name... but I can tell you that in James Town Park we had the Cumberbatch, Reverend Baird(s families and other persons(homes invaded by cascading waters. These problems are real and serious, with substantial economic consequences for the affected people.

I also want to make the point that in the area of Molyneux, there is a road which connects you to John(s Plain. There is a substantial dip in that road which has been affected by flooding on a number of occasions. There is a well there but part of the problem is, we have sunk wells without reference to the sort of catchment that is anticipated. We are at a situation where a well with a storm drain cover is too small for the system to accommodate. The water cannot permeate fast enough.

Mr. Chairman, I gather that the Honourable Minister was advised on the method used in North America where you have big storm drain systems. I think that we need to be prepared to invest heavily in that kind of system. I also want to urge that we vigorously ensure that Town and Country Planning follows up on the way in which private contractors are devastating watercourses.

In fact, in the Sea View area of my constituency there is a gentleman, having finished his construction, virtually pushed all of the rubble into the water course. These actions cannot be satisfactory. These actions which make life convenient for one individual but the consequences can be disastrous for a hundred others.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: After the Honourable Member for St. James South speaks, I will ask the Honourable Member for St. George North to wind up the debate.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON: Sir, I am going to be cognizant of your caution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have your full fifteen minutes.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-MCDOWALD: I do not anticipate that I will take it because I know other people want to speak.

Sir, I will make two national points. First, the Environmental Engineering Department, now called the Environmental Protection Department, is working with the Drainage Unit to help resolve our drainage problem, specifically in the Hometown area. They have done tremendous work in and around Hometown in identifying those lands which drain into Hometown. They are working hand in hand with that department to also resolve the issue of drainage at other locations.

Sir, for the benefit of the Honourable House, the Gullies Ecosystems Management Project, all of the studies are now completed. That is a project that has many components including ways to alleviate illegal dumping as well as drainage, since the gullies are drainage veins for the country. That study is now completed.

H82: 17.30 p.m.

Sequence 39

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

House 82, sequence 40, 5:30 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. Ms. H.E. THOMPSON:

The Cabinet paper will be taken to Cabinet within the next two weeks along with the Executive Summary and the synopsis of the many reports. There are five components

coming out of the study. Each component has a report and they will be brought to this House and laid in the Chamber. Since it has implications for so many things, we will have to determine if we are only going to have the document laid, or if it is going to be debated.

When I said earlier that there are in excess of 400 illegal dump sites and gullies in Barbados, I am able to say that with authority because that is part of the resource information to be found in the Gullies Ecosystems Management Project documentation. Those reports should form an invaluable resource and source material for planning and administration of issues relating to waste management, drainage and other issues, including physical development planning.

Sir, I indicated initially that I wanted to use this time to speak to the issues relating to the constituency of St. James South. I would wish though to strengthen the arguments by my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. James Central. I made several representations to the Drainage Unit about those areas in St. James which previously formed part of the St. James South constituency. I know well the issues that he is raising. His concerns are legitimate and they need to be addressed because the West Coast constitutes not only residential development but high value revenue and foreign exchange earning properties for Barbados and we have to do our utmost to protect that part of Barbados.

I turn therefore, Sir, to the Constituency of St. James South. I am disappointed that having walked with the members of the Drainage Unit through several areas of St. James, that I am yet to see the degree of relief urged on them and requested, by showing them the number of areas where there are problems.

As far back as two years ago, Sir, I pointed out to them that there is an open well and drain

in the Prior Park Gardens Development and that location constitutes a risk. There is no play area in the development. There are open areas which are always covered in high grass so that children play on open lots within close proximity of their own homes. People from Halls Village also use lands adjoining Prior Park because the two developments, the village and the middle income residential development, as we would say in Barbados, abut and abound one another so there are two adjoining communities.

