
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2007.

PRESENT

His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P.(Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc.(Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance)
Hon. Dame B. A. MILLER, D.A. B.C.H., (Senior Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A.(Hons.) Dip. Ed., LL.B.
(Hons.) (Lon.), LL.M. (Leic.), J.P. (Minister of Labour and the Civil Service)
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed.,J.P. (Minister of Public Works and Transport)
Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. J.P. (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon. R. R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P.,(Minister of Housing and Lands)
Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon. Dr. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health)
Mr. H. F. LASHLEY
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and Development)(Leader of the House)
Hon. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A. (Minister of Social Transformation)

Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Hon. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance)(Minister of State, Ministry of Finance)

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

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

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

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

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now in Session.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Minutes were circulated, and subject to any observations or corrections, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed.

Hon. R. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.
Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no corrections or observations, then let these Minutes stand confirmed.

PAPERS

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following Bills:

1. Shipping (Incentives) (Utopia Cruises Limited) Order, 2007;
2. Shipping (Incentives) (World of Watersports Inc.,) Order, 2007;

3. Shipping (Incentives) (Captain Haddock and Company Limited) Order, 2007;

4. Shipping (Incentives) (Sea Eye Inc.) Order, 2007.

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

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

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the Airport (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy 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. C. EASTMOND: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

10.20 a.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

ORDER NO. 6 – SEVERANCE PAYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am about to propose to this Honourable House is more a matter of housekeeping than bringing any radical change to the Severance payments legislation. Sir, under Cap. 3, 355(A), the Severance Payment Act, the Minister is defined in this particular legislation as always referring to Minister of Labour, which means that the Act seems to suggest that severance payments and the administrative responsibility for severance payments should always lie with the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, practical experience shows that needs not be the situation and, in fact, on the last reassignment of portfolios, the responsibility for the administration of severance, the appointment of members of the severance payment tribunals and related matters actually were transferred to the Minister of Finance. Sir,

you then found a situation where the Ministry of Finance was responsible for severance and was responsible also at portfolio level for the choosing of chairpersons to the Severance Payments Committee but the Act itself, Cap 3, 355(A) required that the Minister of Labour be seen as Minister with responsibility for severance and matters related thereto.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what that meant then was that we had a curious anomaly and very much a type of schizophrenic situation where you had, at the one stage, ministerial responsibility at the substantive level being assigned to a given Ministry but a statute suggesting otherwise. The purpose of this amendment, therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is to bring things in harmony. Initially, there was the opinion that the new amendment before us should have Minister responsible for Finance, but the better legal opinion is that the Interpretation Act should be used to cure this particular mischief. Under the Interpretation Act, Minister means the Prime Minister or other Minister for the time being having responsibility for the subject matter of the enactment, in respect of which that expression is used. Therefore, using this, the Minister having responsibility for the subject matter of severance is today, the Minister of Finance and not the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is proposed by this side, therefore, to invoke Section 40(3) of the Interpretation Act, so that all future reference to matters relating to severance will point to the Minister having responsibility for the substance of severance. Sir, I think I have made the situation clear. What it, therefore, does is repeal that part of Chapter 355(A), the Severance Payment Act that talks about Minister of Labour and, as of now, therefore, with the consent of the House, we will have one Minister for one portfolio, as opposed to the split situation where the Minister of Finance was substantive Minister of severance but the Minister of Labour was responsible, in statute for the said severance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is tidying up and very much housekeeping. Sir, having made those remarks, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, based on explanation given by the Minister, there is not much to quarrel about on this side. Sir, the only thing we worry about is the amount of time that it took for this correction to be made. Clearly, if there was a case brought against Government under this Act, the Government would have found itself in trouble. We hope that when errors like these are spotted that the other side would not drag its feet

on them and would move with the necessary speed to ensure that these errors are quickly corrected so that Government would not find itself having to pay out cost unnecessarily in matters like these.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we hope that corrections like these would not take six months or longer but as soon as they are spotted that they are dealt with.

Sir, I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from St. Michael South Central.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has indicated, we do not have any difficulty with what is proposed here but I thought I would take the opportunity to ask the Minister of Labour if there is any reason that some of the other amendments that were suggested for the Severance Payment Act have not been taken on board. There was a case involving June Clarke and ALICO, the ruling of which the Chief Justice had recommended that the Severance Payment Act was in need of an urgent amendment, those where the words of the Chief Justice in 2002, in the interest of certainty and fairness. Sir, this has to do with long service employees. I believe the case is known to the Honourable Member and the need for the amendment is well-known.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are dealing with one shortcoming in the Act, I am curious to hear what is the situation with respect to these other amendments, which have been described as urgent and that was five years ago, so I thought I would point that out, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I have said before, I have no difficulty with what is proposed here but it seems as though the Severance Payment Act needs some other work as well and we just want to know what the position is with those other changes.

Sir, I am much obliged to you.

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member from St. Michael South Central has raised a very interesting issue. Under Section 20 of the Severance Payment Act, there are basically two sets of standards when it comes to length of time served. If Honourable Members look at Section 20 of the Severance Payment Act, they would notice that where a person works for less than seven years, that person is entitled to severance worked out by means of a certain formula, while if the person works for more than seven years, that person gets severance higher than the person, who worked for seven years in quantitative terms. Sir, at the same time, what happens beyond the seven-years limit...

H139/10:30

Sequence 3

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: ...for example, there is no provision for somebody who has worked 10 to 15 years, 15 to 20 years, or 20 to 25 years.

Sir, what was happening is that due to the tripartite process a process that is never done quickly or a process where nothing happens overnight, we are both looking at Section 20, in terms of the proposals made by the Lord Chief Justice, and at the same time, when it comes to the Employment Rights Bill, which is also going through the tripartite process, and on which consultation should end soon, we are combining the proposals in June Clarke v Alico with, not just the Severance Payment Act, but also the proposed Employment Relations Act.

I will speak to the Honourable Member for Michael South Central, quietly, on this matter. I will take him into my confidence and tell him that in recent years, since the Social Partnership has been set up, we will have situations where, through the tripartite process, there will be meetings. Sometimes one side is not available for two months, and by the time that side is available, sometimes another side is not available, so it has been frustrating and time consuming, but all three sides are very close to an agreement now.

I believe that within three or four weeks, we should be able to sign on at the level of the Social Partnership, which in the near future will also be considering a lot of labour related matters. I have discovered that everything takes time. I have been patient. There would have been time when, in the absence of the Social Partnership, we could have come here as a Government and gone right through, and some people might have felt that their rights were being stepped on; some people might have felt that their right to a hearing should have been heard, and such like. Sir, I have explained the matter to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South central. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy raised the point of the timing. Very often, in our bureaucracy, the way things operate, sometimes things come to a Minister's attention very late. Sometimes files are never brought to a minister on time. There are times when the minister is impatient for change, and different procedures are invoked, that make the minister impatient. I, if it is indeed my responsibility, would, therefore, have to express regret to this Honourable House that this measure has not been brought before, but I am thankful that all both Honourable Members actually recognise the purpose of the amendment.

In conclusion, the whole Severance Payment Act will be reviewed within two years. In the same way that the Democratic Labour Party had to look at it, at one point, between 1990 and 1993, it will have to be looked at, especially when it comes to concepts like short time; the employee being offered six weeks to twelve weeks; or the employee being offered twelve weeks, resuming work for two weeks, and then being off for thirteen weeks; in issues of the extent to which the employer has been observing the contractual provisions of the service contract between employer and employee, and such like. All of these things tend to come into being.

Sir, in the circumstances, I am thankful to all

Honourable Members who have taken part in the short debate. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second

time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on this Bill, Mr. R.D. MARSHALL, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported according.

On the separate motions of Hon. R.C. EASTMOND, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Severance Payment (Amendment) Act, 2007.

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF CROWN LANDS SITUATED AT WESTBURY ROAD IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULES HERETO IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Sir, this parcel of land to be vested in the National Housing Corporation is land owned by the Crown. It is land which previously consisted of seven small parcels. Five of those parcels of land had been acquired as part of the acquisitions for the Bridgetown Bypass Project. This property in question is on the same side of St. Leonard Church and the Passage Road/Baxters Road/Westbury Road junction. Two of those parcels were acquired directly from private individuals. Those matters were passed before this Parliament during the course of last year and early this year. It is now proposed to complete that process by vesting that parcel of land in the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, as you are aware, that local had been used, sometime ago, for the construction of a number of model houses by the National Housing Corporation. Those houses, having served their purpose as model houses, have since then been rented with the purpose of being sold when the land is fully vested in the National Housing Corporation, and the Corporation would then be in position to provide a proper title of the land to the purchasers. The occupants who are currently there, will, indeed, have the opportunity to purchase.

H139 10: 40 a.m.

Sequence 4

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

House 139, Sequence 05, 10.40 a.m.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: The occupants who are currently there will have the opportunity to purchase. Therefore, this step is essential in the completion of this process, which has already seen Parliamentary action, at the stage of the acquisition of the land.

Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution relating to the vesting of these seven parcels of land in the National Housing Corporation do now pass.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP.225 THE VESTING IN THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OF PARCELS OF CROWN LANDS SITUATE AT WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This Resolution is an important part of Barbados' obligations, under the Agreement between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Barbados. This matter, though a simple one, is very much rooted in the strategy of the Government of Barbados to continue to enhance its position as a location for various headquarters.

It is the very clear policy of this Government that we will pursue a programme, which will enable Barbados to be the location of choice for regional inter-government organisations and international agencies servicing the region, as well as for headquarters of companies.

In the case of the latter, headquarters of companies, would not require action such as this. However, our very attractive fiscal and regulatory framework, by way of an exciting Corporate Tax structure and legislation that is modern, such as a good Companies Act, insolvency legislation, fair competition and other appropriate legislation, as well as Government institutions, which functions in a rather efficient manner are really all that are required in terms of Government's action, on the private sector side.

Sir, in terms of international agencies, as you would be aware, there is a programme within the Caribbean community for greater functional corporations. Sir, for a long time, there has been well-established agencies, such as the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Development Bank, the West Indies Cricket Board, and other regional intergovernmental type bodies, which had their presence in one of the Caribbean countries.

For example, the CARICOM Secretariat is Headquartered in Guyana. There is a small office here housing the CSME, as well as the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM). We have the University of the West

Indies in four principal locations, as well as having smaller offices in the non campus territories. We have other regional institutions such as CARDI Headquartered in Trinidad, and we could go on, Sir.

We will from time to time, as we reach an even closer stage of integration, have other new institutions of regional significance being formed. Indeed, Sir, within the last two to three years, we had CROSQ, which is the CARICOM Regional Organisation of Standards and Quality being created and Headquartered in Barbados. This institution provides, on a regional basis, the similar type of services that the Barbados National Standards Institution does for Barbados.

Indeed, Sir, regional institutions of this character are fundamental to the smooth operation of the Caribbean Community. They are essential for not only the conduct of intergovernmental business but if we are to build a regional private sector and have a single economic space, as well as a single social space so that ordinary citizens, who are not involved in business, or in high governmental matters, can also feel that there is one community, which is for them and for all.

Therefore, what the Government undertakes to do is to provide significant and sufficient support for regional organisations located in Barbados, such that they will find Barbados to be attractive and once they are located here, they will be able to get on with the important work, which they have to undertake in the regional community. Sir, I believe that the experience of the Caribbean Development Bank over its many years in Barbados has been very positive for them and, indeed, positive for us.

The Caribbean Development Bank is perhaps the single largest provider of development finance to Barbados and countries in the region. It is, as well, Sir, one of the repositories of learning, repositories of experience, repositories of expertise, and provides great opportunity for Caribbean nationals, who have been outstanding scholars and professionals in their fields to contribute to the development of this region. It has been an institution of which we can be extremely proud, as Caribbean people.