It is not right therefore that an MP having complained of an open well in a residential area, where it constitutes a high risk to people walking at night and children playing should remain open for over two years. I regret having to do it publicly but I have spoken, called, written repeatedly and made enough entreaties that after I visited the site with them two years ago, this is a matter that should have been corrected.

Sir, although the subject is drainage here today I would like to continue on Prior Park and speak about the Prior Park Main Road going west towards the junction of Prior Park and Husbands. I have written to every Minister of Public Works since 1994 but the junction of Prior Park and Husbands constitutes a high risk to motorists and pedestrians. It is a blind corner over what we call a hump back hill and very dark. It is a wide expanse of road.

Asides.

Hon. Ms. H.E. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for St. George North, Sir, Minister, I am appealing to you. There are regular accidents at the Prior Park junction corner. It has no adequate lighting. It is a dangerous junction. It is impossible to see vehicles coming from north out of the Husbands and Thorpes area, when you are taking egress from the Prior Park Road, except

at night when you can see the car lights. If you are coming from Hinds Hill, Husbands and seeking to turn right into Prior Park that also constitutes a danger.

Sir, you cannot use that junction lawfully without assuming a high degree of risk and it is time that adequate lighting should be placed at that junction and that the remediation necessary to straighten the junction and allow better visibility for drivers and pedestrians should in fact take place. I am urging this Parliament and the Minister that after we have been in Government for eleven years, it is time to do it before somebody gets killed. We cannot have any excuse. I have raised it in this House too many times.

I would also wish to draw Public Work(s) attention to the fact that in middle income developments, one of the things that residents ask for is proper lighting.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, please let me hear the Honourable Member.

Hon. Ms. H.E. THOMPSON: There is also a need in the middle income developments of St. James South for improved lighting at Coral Glade, Glydor and the junction of Warrens Park North and Highway 2A. Sir, that junction has no lighting. Warrens Crescent has no lighting at the entrance of the road so it is difficult to see, if you are unfamiliar, and driving at night to pick up the entrances to these developments.

Other lights are needed but I cannot identify all of the others in the course of this speech but those are the two principal ones where they are needed on a main road to assist entry and egress onto Highway 2A.

I have given the Ministry, a number of

locations of poles and numbers within residential communities where residents, for security reasons, are crying out for adequate lighting within the community. This is something that we need to systematically address and I would urge that we address it before the next election. This is going to be an issue for middle income residents because, as I said, in many instances, they do not ask for a lot in their communities.

House 82, sequence 40, 17:4014

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss. H. E. THOMPSON:

I have also written to the Ministry of Public Works, though there seems to be some resistance, about the matter of (sleeping policemen(or humps as some people tend to say within residential communities. There is an increase in the number of motorcars and many people are driving through residential districts extremely quickly. In areas like West Terrace where there is one single road from the 1st Avenue to the 16th Avenue people get on their accelerators and go very quickly putting pedestrians at risk.

Mr. Chairman, there is a large drainage area at the western end of Hayneville that really needs clearing and proper canalisation. This is yet another site that despite my taking the Ministry of Public Works to, has not been addressed. This is a large drainage area at the bottom of a hill where lots of water drains and pools and it is always a problem. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that residents dumped in the area thereby exacerbating the problem with drainage or in an absence of proper drainage.

Sir, I turn quickly, since there is not a lot of time remaining to me, to Durants Village.

Durants Village is another area that I have written about repeatedly. At Durants Village there are a number of poorly placed wells, inadequately sized drains and improperly positioned drains. What therefore happens is that a lot of water comes off the upper ridges and goes down onto the plains, hence aggravating the flooding situation on the coast particularly along Paynes Bay and areas going further north. The drainage in Durants Village needs to be improved. All like now Durants Village is flooded. Last year when there were rains people could not get in or out of their homes because the water was knee high and higher in some areas of Durants Village, so it is time for the issue of drainage at Durants Village to be addressed.