The Caribbean Development Bank has been the source of finance for a range of education initiatives, for example, helping us to build schools in the 1980s. It has provided finance in the areas of health, infrastructure and business development. Indeed, Sir, for those OECS countries that are not members of some of the larger hemispheric institutions, for example, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank has been a conduit for funds. It sources its funds through IADB and the World Bank, but largely on the international capital markets. Sir, those funds, using the Caribbean Development Bank as an intermediary, are disbursed to even the smallest of Caribbean economies and societies.

Therefore, the action to support the Caribbean Development Bank, by way of making additional land available for their expansion, Sir, fits naturally within the context of the Government's programme and strategy for continuing to position itself as an attractive location for headquarters of various sorts in the region.

Sir, this Caribbean Development Bank, we should note, has an extremely outstanding credit rating. I believe it has a triple A credit rating and that is no mean achievement for a regional development bank. Indeed, there was a time when there were persons around the world, who held the view that the time for regional and national development banks had passed.

House 139, Sequence 05, 10:50:14

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a credit to the various presidents, the staff of the bank and indeed the governments from which the governors are chosen... Usually in the case of Barbados, either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Economic Affairs is the governor for Barbados. Sir, the permanent secretaries in that ministry would be on the board of directors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in an age where commercial financing is one of the key sources for middle to high income countries and institutions to raise finance, they have recognised, just as this country of Barbados has recognised, that it is critical to maintain that rating. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Caribbean Development Bank, which would be providing land for the expansion, has been able to go on the international capital markets in the United States of America, Europe and wherever and attract financing. Sir, their bond issues are always oversubscribed. In other words, Sir, there is a high level of confidence in the international financial community in our regional development bank.

Sir, the Caribbean Development Bank has been able to marry its twin objectives of being a sound financial

institution as well as being an institution for social and economic development in the Caribbean region. Sir, that is no easy task.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there will be projects, which on social grounds, are worthy of financing, but which would be highly risky on financial grounds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, due to the fact that the experts, who appraise these projects, who work with the Government and other agencies in preparing the proposals and in managing the implementation of the project, are local and regional people, they bring a higher level of understanding of the needs of the region, they are able to show an empathy, they are able to understand the culture and the structure and they may even personally know the players involved. Sir, that local and regional knowledge has been able to distinguish the Caribbean Development Bank as a premier financial institution from the experience that we have sometimes with other international agencies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, an expert coming from the World Bank or some other global body, who was born in any country of the world, for example, Estonia, trained in France, lived in the United States of America, would only know as much about the Caribbean as what he might have seen on CNN or might have read in his brief while on the aeroplane coming to the region. Sir, although he might be an expert in his field, a fantastic engineer, a fantastic education specialist or a fantastic finance man, he would only have a snapshot view of the project that he is appraising or the sector that he is analysing. Therefore, he might not be in the best position to adequately appraise what is on the ground or to adequately make prescriptions in terms of what are the best structure, whether institutional or physical, that are to be used to address the particular issue. Therefore, against that background, support for our regional institutions, staffed by our regional experts, our kith and kin, is what a Government, and indeed this Government of Barbados, is extremely happy to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I make that point, by way of introduction, to say that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, in addition to the individual ministries based on sector, plays a key role, on a day by day basis, in working with these many institutions which are located in Barbados to provide service and support either for Barbados or for the subregion.

Sir, in some cases, the Government of Barbados is required to provide support by way of office space or by way of land on which the agencies do their own construction. Indeed, one of the projects of which I am personally very proud is the UN house.

Sir, this Administration made a decision to move to one single location, the United Nation offices in Barbados,

we have UNICEF, the UNDP and UNIFEM, and we have allied agencies, the World Health Organisation and PAHO - which is affiliated through the World Health Organisation - and the like, which were located not only in disparate locations but sometimes in locations not befitting their status as international organisations. Sir, with such space and other facilities provided, they would be able not only to service their clients but also to benefit from the synergies through common services.

Sir, as a result, where several of the services would have to be replicated in each location in which the UN agencies were located, they were able to pool together and benefit. Sir, you know the saying, the whole is worth more than the sum of the part, that is what synergy is about. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been able to raise the profile of Barbados and signal our seriousness and our commitment as a member of the family of nations. Therefore, it was no small matter that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, came to Barbados to inaugurate that facility because he too recognised its strategic importance and the important role which the Government had played in making that facility available in support of the United Nations.

Sir, we have as well the example of the Caribbean Examination Council, an important regional institution, which provide examination services and by extension education standard setting services. Sir, it is not an accreditation for other parties, but by way of offering regional examinations, it provides an opportunity for students across the region to obtain qualifications which are known and recognised in the region.

Sir, it is to the credit of the Caribbean Examination Council, another institution for which the Government of Barbados, in terms of headquarters agreement, has to provide land and offices in order to facilitate it, as we are doing with the Caribbean Development Bank. Sir, they have been able to provide Caribbean students with certification that is respected worldwide because of the high standard at which it is pitched.

Sir, in the case of the Caribbean Development Bank, we have an obligation to provide accommodation for the Caribbean Examination Council. Mr. Deputy Speaker, CXC has been most accommodating with us, because there has been some challenges with that accommodation. Indeed, the early location which they had was one of the historic buildings around the Garrison Savannah. Those buildings are magnificent parts of our architectural heritage and we have sought to modernise them in such a manner as would maintain the architectural heritage integrity, but they would have all the modern features.

Sir, a successful example in that regard would be the offices of the Town and Country Planning Department.

They have been completely redone with all the modern facilities, good computer network, much of their work is done online, but they are in an historic building. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Caribbean Examination Council not only outgrew that location, but there were also some issues relating to dampness in the basement and some other issues which caused, the Government of Barbados, to have to provide alternative space for CXC in several locations. Indeed, Sir, it has not been the best arrangement in all cases because rather than being in a single location they have departments spread around in several locations. However, Sir, just as we are providing additional space for the Caribbean Development Bank, we have come to an agreement, we have did that some time ago, on a new location for the Caribbean Examination Council headquarters.

House 139 Sequence 6

11.00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that location is to be along the Pine North/South Road, just off Collymore Rock. It is in the area which persons might best know as being part of the former Pine Agricultural Compound. It is in that section nearest to the former Gertz Supermarket, near Peasons Pharmacy, where the Ministry of Public Work and Transport has offices on that compound.

That project is to be constructed and financed by the National Insurance Board, as part of this investment strategy. The Board will finance, construct and operate the facility, and the Government of Barbados will pay the lease cost, so that the C.X.C. will be able to function in a single location, for the storage of examination papers, for its other administrative functions and for all fit and proper purposes, that are essential for the operation of this Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the management and staff of C.X.C. for working with us, as we work through this transition phase. They have been working very closely on the design of the building and are aware of where we are, at every stage, but they have been moving around to different temporary locations, while we are putting this final permanent location very much in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this would also be the case with a number of other entities, which we have attracted to Barbados. We propose to do all that is necessary, pursuant to Headquarters Agreements. Indeed, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would have intimated, from time to time, under some of these Headquarters Agreements, there are various diplomatic immunities, rights, privileges and

immunities, in accordance with both national law and regional agreement. Again, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs works very closely with the agencies in that regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this action here with the Caribbean Development Bank, though specific to it in terms of this Resolution, is within the framework of Barbados' policy commitment to attracting headquarters, organisations and companies, and specifically within the context of the Headquarters Agreement, between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Barbados. Sir, the land on which the Caribbean Development Bank presently stands at Wildey, St. Michael, is land that would have been acquired some time during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. These are parcels of lands that would have been acquired from a number of estates, including that of Wildey.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over time, Government would have acquired these parcels of land, that are located near the Gymnasium, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Pine Housing Area and Wildey Housing Area. Sir, Government, over the process of time, would have totally transformed land in that area. Indeed, when you look carefully, it would have been specific, carefully planned Government activity, over a span of 30 to 40 years, which would have seen these various changes coming to fruition.

The Caribbean Development Bank has been located at Wildey, for many years now. It has, however, begun to outgrow those premises. There is a vacant portion of land, located east of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and northwest of the Caribbean Development Bank. It is our judgement that this land would be best utilised now, by vesting it in the Caribbean Development Bank, to allow that bank to expand and to fulfil this important mission and mandate that it has for the development of this region.

Sir, even if there were no Headquarters Agreement nor obligations in place, based on what I should say is an outstanding record of achievement and contribution to the development of Barbadian society; based on its outstanding record of achievement in building our neighbours in the Caribbean, who are members of the bank; based on its outstanding record as an indigenous regional institution, that has been able to attract international donor and contributor funds....Sir, you must remember that there are non-borrowing members of the Caribbean Development Bank, such as France, who pulled out some time ago, the European Union, China, among others, that are non-borrowing contributors to the Caribbean Development Bank. Some of the entities contribute to the to the general pool, while others contribute to the specific areas, for example, where there is overseas development assistance, they would prefer to have that contribution placed.

Furthermore, countries do not put their monies into dysfunctional institutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to its credit, I do not recall any scandal involving the Caribbean Development Bank. Sir, I do not want to be invidious and to speak to other regional development banks that have had problems of that nature, but based on its outstanding record of being able to attract international commercial capital, the Government would be happy to provide this land, in support of its expansion.

Sir, this is not just a matter where we are either routinely or unwillingly satisfying a headquarters obligation, that only provides a framework and a conduit but on its own merit, the Caribbean Development Bank is worthy of this Parliamentary support and action, in furtherance of this particular mandate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want to urge this Parliament to approve the provision of this additional 1.5 acres of land, which is directly next to the existing property provided by this Government, at an earlier stage. I would wish to gave the Caribbean Development Bank the assurance that where additional lands are required, even if those lands are not immediately adjacent, that the Government of Barbados would be happy to supply its support, as it has for the United Nations and other regional institutions. Government would be happy to continue providing to any new regional institutions, which would be created and which would be interested in coming to Barbados. Sir, Barbados pays rents or provide space in buildings that are owned by Government, for other institutions, and that is a programme and a strategy of which I am very pleased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move this Resolution to vest Crowns land in the Caribbean Development Bank, to facilitate its expansion, do now pass.

Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I listened with interest to the Minister. Sir, one would have expected, when we look at these arrangements, that the Minister would have mentioned the arrangements which we had with the West Indies Cricket Board and with LIAT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my reason for mentioning this is that we have already those very words by the Minister, prior to the exit of both LIAT and the West Indies Cricket Board from Barbados. We were told, as a people, that we had to do these things, to keep these entities within our borders, only for us to realise afterwards that they have relocated to Antigua. Sir, following that, therefore, the assumption could be made that we could easily expect that the Caribbean Development Bank might be looking to

leave and that the Minister is offering them land, in order to keep them here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that is true, I would hope that the Minister would level with this House. Sir, considering the experiences we had previously, we are now here playing football with this issue, when we have a rather serious issue with which to deal.

11.10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: . . .

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is grossly misleading this House. He is in a good-natured mood this morning and if it were not so serious, it could be taken as a joke. Sir, we cannot, with an issue as serious and fundamental as the Caribbean Development Bank, even by way of levity, suggest that the Caribbean Development Bank is planning to leave and that the Government is trying to hold them here.

Sir, there has been no such proposal, no such contemplation on the part of the Bank because the Governors of the Bank are members of Government and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is a Governor of the bank and there has been no discussion with her. The Permanent Secretary of Economics Affairs is also a director of the bank and there was no discussion there. We have members of staff in the hierarchy of the bank and there was not discussion with them. I really think it is most unfortunate for the Honourable Member to seek to introduce an air of uncertainty and doubt.

Sir, the Government is not seeking to bribe anybody to stay because the bank has been after Barbados for this land to facilitate its expansion, the bank is happy to expand in Barbados and we are happy to provide the facility for the expansion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member has to be more responsible and not seek to create doubt and confusion where none exists because this is not the Democratic Labour Party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Lucy, please proceed.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very grateful for this intervention from the senior Minister. Sir, I mean senior not by position but senior in terms of longevity. The Honourable Member has said to this House in no uncertain terms that the CBD was seeking this land from the Government for a long time. I believe the

Honourable Member is speaking about 13 years and one would have to ask why it is taking the Minister so long...

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, I have said that the Caribbean Development Bank has been after the Government for this land. I did not say for a long time. Sir, there was an interest in this land and the Government is not throwing land at the Caribbean Development Bank that it does not want.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Lucy, please proceed.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member said that Caribbean Development Bank can offer expertise to the Caribbean Governments and to the Government of Barbados. Sir, I want to make the point that I have reservations over the expertise and advice coming out of Caribbean Development Bank because, I was in the sugar industry in 1982, when the Caribbean Development Bank lent the sugar industry US\$3 million and because of the expertise within the Caribbean Development Bank, there were able to force a dying industry to repay a loan in Japanese yens that they lent in U.S. dollars. Sir, I challenge anybody to deny that. This meant that when the sugar industry repaid the principal amount of \$6 million, that they still had the loan to pay. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West would understand what I am saying because he understands floating currency.

Sir, if this is the expertise that you speak about, I want to know if Caribbean Development Bank is still operating because when it was formed in the 60s, it was supposed to protect Caribbean countries and look after the interest of Caribbean countries but, it seems to me that we have a problem within the Caribbean region where we set up entities to look after the local interest but now they are more globalised than anything else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am making the point that the people, who we have empowered to run Caribbean Development Bank must understand that they have to look after the interest of Caribbean countries first. It is clear to me that they are not looking after the interest of the Caribbean countries but are looking after the interest of external financiers. This is why they are quick to tell you that if you borrow a loan from them, that the workers cannot be sourced locally, that because China or some other country is associated with Caribbean Development Bank, the workers that come from China, Timbaktu or somewhere just because they are financing Caribbean Development Bank and because of that financing association the local people who set up the bank cannot now get work from within the bank but the persons who are

providing the finance, even though the loan has to be repaid, say that the workers can be sourced externally.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Caribbean Development Bank was set up, it was set up to look after the interest of the people of the Caribbean but, all of a sudden, we are now caught up in this globalised approach and localisation is not important anymore. Sir, we are now 'bigshots', looking after the external interest of everybody and we are not protecting the interest of those countries that we have been set up to look after.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is the same thing with the West Indies Cricket Board. Sir, the West Indies Cricket Board now seems to be more interested in ICC and GCC than anything else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member just stick to the Resolution.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot hear the aside coming from the Honourable Member for St. James Central. He said that this House is not about fact or logic and that the speech which I am delivering is inappropriate for this House.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is wilfully misleading the House because I did not speak and if I had spoken, I would not have allowed myself to say anything like that. Sir, if he wishes to speak about fact and logic, then I would only say that he is at variance with both.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Member because what he interprets as facts and logic cannot be true. I have heard him made many speeches on political platforms, which he had to withdraw.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please get back to the Resolution, which is before the House.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to be very careful that we are not now setting up institutions within the Caribbean that are not operating in the interest of the people of the Caribbean. Sir, we would not want for the Caribbean Development Bank to find itself in the same position as many other organisations. We can understand the OECD behaving like this; we can understand the WTO and many other organisations behaving like this but one thing we will not appreciate is for us to set up local organisation and then they act against us because, at the end of the day, whether they provide these loans for us or not, we have to repay the loans. Sir, the best way we can repay these loans, and maximise the benefits of them is by ensuring that the workers of the area

are able to earn and keep some of the foreign exchange that has been generated from the loans within the economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are borrowing the loans and then exporting the loans through wages, it does not serve the best interest of this country. Sir, we are making this point because too many people do not understand the important of retention of foreign exchange.

H139/11:20

Sequence 8

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: They believe that once they receive this foreign exchange, they can be dictated to. Sir, I am saying that as independent countries, we set up the Caribbean Development Bank to act as an independent organisation on behalf of the people of the Caribbean, not to be caught up in all of this globalisation approach. Sir, we have to practise localisation first, before we believe we can venture out and be caught up with the globalisation approach, looking after the interest of the external financiers, without first finding out who are the investors. I am saying that the Caribbean Development Bank has to understand its mandate. The Directors also have to understand who is responsible for their mandate, because they are attending these meetings, it does not mean that they must follow the directions of the external sources, but must first represent the interest of the Caribbean people.

Sir, too often, we empower these organisations and then they forget who are paying the bills. I am saying that if we ignore this point, we would suffer. You find that those who operate the OECD, IMF, the WTO, and even other organisations, when you check their decisions, they always look after the persons who set them up.

Sir, it seems to me that in the Caribbean, we must have a different approach. We ignore who set us up and for whom we are supposed to be operating, and play up to those we want to be friends with. I am saying that it is not about that, it is about looking after the interest of the people of the Caribbean creating a better Caribbean. Sir, if the Government is happy with the arrangement, it is up to them, because at the end of the day, if they are the ones who have to repay the loans and they are happy to find that all the benefits are given externally and nothing is kept internally, that is a matter for them also. I am saying from this side, we are seeking to maximise the benefit, coming out of everything, related to Caribbean Development Bank, the financing and so on, for the people of the Caribbean. If the other side believes that it better to serve external interest, we do not have a quarrel, that is their mandate, but they should not expect us to come in here, rubberstamp this approach and feel happy about it.

Sir, we are saying that the Directors and senior officials of the Caribbean Development Bank should understand that at the end of the day, when the money is borrowed, it has to be repaid by the people of the Caribbean, and they should be the beneficiaries.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I really did not intend to speak in this debate. I almost find it painful to do so. I believe that a very unfortunate attack has been made by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy on the Caribbean Development Bank. This Resolution was intended to be a simple Resolution to deal with the provision of land for the Caribbean Development Bank for its expansion. I am not sure if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy found himself in a very difficult but regular position of having nothing to say. Therefore, he went on to create a strawman and then lick it down. Sir, the truth is, the Caribbean Development Bank has been an agency for the good of development in this region; that fact is unassailable.

Sir, in our own circumstances, in this country, perhaps, because of the improvement in our economic circumstances, we have not had to rely on the bank as often as we did in the 1970s and 1980s, but even in this Government's life, the Caribbean Development Bank was one of the major co-financiers of the Harrison's Cave, EduTech, and would have assisted in financing a range of other projects. The reality is, however, while we have used them, for the most part, for economic activity, at a time when concessional funding is generally not available to Barbados, because the World Bank has graduated us...

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy should remember that the last major loan that this Government got from World Bank, not the HIV support regional loan - was a loan in which the Democratic Labour Party agreed that it would charge fees for all tertiary students, at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies. Those are the facts that exist in this Honourable House.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member knows that she is misleading the House. The Honourable Member cannot produce a document implying that anybody, on the Democratic Labour Party side, has signed to those fees. I think that should be withdrawn. It has been said before in this Honourable House, but nobody can produce the evidence indicating that the Democratic Labour Party has agreed to what the Honourable Member said previously, in this

House, that they were proposing. Sir, today, we are hearing that they have agreed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, proceed.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, once again, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy exhibits all the signs of a person, who is a product of a confused mind. The reality is, there was an aid memoir that was signed reflecting the status of negotiations. If my memory serves me correctly, it was signed by a Member of the Cabinet of the Democratic Labour Party, Senator the Honourable H.V.L. Lewis. Sir, I go further. The loan was constructed on those terms.

Sir, I was simply making the point, that Barbados does not have the benefit of being able to access a large amount of concessional funding, that is why we go to the capital markets. Sir, the Caribbean Development Bank is one of the few sources of concessional funding that we have. Sir, if we would pay a higher level of interest rate at the bank, we can invariably get the money at a cheaper cost, by borrowing it from the Caribbean Development Bank.

Sir, I want to go further. The role of that bank, in relation to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, is absolutely vital. The Caribbean Development Bank is the lifeline in terms of development funding for the OECS, because the OECS are not members of the Inter American Development Bank. Indeed, the relationship is such, that the Inter American Development Bank will usually partner with the Caribbean Development Bank, such that the Caribbean Development Bank can then structure loans for members of the OECS.

Sir, I believe that is a most unfortunate occurrence for the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to launch the kind of broadside on the Caribbean Development Bank, that he did, by suggesting that it only acts in the interest of its external members, the non borrowing member countries, like China, Germany and the United Kingdom. Sir, it is a fact that those countries have been able to mobilise significant funds for the benefit of on-lending to Caribbean States. Therefore, they are an equal player at the table. In no circumstances can this Parliament, in my view, let the record show that the Caribbean Development Bank ignores the interest of its borrowing countries at the expense of the non-borrowing countries. It is not true, and it is an unfortunate slur on the reputation of an institution, that has done so much to bring development to the people of the sub region in particular, but also the wider Caribbean region.

Sir, I want to say that while we may have issues in terms of how we feel that they can be more effective, and

the extent to which the Caribbean Development Bank needs to take a proactive approach on a few issues for the broader region, that must be seen as regional public goods, such as climate change and alternative energy, we are satisfied with the performance of the bank, and would wish to strongly continue our support of it, and to divide ourselves from the very unfortunate comments of the Democratic Labour Party, who seemed to be in the habit, now, of abusing, cursing and tearing down institutions. ...

11.30 a.m.

Sequence 9

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

House 139, Sequence 10, 11.30 a.m.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, last week it was the Central Bank. On Sunday night it was the social partnership, the civil society and the church. Today, it is now the Caribbean Commercial Bank (CDB). I wonder if this is not the sign and allegations coming from a desperate mind, and a desperate state in which the Democratic Labour Party finds itself.

Sir, I empathise with them but the Democratic Labour Party need not tear down every institution in Barbados to try and create a platform for themselves, because all they are succeeding in doing is turning that platform into a scaffold.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, like the last speaker, I did not plan to make any contribution in this debate but, certainly, I could not allow the view to go abroad that the Democratic Labour Party launched a broadside on the Caribbean Commercial Bank. The history is very clear in terms of who is responsible and whose brainchild the Caribbean Commercial Bank was, so the history will deal with that, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, given the vicissitudes of this period of time that we live in, many of the concerns that were raised by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, are worthy of some focus. I think that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is not questioning the contributions the Caribbean Commercial Bank has made, he is not questioning the fact that it is a wonderful idea and a wonderful institution but, maybe, we need to look at what really and truly were the founding principles of the CDB, and to what extent we are fulfilling that mandate.

Asides.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: It is not fumbling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the real issue and whether or not the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East wants to face it, the fact is that a lot of these funds coming from the non borrowing members, have conditions attached. Sir, we need to look carefully and see to what extent these conditions are in our interest, and to what extent are they in their interest.

The whole point of setting up the Caribbean Commercial Bank was to move away from the reliance on the North Atlantic organisations, but here it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we appear to be going around in circles and it needs to be discussed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is what we are saying.

Asides.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: I understand the Government is a little edgy now, so every time you put forward legitimate criticism in the interest of this Nation, and in this case the interest of the region, it is going to be misinterpreted, and sayings that, Oh, you are launching a broadside, you are pulling down and you are attacking. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are saying that this is still a democracy and this is a matter that we need to discuss.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it is appropriate that we look at exactly what is happening, with respect to a lot of the funds that are coming through the Caribbean Commercial Bank and the conditions that are attached. Sir, to what extent are local institutions and regional institutions benefiting from these activities? I understand non borrowing Members are going to want their professions, their company and even their labour - it has reached that stage now - to come in and supplant local labour and local expertise, but we need to look at this in a more mature manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that the Opposition has done anything wrong in merely asking a few questions and suggesting that we need to look at this thing carefully. The comments were not intended to pull down any institution, least of all an institution that we created. The intention was, Sir, that we can carefully look at it, and see the way forward, with respect to the Caribbean Commercial Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we would all want to see more Barbadians working at the Caribbean Commercial Bank. This is a very serious point and it is very unfortunate that no one wants to discuss this but, very often, when job opportunities open at the Caribbean Commercial Bank, you will find that the standard of

applicants whom you will get from Guyana or Jamaica, even Trinidad and Tobago, might be a bit higher than what you would get from Barbados.