In consequence of the problem of the inadequate drainage at Durants Village, last year when the rains were heavy, Holders Hill Main Road was virtually torn up and impassable because there was no capture of the water coming off Durants Village, which is sort of in the middle of the plains coming down. Sir, because the water was not being captured there it went down the hill with tremendous force causing damage to properties, the felling of trees, the tearing up of the surface of the road and the opening up the road to significant damage. All of that could be rectified and remedied and in fact prevented in the future if the problem of drainage in Durants Village, which contributes to flooding down Holetown, is addressed.

Sir, I think you are signalling to me that my time is up, but these are the areas in St. James South where there is the worst drainage and flooding problems. Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to have come to point them out to the Honourable Minister. I urge, plea and request that something be done to address these as a matter of urgency because when these things do not happen it is the Members of Parliament who have to take the blame and

people do not recognise that the Members of Parliament are in fact engaging with the officers in the units, and are requesting and fighting on their behalf, so I am urging the Minister to help me.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Honourable Member, I will now hear the Honourable Member for St. George North who will take us through to the close of play.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed grateful to all Honourable Members who contributed to this exercise. I would also like to compliment two households in Gibbons, Christ Church, a Miss Karen Cox and her husband Wilfred and...who laboured on Sunday to clean the well in their street. A report in today's newspaper said, I am not quoting, that they said that the area did not flood, that is important. When residents can clean their surroundings and help the Government, that is important. Mr. Chairman, we see here that the residents in this area that is flood prone have joined hands with Government to help their area. Mr. Chairman, we would want this to be replicated throughout Barbados where the residents can help.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to compliment Honourable Members for their interest in their constituencies. We believe that if the depots are fully equipped with human resource as well as materials and machinery that a lot could be achieved. In the next year we are hoping that we could fully computerise the depots so that they would be able to take information on a timely matter as well as dispense the service that is needed in the various areas. I believe that this is the area to go. I believe the time has come for the depots to put aside those big bulky books that they have from, I guess, the inception and really look at a daily plan where they could see what is happening. We have put

in place supervisory positions at the depots. We have put in place a system where they have persons that can man the computer and feed into headquarters so that we would know from time to time what they are doing.

Mr. Chairman, we will continue to look at how we can continue to improve our relationship with the public and what we do from time to time. I believe that we have to put a system in place where we capture water uphill at the higher level. Too much water is getting from the upper lands to the lower lying areas.

Mr. Chairman, I can think in terms of Mapp Hill. Yesterday afternoon Mapp Hill was flooded from the gas station right down to the Bussa statue. This shows me that water is coming from the Dash Valley area right down to flood Bridgetown, so we need to continue to sink more wells and to grade them better.

Mr. Chairman, I spoke to the Ministry of Public Works about providing wider culverts. I know that years ago they had these small openings and I hope that in the near future we would be able to improve those wells openings, it is very important that we do so.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say to the Honourable Member for St. James South that we have received a lot of correspondence from her, especially in the area of Durants Village. She has been very passionate about the Prior Park area for which we have programme for major improvements this year. Money was put in this year(s Estimates to improve the junction of Prior Park, so we are hoping that before the end of the financial year we could see some improvement to the junction of Prior Park and Husbands. We have also looked at the Durants area and we are hoping that we could do the small tenantry road in the Durants area.

Mr. Chairman, we have received requests

from all across Barbados about putting in (sleeping policemen(and other traffic calming measures. We have been examining these things, so over time I believe that we should be able to put in some. We had an opinion from the Attorney-General(s Chamber a couple of years ago which stated that whenever we put in these things we have to be very careful and that we have to put up proper signs for persons to observe as they move from district to district.

Mr. Chairman, it is not that easy to just put in a hump or another traffic calming measure. We have to be very careful and we have to notify people what we are doing. Sir, we will look at these things across districts and we are hoping that we could be able to restrict some of the movement of traffic.