The reality is that with the difference currencies, a permanent secretary from Guyana will apply for a job at the Caribbean Commercial Bank as a project officer, because it is in his interest, probably it would be a pay increase for him, but you are not going to get a permanent secretary here in Barbados going across at Caribbean Commercial Bank to work as a project officer.

Therefore, we find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we need to look at the opportunities for the Barbadians - through no fault of our own. I guess we are victims of our own success to some extent there, but these are some of the issues we can look at, Sir, to improve the relations that exist, with respect to the Caribbean Commercial Bank and the Barbadian community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we need to have a discussion, as well, some of those larger points that were made in here by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, so that we can go forward together in a fairly mature manner, recognising that the CDB is not perfect.

Sir, the remarks by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East trying to suggest that there is some attempt to make it a partisan issue, are really unfortunate as well. Sir, as a Governor of the Caribbean Commercial Bank, I do not know what benefit it could possibly bring to her, to the institution or to the Government, to suggest that the Democratic Labour Party is pulling down and tearing down and is opposed to the Caribbean Commercial Bank. Sir, nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the remarks that were being made from the Honourable Members on this side, are intended to improve the workings of the Caribbean Commercial Bank, and that needs to be made clear in this debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am much obliged to you.

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

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am relieved that the Honourable Member has taken his seat. I wish to lend my support to this Resolution, Sir, and would urge Honourable Members to do likewise and give their support to the measure before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Caribbean Commercial Bank is about to follow the lead of other regional institutions in the business of expansion. Sir, this should

not be an occasion for tearing down, as we are hearing from the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, but a matter for celebration and support.

We are seeing the evidence of regional growth and development, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all across Barbados. The University of the West Indies in a few short years has undergone much development, not only the physical development but the intellectual development, would be beyond the imagination. I do not think that five years ago, any Barbadian could have imagined driving along Cave Hill to see the development of the University as it exists today.

The Honourable Member who introduced this matter, made reference to the CXC. These are highly reputable, very important institutions in our region, and that Barbados should be the home and host to them, is a matter for us to lift up and not tear down in this Parliament.

It is very clear, Sir, whether the Honourable Members on the other side like it or not, that Barbados is set now to become, yet again, a major centre for the provision of services in the wider region. I am speaking now not only of the Caribbean community but the associate and wider membership within the Caribbean region.

House 139, Sequence 10, 11:40:14

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the 1930s, 1940s, and the 1950s, Barbados was the training centre for the Eastern Caribbean. The Regional Police Training Centre, which still exists today and which still accepts recruits from as far north as the Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Islands, was a major training unit. The Erdiston Teachers' Training College, where many of the teachers who taught all of us who sit in this Chamber today, I would dare to say, were trained, was also a major centre of training and a centre of excellence in the era of our fathers and grandfathers.

Sir, Codrington College, together with its counterpart in Sierra Leone, as offshore colleges - they did not call it that then but today we would say that - of Durham University, serviced this region in terms of offering tertiary education at a time when the average person outside of Barbados could not expect to go to a university in Britain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was a child, wherever you went in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Chief of Police was a Bajan, the Matron was a Bajan, the Chief Fire Officer was a Bajan and the Principal of the grammar school was a Bajan. Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, over the years, that has bred a certain element of not always good feeling.

Sir, as I was growing up, all of the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and beyond then started to put in place their own teaching and training centres. Mr. Deputy Speaker, now we are seeing, in the early years of the 21st Century, that Barbados is again in demand for training, but nowadays in new and innovative disciplines, as well as in some of the old disciplines which are now going, as the young people would say, to the next level. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a case where we do know where the next level lies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are now poised to be exporting our services in terms of training. Sir, a few weeks ago, the Premier of Bermuda was here. He was received by the Prime Minister of Barbados. Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it was a very busy day, I think it also might have been a Sitting day in this Chamber, it fell to me to entertain him to lunch. Sir, before lunch he had visited the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic where a number of students from Bermuda are trained on an annual basis. Sir, he was here, partly on a mission to see if it were possible for even more students, and in other disciplines, to be accepted at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College, which would soon be part of the University College of Barbados. That is part of the university expansion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we now have the university of Trinidad and Tobago, likewise in Jamaica. We sometimes forget there are universities of Guyana and Suriname. There is a whole network now of universities offering a very comprehensive range of studies, not only to Caribbean students but to students who come in, not to the traditional offshore institutions, but to our institutions, and it is a good thing too. Sir, living and working with Caribbean students are a number of international students.

Sir, the regional institutions bring with them many things. They bring the demand for a broad range of services, we have heard some referred to here. They want to live in nice homes. They want to employ the services of people who will do all kinds of things for them, gardeners, home helpers, baby sitters and drivers. They bring goods, capital and skills, and certainly, in the case of the Caribbean Development Bank, skills transfer, which is very important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a growing retirement community in this country not only of Barbadians like myself who are approaching the age of retirement, although that is a moveable feat... People do not really retire nowadays and go home and do nothing, people simply do something else.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: I have many options before me, Sir.

Within the retirement community in Barbados, there is a growing community of those persons who have come here to work for several years in regional institutions and for whom Barbados is the preferred retirement location. These people no longer rent, they buy houses and everything else that is required for making the retirement years comfortable and happy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the end of the day, perhaps more than anything else, the location of regional institutions, the likes of the Caribbean Development Bank, the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Examinations Council, and the dozen or so UN agencies now house at our UN house and several others beside, have raised the profile of Barbados in the international community, particularly highlighting Barbados as a preferred location to live, to do business and eventually to retire. Sir, this is no small thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are doing well as a services economy. I started to read late last night the business section of one of our major newspapers, I am still reading it, and there was some reference to the importance of the way in which services have taken off in this country. One article even suggested that Barbados was ahead of the rest of this hemisphere in terms of the way in which we have moved and accelerated services, particularly services pertaining to the new technologies, telecom and the like.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I too would like to say that I deprecate the negative spin - I cannot put it any lower than that without being unparliamentary - that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who should know better and should have set a better example for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, who felt that he had to get up and defend a grossly unfortunate statement, as the Deputy Prime Minister has put it. It really is unfortunate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we welcome the Caribbean Development Bank and the excellent work that it does. Sir, without wanting to be immodest - I think that someone has mentioned this in the debate, maybe it was the Honourable Member for Christ Church East when he introduced the matter - among development banks in the world, the Caribbean Development Bank stands tall.

House 139 Sequence 11

11.50 a.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. Dame BILLIE MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last thing we should be looking to do, at a time when the bank is now about to move to another phase, where it is about to enlarge and to enhance its mandate, would be to find negative things to say about it on the Floor of this Honourable House, it. It does not mean, as has been said, that it is above criticism, but these criticisms would have to be well-founded. Perhaps, if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is going to criticise an institution of this kind, then it would be better if the Honourable Member would bring some positive alternative, or some new or different idea, as to how best the Caribbean Development Bank would better the magnificent job which it is doing, in our region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would wish to give my support to this measure and would urge all Honourable Members to do likewise. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I too would want to endorse this Resolution, and to make the point that I believe the Caribbean Development Bank has made a significant contribution to the infrastructural development of Barbados and indeed the subregion, particularly the Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States. Sir, despite the fact there are a number of donor countries, which usually provide funding for a number of projects through the Caribbean Development Bank, these donor countries do not benefit from the concessionary loans provided by the Caribbean Development Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe there are persons at this institution, one of whom I can single out, Sir Neville Nicholls, former President, who has made a significant contribution. Sir Neville has not only guided this bank from its inception but has also set a stage for the bank to move forward to the next stage of its development.

Sir, it is true that throughout the years, the Caribbean Development Bank has contributed significantly to work undertaken by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, therefore, we would want to salute it. I would also hope that in the future, the loans now given to certain projects, would be done most expeditiously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe too, that in accessing financing from the various banks, some of the conditions set out could sometimes be very onerous. We would, therefore, want to ensure that these conditions set out, would meet the expectation of the people but all in all, I believe the bank has helped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to speak on another aspect of this Resolution. I believe the vesting of this land to the Caribbean Development Bank is a good thing. In fact, it started in my time, as Minister of Housing, when we were invited to the Caribbean Development Bank. Sir, if you would look at what is happening today, you would see

that the Caribbean Development Bank has grown in size. This bank has been on that location for many years, therefore, this 1.5 acres of land would not only help it to improve its physical structure but would also help to provide recreational facilities, as well as car parking facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is important that I look at the wider areas of the Pine/Wilkey/St. Barnabas. Sir, whereas, we have been focusing on the Warrens location, in recent times, we have not been carefully looking at what is happening, to the same extent, at Wilkey/Pine, but this area has actually taken off.

Sir, when you look at what is happening at the Pine/Wilkey area, you would see that a number of entities have sprung up there, over time. There is the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Embassy of the United States of America, the Pine Hill Dairy, Offices of the Attorney-General, Offices of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Ministry of Public Work and Transport, the Government Electrical and Engineering Department, and now the Caribbean Examinations Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this area is growing, to my mind, as fast as the Warrens area and therefore, over the next few months, we have to look at this development in a more strategic way. Sir, I believe more work has to be done, with regards to traffic management.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I think I have given you quite a lot of latitude but I would like you to concentrate on the Resolution before this Honourable House.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am concentrating on the Resolution but I am saying that along the Pine/Wilkey area, the traffic is growing at a tremendous pace, where we could have as much as 50 000 cars, on any one day. Sir, it is this area we intend to develop. We intend to develop the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic/Caribbean Development Bank Roundabout because we recognise there is a need to increase capacity within that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one has to be mindful of what has taken place over time in the general area of the Pine/Wilkey. Furthermore, with the number of buildings going up in that area, we have to be mindful of managing traffic. Sir, Government continues to vest land in the external agencies, we continue to look at how we could strategically place Government offices within the Wilkey area. In fact, Government owns land, from the Wilkey area, as far down as to the back of People's Cathedral. Sir, I understand the building, which is to house the Caribbean Examination Council, is far-advanced but there was a time

when we were talking about plans for a police station in the Wildey area. Sir, this is much needed because this area is expanding quite satisfactorily and therefore, to institute a police station in that area would be very wise.

Sir, one has to be mindful of what we are doing, in terms of managing the movement of vehicles. As I said, not only would we be relocating the lights at the Pine/East/West Junction, but we would be moving towards...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, how does that relate to the legislation before this Honourable House? You have really strayed. Could you please concentrate on to the Resolution before this Honourable House?

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make the point that Government, through the provision and facilitation of land, will not only seek to provide for the rental or vesting of land in these entities but we will provide the opportunity to increase capacity on the highway, in order to get to the various institutions.

Asides.

H:No.139 (12)12:00 noon.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: ...but we would provide the opportunity to increase capacity on the highway in order to get to the various institutions like the Caribbean Development Bank. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is why Caribbean Development Bank was asking for this land to increase their capacity at that site. Sir, I am aware that most of the land would be used for parking because, in recent times, most of the staff have their own vehicles and parking is a problem at Caribbean Development at this time. Sir, leading towards Caribbean Development Bank is a problem, Government is mindful of this and this is why you would see that in the last year or so we increased and improved capacity on the Collymore Rock Road; we have increased capacity on the Pine North/South Road and we are currently increasing capacity on the highway as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government is mindful of this and, therefore, we will continue to provide the opportunity to develop this entire area not only for Government building; not only for businesses in the area but also for the general public. Sir, as I have said before, this area is now growing just as satisfactory to us as the Warrens area and, Sir, I want to support this venture. There are a number of other vestings that the Ministry of Housing and Lands and I hope that in the next few months that a number of these parcels of lands, which would be vested in

a number of the institutions will continue to do so and at a more rapid pace.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to support this and hope that the provisions being made by Caribbean Development Bank can take place at this time, that the plans for development of this site will continue now that the land has been vested in them. Sir, I know they were waiting for this site and now that Parliament will approve this, the plans they had for the improvement to the structure, the car park and the recreational facility will continue and that we can see better development at that site in Wildey.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The the Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, I too would want to associate myself with this Resolution and I would want ever so briefly to also lend my voice in support of those who have spoken stridently against the very unfortunate and ill-conceived, ill-considered attack and slur on the Caribbean Development Bank.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have not heard anybody in this House make any slurs against the Caribbean Development Bank and I think that those remarks should be withdrawn from the records.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to avoid trying to reflect on the fact that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, by his own admission from that intervention does not listen to himself.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North made an excellent contribution in the context of the expansion of the land space of the bank. It is necessary to recognise that the work that the bank is doing now and that which it has been mandated to do in the short to medium term is going to require and even greater commitment in terms of space and flexibility for them to more adequately conduct their affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point has to be made to this House first of all that the conditions that the non-borrowing members of the bank lay down are not, by any stretch of the imagination, unusual. Sir, that submission has to be put in the context of understanding the times in which we live. The point has been made repeatedly made by the Honourable Member for the City that there is no new money. It has also to be understood that when we speak about the work that bank has to do today, that which is contemplated by the expansion of its mandate in the short term to medium term, we are going to understand that the bank cannot be about budgetary support only for member

States of this region but has to bring a very matured and focused approach based largely on project management and the feasibility of projects which are undertaken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say that it is a reality that we have to contend with in CARICOM, that small and vulnerable, though our economies are, there is an issue of governance that we have to look at in a collective way. Sir, the best and most effective approach to governance in this community is something that has to be placed on the front burner. Sir, to do so, requires not just governance to be seen in the context of the traditional day-by-day intervention but also the issue of financial management. We have to understand that parity and relationships between States cannot rest purely on lines of budgetary support but rather, that relationships have to mature and that there has to be built into the relationships an opportunity to build new markets, to exploit those markets, to build new industries and services and to be able to sell the products and skills across borders. Sir, that is what we are confronted with in the context of governance in a modern regional economy. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy must be educated on this point, if he does not understand it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the sad reality is that the history we have seen in the region is not one that can collectively make us hold our heads high and, Sir, that is to put it diplomatically. There are far many instances of financial mismanagement and there are far too many instances of member States of CARICOM, who have not paid sufficiently close attention to the best financial practices and prudential requirements of a modern era. Therefore, there is a reason why you continue to repose high level of confidence in an institution with a triple A rating like the Caribbean Development Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the issue has been raised in this House as to finding alternatives. We have to understand that as a first requirement, before you can go anywhere in the world to ask anybody to lend this region or to support the Caribbean Development Bank as being the fund manager for a regional development fund, you have, as a first stop, to be able to say to the rest of the world, we recognise that there is a responsibility on our part to rise to that level of maturity to which I have just spoken. There has to be a responsibility on our part to understand that if we are seeking to build a regional fund - as the Caribbean Development Bank would now be required to work with us in doing as part of its expanded mandate - then as part of that first responsibility, we have, as member States of the Caribbean, to be prepared to ensure that there is full transparency built into the process of managing the fund. Sir, that means that it cannot be a situation in which the fund is simply about giving a little budgetary support and grant money to any and everybody who comes calling and, Sir, that is a reality.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the way in which you build in the transparency is to use your premier financial institution in the region as the standard bearer, when you go to the rest of the world.

H139/12:10

Sequence 13

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, you have to be able to say to the rest of world, behind the face of the financial institution, known as the CDB, that we in CARICOM have been able to put together as a first tranche, a sum of approximately US\$120 million, and we ask you to partner within a developmental way, not just to give us money, but to partner with us on specific types of intervention.

Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy had been inclined, before he castigated the bank, to understand the context in which the bank is now being ask to expand its mandate, and had gone to Article 157 of the Revised Treaty, he would have seen, at great length, all of the types of intervention, which are contemplated, and which the bank is going to be asked to supervise and to help us manage as we expand.

Asides.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, you would have things that are contemplated in the transmutation of the regional economy, the issue of assistance to establish and upgrade national standardising bodies. It is to the undying credit of he, who led this Bill, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, that he gave the analogy of CROSQUE, that is the premier standardising body across this region.

Sir, the economy of the Caribbean will never be able to perform competitively if we, at first port of call in this region, cannot say to the rest of the world, this has met an adequate standard. Your ice-cream product cannot be sold in the United Kingdom, because the United Kingdom and Europe are telling you, that you fall below a certain standard. Sir, your beer cannot be sold because they tell you it falls below a certain standard. Mr. Deputy Speaker, for every commodity, these days, there is a standard which is applied. It is a best practice in industry. I went through this at great pains last week in this Honourable House, speaking about the market of the United States of America. If we are going to sell to the rest of the world, that which we produce, then the first thing we have to do is to make sure we have the capacity to, (a), set a standard, (b), monitor that standard and (c) ensure, across the board standard is maintained and tested.

Sir, another intervention which is contemplated, under Article 157, in the Revised Treaty, is the professional assistance in meeting obligations under trade related agreements. Sir, you have to understand that you enter a trade agreement, but there are obligations which are cast upon you to do certain things with your law.

Sir, it is a difficult thing to find the numbers of legal draftsmen that we need across this region. The only way you will attract them is if you have the financial resources in place to set up special projects and facilities for these men and women to work with. The bank will be part of the way in which we source these people, via the remunerative packages that we offer them. Sir, again, you are going to have issues like customs facilitation, and the list goes on.

Sir, the point also has to be made that you are asked to contemplate, in a very serious way, the accessing of technology, including information technology. I want to pause at this point, because I am not going to tutor the Honourable Member for St. Lucy on the Treaty. He can read it for himself.

Sir, the point is, if we are going to talk about a competitive regional economy, the Caribbean Development Bank is that port of first call, along with institutions like CARICAD, which are going to be called upon, to help us build a new commercial platform across this region. Let us not pretend that we can live in the dark ages. The global economy is now an e-commerce economy. The Caribbean region has not yet built an e-commerce platform for itself, so, we are in danger of being overtaken by the times.

Sir, you cannot stand in the sovereign parliamentary Chamber of Barbados, and take great pleasure in being in splendid isolation, tearing down the institution which ultimately is going to be charged with leading the cause, on behalf of this region. That is what we heard today. That is what we were treated to today, the tearing down of the institution, which will be charged with leading the cause for the development of this region, in information technology and several other areas.

I want to say, as well, that in the short to medium-term, one of the things that we have to look at with the Caribbean Development Bank, is its role in ensuring that disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors, as contemplated under the Revised Treaty, that its role is carried out meaningfully and impactfully.

Sir, the Treaty contemplates that from the operation of the Single Market and Economy, there will be countries, and we could already sit and think of them, places like Dominica and Haiti, for argument sake, which may, potentially, have some negative fallout by way of investment from the operationalisation of the Treaty. Equally, there have been places like Barbados, because of

our comparative advantage, may more likely do well as a result, do not mind that every ill imaginable is foisted under the Single Market and Economy by the Opposition. Sir, the reality is, if you look at projects, places like Barbados would do far better as a result of the operationalisation of the Treaty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a fashionable thing nowadays, for those on that side, when they are out enjoying or polluting the night breeze - you could pick whichever you prefer - that on a Sunday night, in particular, they are out there keeping noise, lambasting the Single Market and Economy exercise, for that which it is not responsible.

Sir, all of a sudden, the free movement of people, in a situation where you have to be a skilled CARICOM national, and, therefore, get a skill certificate to prove that you are a skilled national, and you must, therefore, be moving in accordance with the rule of law that movement of people is leading to illegal immigrants to Barbados. That is what is coming from their platform.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I have followed all of those meetings, and the only workers I mentioned, are the Chinese workers. To the best of my knowledge, they are not part of CARICOM. If the Honourable Member is now saying that China is part of CARICOM, I will give way, Sir.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, he speaks within the limits of his capacity, and I forgive him. He speaks within the narrow confines of his capacity. Fortunately, for this Chamber, he is a phenomenon unique to the Democratic Labour Party and completely unexportable.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House, because he was speaking about the time he spent within the Democratic Labour Party, but now the Party has changed, so the Honourable Member cannot speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I was speaking to the way in which aspects of the operations of the Treaty might positively or negatively impact on member States. The fact of the matter is, if you look at the way in which our economies are built out in small islands, largely, you will find that when you get pass disadvantaged countries and you come to disadvantaged regions and sectors, very often one is the same as the other. I think that Professor Havlot Brewster has written extensively on this point. Sir, you may have an agricultural industry, but in large measure it is

an agricultural sector of your island and your island's economy.

Sir, we cannot just willy-nilly castigate and tear down the bank, because the bank has been charged with playing a constructionist role. The bank has been asked to look at the Regional Development Agency. Nowhere within the four corners of the Revised Treaty will you find any reference being made to a development agency.

Sir, technocracts, when I say technocracts, I mean practising economists, and I take the opportunity to add, not purely for political purposes, led by the premier economist in this region, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter - have identified that a development agency would be necessary. Sir, the Caribbean Development Bank, has identified because of its extensive role in developmental matters ...

Asides.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: As soon as you start to deal with serious matters, it agitates them.

Sir, because of the Caribbean Development Bank's extensive role in developmental matters, its experience in doing things like conducting feasibility studies, analysing and implementing projects in a focused and serious way, you need to have an agency where people will go to work twenty-four hours a day...

12.20 p.m.

Sequence 14

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

House 139, Sequence 15, 12.20 p.m.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Sir, you need to have an agency where people would go to work 24-hours a day and they will be able to target, in a very critical way, those sectors and industries, across the economies - first of all - of the lesser developed countries in CARICOM, that need the kind of assistance of a technical nature and a financial nature, to get them up and going again.

Sir, this is nothing that is unprecedented because Europe did the same thing and it would have been remiss of us, not to understand that as we build out a new economy for the people of Barbados to do what they will, we are building a new opportunity for the people of Barbados, unprecedented economic opportunity.

Sir, never before did I have, as a matter of right, the opportunity to go and set up my shingle in Trinidad and Tobago or in Antigua. Sir, I have that right today and I can

move with, not only my spouse, but the technical people, who help to make my business work. Sir, the important thing is that it is an economic opportunity. The point is, Sir, that arising from that economic opportunity, we are saying that there may be a tendency for people to want to invest in the most competitive economy in the Caribbean, i.e., Barbados, and they may not be so keen on investing elsewhere.

Sir, how do we make them want to invest elsewhere, so that we achieve a parity across the board? Sir, that is done by making sure that an agency, such as the Regional Development Agency, is placed within the operation of the Bank, so that you have technocratic people, specialists in the area, working on a 24-hour basis, making sure that you can build out new capacities, new industries, and new sectors, in economies that would otherwise be negatively affected by the operations of the Treaty. Sir, that is the short-term mandate to medium-term mandate of the Caribbean Development Bank.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in that context, that excellent work which is contemplated by the Caribbean Commercial Bank will require more staff. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central raised an interesting point. We could argue that they should have more Barbadian staff. I have no quarrel with that but let us understand it is a regional institution. I am not sure to what extent we do the regional institutions any good. I heard this about West Indies' cricket as well, that it should be all Trinidadians, it should be all Antiguan, it should be mostly Kittisians, it should be mostly Nevisians, it should be mostly Bajans, but it is a regional institution.