House 82 Sequence 41

5:50 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Continuation of Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, when the Ministry of Public Works installs (No Entry(or (No Left Turn(signs, sometimes Honourable Members complain but we have to install these signs in order to protect the residents of those districts. There is now more traffic on our roads and sometimes drivers use these districts to get away from the traffic build-up. Sir, this causes a number of problems, hence the need to restrict entry. Sir, we will continue looking at these traffic calming measures, in order to improve those residential areas.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that the Ministry of Public Works is aware of those junctions across Barbados, which are hazardous to the driving public. We will continue making improvements to these areas as we go along.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to say that the time

has come for us, not only to work hand-in-hand with communities but that communities ought to do a number of things, which would assist them and Government. Sir, at this time, I would like to outline a number of them.

Mr. Chairman, I believe Barbadians need to take the weather forecast more seriously. I do not believe Barbadians are taking weather forecasts as seriously as other persons in North America or in Europe. When I lived in North America, people would listen to the weather forecasts every day and would plan their business on the outcome of those forecasts. Sir, Barbadians need to take weather forecasts more seriously, in order to plan their business better. They also need to stop depending solely on Government and should try formulating community groups for the elderly, children and the disabled, in order to assist those groups in the event of a disaster.

Mr. Chairman, there is also the issue in relation to the clearing of the bush. Landowners are not clearing these lots, resulting in the fact that there is too much bush left growing all over them. Sir, for example, in the area of Husbands, St. James, persons have bought land from the National Housing Corporation and have not built as yet, leaving these lots overgrown with bushes.

Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come, especially for those persons at the Ministry of Health, where they can enforce a number of regulations, which would ensure that people do clear these lots. Sir, not only does this pose a health hazard but recently, I noticed there is an increase in the Giant African Snail. Therefore, there is the need to have these lots across Barbados all cleaned up.

Mr. Chairman, there is the need for us to do something about the number of absentee landlords who have land lying idle and bushy. In my constituency at Rowans Park, Cottage

Terrace, et cetera, persons have bought land a number of years ago and the land is left lying idle and bushy. Sir, the same thing is happening at Ruby Park, in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, and the Honourable Member is asking for it to be cleared. Sir, the point is that there is too much bush lying around, which needs to be cleared.

Mr. Chairman, there is the need for us to have a plan as to how we are going to have the number of drainages and grills on our road cleared before bad weather comes. Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is saying, communities need to become chapters of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation, or of the District Emergency Programme.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that once these plans are in place, it would make it easier for residents to notify the Drainage Unit, the Ministry of Public Works or to report directly to the depots, where weak points on our roads exist, or in relation to problems caused by overflowing or blocked wells.

Mr. Chairman, there is the need for Barbadians to be more proactive in their communities. If they cannot formulate a programme, they should notify the Government depots in an early manner, about some of the things that are being experienced in their communities, in the event of bad weather.

Mr. Chairman, there is the issue of blocked drainages, which especially can be found in the area of St. James, where a number of persons are building walls over the drainage system, or building homes without the permission of the Town Planning Department. In addition, people are building homes in low-lying areas.

Mr. Chairman, people living in low-lying areas need to reexamine the foundations of their homes before the rainy season and to strengthen those foundations. There are too

many people who wait until the rainy season is upon them, then to find that their homes have been damaged by soil erosion. There are too many people who sit around and do nothing, until the rainy season affects their homes, then they blame Government for something which they should have done in the first place.

Mr. Chairman, I also believe that people should keep their places free of garbage, and in the event that there is an accumulation of garbage, it should be removed before the rainy season comes.

Mr. Chairman, I believe if people do these things, they would be helping themselves and their communities. They would also be assisting Government in its response to these communities, when they are experiencing difficulties. Sir, Government has a responsibility to help those communities by clearing garbage, digging better wells and clearing culverts, among other things. Sir, we will continue to do our best in responding to these communities.