I am not so concerned with that, as I am concerned about the competence and capacity of those who will work. I think that might be where we may be best advised to go and that is just my personal judgment but I have another personal judgment that I want to leave with you, Sir, before I sit and it is this, Sir.

The excellent work that was contemplated when the Bank was started was alluded to in this Chamber. There is nobody in my view, who could detract from the view that the Caribbean Development Bank has been a success story thus far. Sir, no institution is pristine and perfect. The fact that we repose so much confidence in it, the fact that China, the European Union, the United States of America and Canada contemplate working with us to build a Regional Development Fund, but will do so on the condition that the Fund would be managed by the Bank and not just be put in everybody's pocket, then, Sir, suggests to me that there is a great respect out there for the Bank.

Sir, let us not do ourselves that which the neocolonists would have wanted us to do. Let us not destroy that which the hard-working black people of the

region built. Let us pause, Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, for thought and reflection to the extent that we are capable of that. Sir, let us not destroy that which we have toiled long and hard in the vineyards to build.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is becoming an unhappy creature of precedent because I have sat in this Chamber and listened to the Central Bank of Barbados, castigated in similar terms. I have sat, Sir, and saw a fiscal policy, by way of value-added Tax (VAT) created, so that inefficiency, leakage, and massive abuse in our domestic tax structure could be corrected, something that was the brainchild of people on both sides, Sir, castigated in this Chamber.

I have sat, Sir, in this Chamber and I heard CARICOM, where we were carried as a country by Sir Lloyd Sandiford, then Prime Minister of Barbados under a Democratic Labour Party, castigated in this Chamber. Sir, the question I ask as I take my seat is this. When will the new Democratic Labour Party stop dismantling all that it had a hand in building?

Sir, I thank you for all of your indulgence.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

Hon. Dame B.A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House be now suspended until 1.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

House 139, Sequence 15, 12:26:33

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER No. 13

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF A LEASE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 OF A PARCEL OF LAND,

THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN,

AT SAINT LAWRENCE GAP, CHRIST CHURCH IN
THIS ISLAND

TO SAPPHIRE INC.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter of the lease of land at St. Lawrence Gap to Sapphire Inc. is part of a matter which had engaged this Parliament's attention on a previous occasion. As you would recall, Sir, with the construction of the Sherbourne Conference Centre - this site, as part of the Dover Convention Centre site - the continued operation of the Dover Convention Centre represented some level of redundancy, an excess capacity in terms of conferencing facilities. therefore, the Government made a decision that that beach side property would be better utilised for tourism purposes in terms of accommodation.

House 139A Seq 3

Sir, there are two lots, one on which the proposed hotel is to be constructed, which had been the subject of the vesting in HRL and its partners some time previously by the Parliament, which is some 5 730 square metres, and the other lot which is on the seaside of the property is some 1 809 square metres.

Sir, this current Resolution relating to the 1 809 square metres is the subject of today's parliamentary resolution. As indicated, Sir, this particular lease under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Chapter 225 is an area which is really not to have any substantial developments. Sir, because it is toward the seaside of the property, it would allow the operator of the hotel to have access to it. However, the terms and conditions of the lease are such that they are not permitted to do any construction or erection of boundaries, fences, hedges or other things without the permission not only of the Town Planner but of the Crown. In other words, Sir, they are not in a position to restrict, reduce or otherwise alter access of the public to the 1 809 square metres in question.

Sir, one of the things that we sought to do was to ensure that the development work, which has been undertaken just adjacent to that property at the Dover Convention site, operated by the National Conservation Commission, where kiosks for sale persons have been constructed; where a lovely promenade has been constructed; where the opportunity and the experience for Barbadians attending the beach has been greatly enhanced by the provision of changing facilities and bathroom facilities; where the area is used as a centre for night time entertainment has been greatly enhanced...

In fact, I have gone, Sir, as I am sure you have, to Karaoke operated by one of the small business persons in the area sometime ago. One could go there at night for a meal or for a drink. During the day they have a pleasant beach experience in comfort and in safety.

Sir, this area to be leased next door to that property which has been developed as essentially a public park by the Government of Barbados is also to be accessible to the wider public as well as to the guests and the residents of the hotel which would be operating from the former Dover Convention Centre site. Indeed, we see the continued development of this St. Lawrence Gap area by way of making this land available for development in this way to be a critical part of tourism. Indeed, I am not here to speak for the Minister of Tourism but it is plain for all to see that the Government's tremendous investment in the infrastructure in the St. Lawrence Gap area has led to a major renaissance in the fortunes of The Gap.

Sir, I have been going to St. Lawrence Gap on a continuous basis from around 1979/80. Sir, I knew St. Lawrence Gap when St. Lawrence Gap was largely a residential gap with one or two hotels in between. Sir, you know the area even before me. As a matter of fact, you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was born in that area and you know St. Lawrence Gap and the swamp, both the big Graeme Hall swamp and the little swamp, and your entire family would be intimately attached and involved to St. Lawrence Gap. Sir, I am sure that you are pleased at the way certain developments and certain investments have been made by the Crown in St. Lawrence Gap.

Sir, many of your constituents work in the St. Lawrence Gap area, some for hotel and other businesses, and some as self-employed persons. Therefore, Sir, you are very keen and would want me on behalf of the constituents of Christ Church West Central to say how very pleased you are with the developments in The Gap and also to make the point as well that you have also continued to even urge further specific improvements which would even further enhance the business opportunity for the good people of Christ Church West Central.

Sir, all of us would agree that St. Lawrence Gap has gone from the days when it was largely residential with just a few hotels along the way. Sir, it was even then a two-way street, and there was hardly any traffic along there. In fact, in the early days of the After Dark Nightclub, which you and I would have attended on many occasions, one could park alongside the street and go in and drive out in any direction. Sir, there had a few clubs along there, but now St. Lawrence Gap has become the entertainment capital of Barbados.

Indeed, in the early days of St. Lawrence Gap expanding into entertainment, it was the western half mainly from the Dover Beach down to the corner going toward Graeme Hall going towards the police station, but now the eastern section of The Gap going from Dover Beach towards Maxwell has now become developed. Indeed, Sir, there used to be a great disparity in the level of infrastructure between the two halves.

Sir, the safety, security and the general ambience of the area has been enhanced with the Government investing in new road infrastructure, wide sidewalks to make the area more pedestrian friendly, making the western section of The Gap one way, providing expanded facilities at Dover Beach and other similar improvements, underground electrical cabling and enhanced street lighting, and the provision of a police post opposite the Ship Inn and the After Dark Nightclub.

Sir, the continued operation of small vendors in the area is an important part of the culture and character of The Gap because that is the place where at 2 o'clock in the morning if you are hungry, you could stop by and get a bite. Sir, just directly west of the area which is the subject of this Resolution, at the enhanced Dover Beach, provisions have been made for small vendors to operate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am trying to contextualise this development in terms of Government's actions concerning the lands that it owns and how it has and continues to enhance the quality of life and the economic potential of the area.

Sir, with this action taken by the Parliament, I look forward to when we would have the construction of new hotel accommodation on the 5 730 square metres of the land which Parliament had vested earlier which is just on the land side of this 1 809 square metres.

House 139 Sequence 16

1.40 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this would provide even greater employment opportunities, not only for the people of Christ Church West Central, who are somewhat closer, or for the people of Christ Church South, where the investment would be located, but also for the people of Christ Church East, so that they could all have the opportunity to participate in this growing sector of the economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over time, much has been said about Hotel and Resorts Limited, about whether Government should or should not invest, but let us not forget that directly opposite this particular facility is Time Out At The Gap, which was the refurbished Andre' On Sea. That facility has been a landmark in the Gap and has provided an expanded and diversified product offering, in terms of hotel accommodation. Sir, since that investment has been made, we have seen investments in several other properties. Sir, I was very pleased, on a recent visit to that part of the Gap, to look at the number of operating hotels and the quality of the room stock being offered to the public of Barbados and to visitors alike.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to urge this Honourable House to support this Resolution as another investment in the future of St. Lawrence Gap. Indeed, within all major tourism destinations in the world, it is important that there are specific areas in which there is a concentration of hotel capacity, where people are able, within walking distance, to access restaurants, night clubs, taxi services; where small businesses not directly involved in the hotel sector, are able to benefit in a way, even if the hotel sector is characterised only by large properties spread across a wide area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the St. Lawrence Gap tourism experience is a unique one, from the point of view of the high density; from the point of view of the involvement of non-hotel players involved in economic activity in the Gap; from the point of view of the high concentration of local client involvement, as it is a place where Barbadians are in frequent attendance, whether at the public beaches or at businesses in the area. I am sure that this investment, by way of the leasing of these lands to Sapphire Inc., which is the land to the seaside of the former Dover Convention Centre, which has been leased to the operators therein registered for the development of the property, would enhance the area and would allow that investment to continue smoothly along.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would want to urge all Honourable Members to support this Resolution to lease this property. Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is quite clear that the Government, quite wisely, has included a number of stipulations in this lease, that is why you would see that the lessee is asked not to do certain things, unless permission is granted from Government, but the strange one is the actual building on the property.

Sir, when one reads this agreement, it seems that Government is saying that it does not mind if the lessee does these things, providing that they first seek permission. Sir, it is clear, if that permission is given, that all the other conditions set out would not make sense. Those conditions would be, for example, the right of the public to have free access, instead of the lessee erecting fences, et cetera.

Sir, one of the things we have to be very careful about is that Government must explain to us whether or not they want to impede access to the public, whether or not these are simply conditions, or whether or not Government is only awaiting the company to request for a change in conditions, so that this company could go ahead and build on the property.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the lessee could build on this property, then a lot of what is included in this contract would turn out to be the opposite. Therefore, we need to have a clear explanation from Government as to whether or not the lessee could build, as to whether or not the rights of those persons now trading would be impeded, if the persons renting happen to build on this property. Sir, it is clear that if one is allowed to build, that person would also seek to fence in that property, to protect their interest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt that the whole atmosphere at the St. Lawrence Gap has changed. Therefore, it begs the question whether it was a good decision to get rid of the Dover Convention Centre from that location. When one looks at what is now happening in that area, it becomes clear that the decision to have that centre demolished was a bad decision, and that it was one which Government should have given some thought.

Sir, when one looks at the amount of activity now going on at the Gap, one could easily understand why certain calypsonians, in this season of Cropover, would cherish the thought of having a Dover Convention Centre. When one looks at the emphasis Government has placed on the entertainment aspect of Cricket World Cup, 2007, it is clear that the St. Lawrence Gap has now become a captive area. Sir, I believe those persons who would have performed at the Dover Convention Centre, who would have helped to build up that area, should be the chief beneficiaries of the goodwill that would have been gained from that area. Sir, it is now clear that Government is passing that goodwill onto people who did not have the foresight, in the initial stages, to be able to get the gains from the St. Lawrence area. Sir, those persons who would

have laboured in the earlier years, do not now have a place to practise their arts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we might now have to rethink this, and I am asking that the Minister of Culture would recognise that the St. Lawrence Gap is now a very good catchment area for calypsonians and other artistes to expose their talents. I believe the foresight of those persons who thought of the Dover Convention Centre, has now yielded the benefits and now, instead of destroying that building, there is the need for a similar building in that area. I believe that the calypsonians and other artistes should have an area in the St. Lawrence Gap, one of our major catchment area as it relates to tourism, so that they would not have to beg for a place to demonstrate their talents, but that they would have a place where they could practise their talents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is very interesting. I remember when the first vesting came, this Democratic Labour Party was very concerned about the use of that land in this particular area. We were told, especially for vendors in the area, that nothing would be done to interfere with the carrying on of their businesses. Sir, I see in this lease that assurance is again being given but as I said, when one looks at the conditions as set out in this lease, it is clear that as long as those persons, who are seeking the lease approach Government, there is a possibility that a lot of these conditions would change. Therefore, I need to hear from the Minister of Housing, how many of these conditions would change, once the correct approach is made.

Sir, I am being told that in order for this entity to build on that land, they must first approach the Town Planning Department for permission. Sir, the mere fact that the Town Planning Department is involved, tells me that there is an opportunity for those persons to have plans drawn, then to get permission from Government, then to go before the Town Planning Department for approval for building.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to know which of these conditions are binding because the wording of it tells me that they are subject to change. Therefore, if they are subject to change, when one looks at the type of development that is supposed to go on in that area, it is clear to me that the normal citizens in that area would have a problem in accessing this land, at some point in time. Therefore, the same point made in this Parliament would not be valid because this Resolution allows the person to appeal to the Minister, then to get permission from the Town Planning Department, then to build on this land.

1.50 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I want to hear from the Minister that nobody would be allowed to build on this land and that they can only continue to do the activity as first set out. Sir, as it stands, it is not so. I have no assurance, reading what is here, that this will not change. This is telling me that it will change. This is so well-worded to ensure that the company Sapphire Inc. can approach the Minister. Sir, it is worded in their interest and not necessarily in the interest of the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to bear in mind that we cannot limit the benefits of St. Lawrence Gap. We saw on old year's night what can occur and we saw during World Cup what can occur because there is no doubt that the catchment area for World Cup was not Oistins, Speightstown, Baxters Road or St. Philip, it was St. Lawrence Gap or Moon Town. Sir, it was well-calculated and well-slotted to the 'two few'. There is no doubt that if there was one area where you saw activity in a big way, that it was the St. Lawrence Gap, because the closely knitted group ensured that their friends got the benefit. You have to be careful that you do not cut out the persons that you would have grown up with in that particular area. We cannot be accused of building the ladder, climbing the ladder and then kicking down the ladder and we have to ensure that Barbados is a place where we accommodate all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are going to enhance tourism, we have to ensure that we provide the necessary parking for those businesses to ensure that you do not frustrate those who are walking or driving and that the necessary parking area be built to accommodate the traffic. It does not make sense having all the activities and there is no place to park. I am calling on the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. to recognise that tourism is our business. Sir, they have been doing a wonderful job in Barbados; no one can question the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. but they should understand that parking is key, and that if we were to develop tourism to its highest level, we must have the necessary parking in those areas, where there is entertainment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot get vex if the police do their job because they are supposed to maintain law and order but, at the same time, we also have to understand that tourism is an industry and if there is an attraction, there will be large crowds, there will be vehicles and if there is no parking that somebody might have to park on the side of the road. Sir, I think it is the obligation of Government to ensure that in order for the tourism industry to work well in those areas, which attract large crowds, there should be the necessary parking to facilitate the persons attending those areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some people would say that in some areas you should not provide parking so that people would be frustrated and do not attend those areas. Some

people would also say that the large crowds should be allowed to come so that certain entities of Government could complain so that the police would have to do their jobs and people would not go to those areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to understand that the development of Barbados is important and that wherever there is a large catchment area, that the necessary parking must be found. It cannot only be Speightstown; it cannot only be Oistins; it cannot be only Bridgetown but wherever there is activity going on in the development of Barbados, we have to put the necessary infrastructural. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are to capitalise on tourism in this country, we have to put in the amenities. We also have to ensure that whenever we build up an area that it comes with all the necessary amenities. It does not make sense building up an area in the St. Lawrence Gap area and then people do not have anywhere to park. It is important and imperative that you find a large area nearby where you can find a suitable car park because there is no doubt that the St. Lawrence Gap is doing what it has always been doing and that it is getting greater. It does not make sense telling people to come to an area and they cannot find a car park and they get hostile. You cannot invite a person and then punish them for coming, you have to learn how to accommodate people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those of us who understand the working of these things would have no problem in supporting the necessary moves. Sir, it is like beach access, you cannot have tourism in Barbados and do not have beach access. I have already said that in the development of Barbados, we must have beach access and the necessary parking because if you are going to have the activity, you must accommodate persons and if you frustrate a taxi man, you automatically frustrate the tourists as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have said in the previous debate and we are saying now that anything which occurs in this area is welcome but the interest of those persons operating in that area before must be protected. I do not want to hear any confusion between Sapphire Inc. and the vendors in that area because the vendors have always been traversing that area and they should maintain that right as stated here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am aware that in order to get a lease, sometimes people agree to things and as soon as they get the lease, they change things. Sir, as an Opposition, we would have to monitor to ensure that this lease is just not a piece of paper and to also ensure that those persons who have signed on the dotted line, that they comply and do not frustrate those persons, who are business people too because those vendors provide a valuable service to that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of people do not understand that is why people return to Barbados and we do not to understand the relationship between the vendors and those persons and this is why four or five generations of people come to Barbados. Sir, it has nothing to do with the sea or sand but with that relationship with the vendors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James North could tell you about a lady called Sheila, who for many years have been able to get people to come back to Barbados and when those people passed on, their children and grandchildren came back and asked especially for Sheila, even though she was not the only person for whom they asked. Sir, this tells you that the main aspect in tourism is the people of Barbados but for some reason we hear this and seem not to believe it and we have done everything over the years to eliminate the people from tourism because we do not understand that our asset in tourism is our people. I am hoping that we do not see this example in this particular area, where the engine movers of tourism are eliminated. Sir, I have seen too much happening in tourism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have heard a comment lately that we seem not to understand that services have a role to play. Sir, as we change the face of tourism, many structures that have been developed because of tourism would be destroyed. This is why we have to be careful about the type of tourism we introduce to Barbados. The type of tourism we had previously was all-embracing but now we are moving from the all-embracing tourism concept to the all-inclusive tourism concept, which means that we are eliminating those persons, who previously helped tourism. Sir, those persons are now hostile because we are now becoming a selfish community. Sir, that is not the tourism we want.

H139/14:00

Sequence 18

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, Dover has always been an all-embracing area, that is why the Edghills and so on, can live and operate businesses in that area. We do not want the all-inclusive concept, in that area, to eliminate the Edghills. We want to see them remain in that area where they have a landmark. We need to understand that what is required in Barbados is the right blend, and not a special blend of tourism. There is room for all types. Sir, that is why we do not agree with converting a hotel into a condo, but there is room for condos, providing it is on virgin territory. We need to keep and expand what we have. We do not need to contract what we have to accommodate something else.

Sir, all those who have virgin land and want to do as they choose, should be accommodated. Those persons who want to receive concessions, with recurring profits to capital gains, must understand that the comforts cannot be the same, because you are eliminating Government and workers with this practice. It is very important for us to understand what is happening in Barbados, today. Too many people are looking at the wrong things. At the end of the day, it is that recurring factor that is important, not the one-off factor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, once you have the recurring factor, you can live with the one-off, but when you are replacing the recurring with the one-off, you are in trouble.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you understand of what I speak, because the day we turn our tourism plant into all-inclusive tourism, there will be nothing called Oistins, for tourists, but there will be Oistins, for locals, and we do not wish to encourage that trend. We want the tourists to continue to say, that the best asset of Barbados is its people, as a result, there will continue to be a friendly relationship between the tourists and locals, one without hostility. Sir, if tourism is our business, then it has to be business for all of us in Barbados, and not a 'too few'.

I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Mr. R.D. MARSHALL: Sir, I just want to make a short intervention, as I rise to support this Resolution, brought here by the Minister of Housing and lands, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Sir, the area of St. Lawrence Gap caters to all. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, say something to the effect of a 'too few'. St. Lawrence Gap, on the south coast of Barbados, is the hub of activity for not only visitors, but locals. I was there on Sunday night, and the activity I saw for a Sunday night, at this time of year, when we know the majority of tourists have left, and we are now going into our summer tourism, I would say that any piece of legislation brought here to enhance what is happening in St. Lawrence Gap, should be supported. You should be negative towards anything the Honourable Minister is seeking to do, because you are on the other side.

Sir, when I see the whole area of St. Lawrence Gap, I remember, years ago, in my early twenties, when St. Lawrence Gap was in its infancy where entertainment is concerned. There was a popular place called Mary's Moustache, you might remember that. Sir, that disappeared after there was fire at that establishment, which destroyed the Moustache.

Sir, the activity starts near the entrance by Bellini's, Jumbies, through to Café Sol, Reggae Lounge, After Dark, Ship Inn, Acqua Pisces, and beyond. On the side of the Gap, is the area of the Restaurant at South South Seas, Harlequin Restaurant, and several other hotels. Sir, there is a hive of activity in that area. Mr. Deputy Speaker, only when you reach the middle of the Gap, it becomes quiet. Over the other side by Café Jungle, in that area, going towards Turtle Beach Hotel, you will get more entertainment. I know the area the Minister is speaking about.

Sir, most people going to the south coast, frequent that area, the younger people for fun and frolic, while on the West Coast, older persons prefer rest and relaxation. It is an area where every effort should be made to enhance whatever happens there.

I must compliment the Royal Barbados Police Force, who, with an outpost at The Gap, do a fantastic job in protecting and serving, not only tourists, but locals alike. In that area the police are very friendly towards everyone. They walk around and talk to people, even when you are going to park illegally, they come and talk to you. They have acquired a very good relationship in that area, not only with tourists, but locals alike.

Sir, when I was Minister, responsible for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, I remember one or two of the hotel owners, in the area, were trying to have the vendors removed. I am sure you also know that these persons have to make a living, and they make a contribution. Sir, I have seen, at night, the tourists coming from the hotels to purchase hamburgers, chicken and fish. They also travel over the road by Mr. Todd. Sir, these vendors also make a contribution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the main problem there, is parking for people, and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke about it. If the clientele is growing, with activity there almost every night of the week, most activity begins on Thursday to Sunday there must be accommodation for persons by the provision of additional parking facilities.

Sir, when you visit places like Collins Avenue, Miami, South Beach or Las Olas Boulevard, it reminds me, especially Las Olas, of St. Lawrence Gap, with the same kind of activity. The only difference, cars drive through St. Lawrence Gap area, as opposed to Las Olas, where you must park before visiting the hotels and restaurants in the area.

Sir, I would like to see some kind of provision in the St. Lawrence Gap area, for high-rise parking. A piece of land can be leased for ninety-nine years, could be the location for high-rise parking. Failing that, we could have

some land outside, more on the St. Lawrence main road, where there could be trams to bus people in and out of St. Lawrence Gap. When they want to go to a particular area in the Gap, they could hail the tram driver, and be returned to the high-rise car park, for their transportation.

Sir, I give this Resolution my full support. I thank you.

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

14.10 p.m.

Sequence 19

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

House 139, Sequence 20, 2.10 p.m.

Hon. N.A. LYNCH: I rise to give my endorsement and concurrence with this Resolution to lease this land to Sapphire Inc., for recreation purposes, and primarily for tourism development, in an area that is long recognised as one of the more important areas for recreation in Barbados for both locals and visitors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to clarify some of the areas mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. First is the issue of the Dover Convention Centre, and having a Convention Centre or some like facility in the Gap. Sir, what rendered Dover Convention Centre, literally inoperable and not the best Convention Centre in the world, was the building of the Sherbourne Conference Centre. The Barbados Labour Party administration did not build the Sherbourne Centre, but you had a Sherbourne Conference Centre built and therefore the Dover Convention Centre, literally was no more.