Mr. Chairman, Government will also be more proactive in the future. I believe in the past we have been very reactive. I believe if we are proactive as a Government, a lot could be achieved with the help of the community.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I beg to move that Head 45 stand part.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

H:No82(42)600 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

ORDER NO. 13

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT CHARLES ROWE BRIDGE, IN THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE IN THIS LAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DRAINAGE WORK.

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

Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the matter before the House is not complicated and I do not expect that it would cause us to tarry long. The compulsory acquisition of just under 5 000 square feet of land at Charles Rowe Bridge in St. George for drainage works. If I may pass comment by way of anecdotal commentary, we say things in Barbados and sometimes the colloquial pronunciation bears no relationship at all to the English spelling. We speak about (Shar Row Bridge) when, in fact, it is Charles Rowe Bridge. There are other things where the corruption of language becomes part of the colour of the culture and we do not often know the correct names.

Sir, during the period 1999 to 2000, a parcel of land owned by Chadderton Enterprises Company Limited was utilised by the Minister of Public Works for the construction of a canal. The canal was constructed to replace a drain which moves storm water from an old box

drain into a larger water course, which was common to the southern boundary of Chadderton Enterprises Company Limited. Sir, as a result of having used the lands in this way, the Government has no recourse but to acquire the lands and to compensate the owners for the lands used for the public good, specifically to improve drainage at this particular location.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the construction of this drain rendered the particular parcel of land of which it formed part, virtually unusable and hence, the whole parcel is being acquired. It had been surveyed privately as well as by the Lands and Surveys Department on December 17, 2002, and the Survey Plan should be attached for the review of Honourable Members of Parliament. The land is valued by the Commissioner of Land Tax at \$21 600 and, at some point, the property owners would have to be compensated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I have indicated, this really is all there is to the matter. It is a regularisation of lands taken and used for public purpose now being brought before the Chamber for formal acquisition and approval of compensation to the property holder.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George North.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: I want to thank the Minister for bringing this to final completion. This work started back in 1998. I am aware of the small parcel of land that was taken from Mr. Chadderton at Charles Rowe Bridge for the improvement of drainage in that area. Sir, Charles Rowe Bridge has always been an area which is flood prone and this Government

sought to improve drainage facility there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this facility runs through the backyard of Mr. Downes who lives at Charles Road Bridge and I have always felt that we should acquire the entire lot of land so that landscaping could be properly done. Sir, I urge the Ministry of Housing and Lands to also acquire that parcel. Certainly, we will make representation very shortly to acquire the remaining parcel to the north of the supermarket to improve the entire drainage facility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, so far the work has borne fruit because we have noticed that because of the work done by the Drainage Unit over the past five years, there has been no flooding even though there was a lot of rain. We would like to thank the Drainage Unit and the businesses in the area. A lot of work has also been done by Chefette Limited in providing four well in the area and this has also helped.

I want to thank the Minister and to say that the Drainage Unit will continue to improve the drainage at Charles Rowe Bridge as well as in the Glebe, Market Hill, St. George and in other places across Barbados where there has been flooding in the past few years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this Resolution should be supported by all Honourable Members. Sir, I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: the Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. Mrs. H.E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take on board the recommendation of the Honourable Member for St. George North in whose constituency this parcel of land falls and his specific recommendation that we should landscape the area.

Sir, you would recall that previously in a debate in this Chamber that I indicated that all residual lands from road works and other projects would be used to put into housing where there is enough land or to develop greenscape to enhance communities wherever possible as well as the formulisation of lines and tracks to facilitate properly paved footpath or access ways into communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I urge Honourable Members that where they have residual parcels of land in their constituencies which they want greenscaped that they should get in contact with the Environmental Special Project Unit at Sturges in St. Thomas, draw the lands to their attention and that it can be done. The Honourable Member for St. George North should note that the Environmental Special Project Unit would be happy to landscape that area that is now a residual parcel owned by Government in this particular area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few words, I beg to move that this Resolution now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, November 22, 2005, at 1000 a.m.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until November 22, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

H82/18:10Sequence 43