Sir, secondly we do not believe that the best use of that beachfront property, is best dedicated to a convention centre. At the end of the day, Sir, if you have Sherbourne and you have substantial conference facilities at the Needhams Point Peninsula in the name of the Hilton, and to a lesser extent Grand Barbados and what else is to come on that Peninsula, where there is also lots of accommodation, it really does not make sense to have a convention centre on the beachfront.

Sir, if you want to have a place where calypsonians and other people can be entertained, there is more than adequate space, even if you consider the Dover area to be a catchment area for entertainment. Sir, there is no need to have a stand-alone convention centre on a beachfront property in one of the most patronised areas, Sir, and I think it would be a total waste of good economic space.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy never connects on anything that understandably is real economics. He connects with "Kellmanomics", which is a discipline not known to man, but he does not connect with sensible economics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, also of importance and relevance about this particular piece of land is that the lease of this parcel of land to Sapphire is being used in conjunction with a joint venture between Hotel and Resorts Limited (HRL), better known to most Barbadians as the GEMS of Barbados, and a private sector entity to build hotel rooms on that site.

Therefore, if the Members on the other side who constantly criticise the GEMS of Barbados and that particular project, I must say, Sir, this is one aspect of that project, which gives the GEMS an opportunity to claw back a lot of what is very publicly known already, has not been the best operation for the GEMS of Barbados.

Sir, over the years, significant operating shops have caused the GEMS of Barbados projects many challenges and problems. Sir, first of all the intent to be able to build out the GEMS of Barbados, was always the right intention, and the right way to go. Sir, from the inception of this project, we had difficulty acquiring the properties necessary to set up the group. There were construction overruns and delays during the upgrade and expansion of the project, and cash flow deficiencies from the inception.

The company that managed the GEMS in the first place, called, Commonwealth Hospitality, underperformed in our estimation. Then, the subsequent restructuring to rationalise a lot of what was happening in the GEMS really have gotten us to where we are today.

Sir, the issue of not seeking to foreclose on a number of people who owed money at the time to the Barbados Development Bank, was really the right way to go in our estimation.

Sir, I believe that this particular project is sensible and will move the GEMS of Barbados, and will start the process of restructuring the portfolio of the GEMS, which is so much needed. Sir, the more important exercise is this constant reference to issues of condominium development, versus traditional hotel development.

Sir, I am going to start with a project like this one. The real issue is that most tourism projects, as evidenced by what is happening at the former Paradise site, are now into a concept of mixed use accommodation, where personal accommodation actually pays for short-term accommodation, in the like of hotel rooms. Therefore, what is happening there and what is happening here at this Sapphire project in Dover is the right way to go.

Sir, essentially you are separating the ownership of the real estate, from the actual management of hotel properties. Sir, the jury is still out on this issue of condos versus traditional hotel rooms, and it is being formerly studied by the Ministry of Tourism.

The issue must be whether or not, an underperforming hotel room in a portfolio that does not allow for economies of scale and the like to enhance its profitability, is really more valuable overall to the economy, than one that is converted into a condominium room.

Therefore, it cannot be what I feel, what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy feels, and what the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central feels, it really needs some good, sound scientific study, which is being done. Sir, in many instances, a lot of these rooms are underperforming.

Sir, one of the main arguments for the future development of tourism in Barbados, hinges much on how do we create more profitability for our hotel sector or our tourism sector overall, vis-à-vis our neighbours in the region.

Sir, if the issue has to be foreign direct investment or even local investment in the tourism sector, it has to be that we find ways and means of making this industry a lot more profitable for the players that are already in it, thus attracting more investment to the industry.

Sir, what is intended here is that the existing Time Out In The Gap is linked to this Sapphire project, which becomes condominiums rooms that are put back into a rental pool, and managed under the same banner as Time Out In The Gap. Sir, I think this is a sensible way to do things.

The Government has sought to protect the interest of everyone in this particular project and, I think that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said it as well, in terms of the way in which the plans for building out the particular site are undertaken, in terms of the lease. It sets out a number of very strict requirements for how these lands are leased how the project is built out. I think, Sir, that you cannot go outside of seeking to protect all of our people.

I want to say one other thing regarding the whole development of the St. Lawrence area. Sir, the St. Lawrence Gap area has become the Centre of tourism activity on the South Coast of Barbados.

It is only because of the foresight and a very well-planned and serious project - and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy acknowledges that - under the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. St. Lawrence Gap has

been upgraded substantially and has become the envy of similar areas of its kind, around the region.

St. Lawrence Gap, because of what we have done to it, by the Barbados Labour Party has been able to rise to the heights, where people are investing in it substantially in both accommodation and ancillary services for tourism development, and that is to the credit of this administration and the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated, particularly.

Therefore, when you hear the issue of a 'too-few', there is no 'too-few' because everybody in Barbados that goes out for recreation, particularly in south coast, goes to St. Lawrence Gap, and it is only because of our vision and foresight that it reaches that stage.

Sir, regarding parking, clearly when the Gap was upgraded, it became a lot more patronised than it used to be and, therefore, what has happened essentially is that with the influx of cars and vehicles in that area, the Ministry of Tourism and BTII are looking for a solution that allows for a park and ride system for St. Lawrence Gap.

House 139, Sequence 20, 14:20:14

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: However, Sir, there is clearly a lack of lands in and around that area to have one site to run the shuttle. Sir, the vision is to have one parking site near to the St. Lawrence Gap, to which people can then be shuttled into the area in a consistent manner over a period of hours for activity. Therefore, we intend to put the shuttle in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do not intend to get rid of any vendors in that area. As a matter of fact, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has designated specific sites for vending in the area, and the vendors have taken up the sites to which they have been assigned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the challenges that we had initially was that many of the people did not want to go where they were assigned because of issues of lighting and other issues in The Gap. Sir, the vendors in The Gap would remain in the areas that have been designated to them by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. Sir, once the vendors have legitimate licences, we believe that all of them can live together in the Gap. This is not about any 'too-few' as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has said.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy likes to make out that he is this champion of the poor man in Barbados, that he is the only person who understands developmental economics, and that he is the

only person that has a legitimate stance about helping poor people.

Sir, as the champion of poor people, the Democratic Labour Party decimated more lives in this country than any other administration in the history of Barbados. Yet, every time they come to Parliament, they are always picking at things and saying that they are the champion of poor people. The Democratic Labour Party is no friend of any poor people. They put more poor people out of work, made more poor people lose their houses, made more poor people lose their jobs and 'send' more poor people mad in Barbados than any administration in the history of this country.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, the Honourable Member is actually charging that he was party to all of the actions that he speaks of as a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed Honourable Member, proceed.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, every time the Honourable Member for St. Lucy makes reference to the tourism industry, he talks about the concept of all-inclusive. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this honourable gentleman speaks of issues of which he has no knowledge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if all-inclusive tourism allows a particular entity to trade more effectively thus putting more people to work, putting more money into people's pockets, distributing the income more effectively... I am not an economist and I am not a "Kellmanomist" either.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, are you really going to tell me that the performance of Almond Beach Hotel is not much more effective than what we had at Heywoods under the Democratic Labour Party? What am I hearing at all? Sir, one has to understand how the all-inclusive sector works. One does not want to be overrun by the all-inclusive concept alone. Sir, the all-inclusive concept is the fastest growing business within the tourism sector. As a matter of fact, when you go on a cruise, that is all-inclusive. A cruise ship would have to be all-inclusive. Sir, it is the wont of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to constantly beat up on the all-inclusive concept, because he does not understand the place the concept has within the wider tourism development and how the concept could be used to further enhance the overall tourism development for the country. Sir, he really does not understand the concept of what happen with an all-inclusive entity within the tourism sector.

Sir, when you expand the St. Lawrence Gap area as it relates to the accommodation sector, the traditional hotel sector, the smaller hotel grouping, bars, street vendors and the like, it creates a concept that would allow everyone to benefit from the developments of St. Lawrence Gap. Therefore, one cannot say that it is for a 'too-few', it is not. Sir, everyone in that area has been allowed to benefit substantially from the development of St. Lawrence Gap. Sir, that is to the credit and to the vision of this Administration.

Sir, I am therefore supporting this particular concept. I believe it does allow the GEMS of Barbados to have a better stance and to get themselves back on their feet. Sir, there is a wider plan coming for the redevelopment of the GEMS of Barbados project. In addition to that, it speaks to a wider area of seeking to develop St. Lawrence Gap for the good of all Barbadians.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank Honourable Members for their contributions to this debate. I am sure that even the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, as a small business person and as a person very much involved in community tourism, understands that his establishment, and those like his, benefit from tourism only insofar as there is tourism activity at the larger and higher level.

Sir, there is a great admixture of large scale tourism driven by and accommodated by our hotels, villas and condos businesses. Sir, one of the things that Government has to do, and that Government continues to do, is to make sure that we put such public infrastructure in place as would provide opportunities for small business persons in the sector to interact with that tourism traffic.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy also realises, as a person running a business, that what is a benefit from tourism is not driven by tourism alone, recognising that there is a strong local entertainment and leisure culture and that the provision of infrastructure and places where persons could go to relax and have recreation is also very important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the investment that has been made in building out St. Lawrence Gap as a top of the line location both for locals and visitors has been nothing short, it has been phenomenal. It is not an either/or situation. This Government more than any other has been very clear and has the distinction and the very strong record not only in St. Lawrence Gap but in other areas where significant sums have been spent, to make sure that small business people, ordinary black Barbadians like you and I, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are able to benefit from the public infrastructure which is put in place for Barbadians and visitors alike.

Sir, the way the lease is written, it is not an escape for them to do anything that they would like, if they want to construct something as simple as a beach table or a beach umbrella, they have to get permission.

Sir, you would not say no construction at all because a concrete table for barbecues is construction as well. Therefore, you need to have sufficient flexibility to allow for those things that are desirable. Sir, the key feature is that nothing must be done which would restrict, obstruct or prevent Barbadians from moving along the shoreline.

Indeed, along Brown's Beach, along that whole stretch along Bay Street, this Government has made sure that the wide beach that develops is able to be accessed by Barbadians, moving along, playing their handball and racket ball, exercising, and liming.

House 139 Sequence 21

2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, beach culture is part of the Barbadian culture and, therefore, on the one hand, Government would not create public infrastructure next door with an improved Dover Beach, and restrict access next door. Sir, for many years, growing up as a boy, Dover Beach was just there, then a little improvement was made, by way of paving the car park and putting in three of four benches. Sir, the major improvement that would have been made, in terms of building out the facilities there, would have been made over the last two or so years by this administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know the Honourable Member for St. Lucy fully supports this Resolution, and that the Honourable Member, like us on this side, would only want to make sure that small businesspersons are able to benefit and that they would continue to benefit, as they have done tremendously under this administration, from those improvements that have been made. Sir, I thank him for his concern and support in that regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few words added to the very wonderful contributions made by Honourable Members on this side... In fact, I want to say, in terms of the very positive contribution made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central concerning parking, I am aware that the acquisition proceedings are going on for what is the former Ward's Supermarket property. This acquisition to be provided to the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., for them to be able to build out additional car parking spaces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was there on Friday night and persons were parking in the yard of the St. Lawrence School, along the main road, behind the Ship Inn, behind After Dark, by Dover Pasture, and walking back down. Therefore, there continues to be the need for additional parking in the area. I believe one of the very early proposals which have been made, might very well be operationalised by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., where once sufficient parking facilities are provided in the wider area, we would be able to operate a shuttle service from the car park. This shuttle service would be moving half-hourly, along the St. Lawrence Gap area, which would ease the need for persons to have to park inappropriately and unsafely. I look forward to the completion of that particular road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today's Sitting. Sir, on moving the adjournment, I would wish to single out the Deputy Clerk of Parliament, whom I believe today is his last duty with us, after 25 years of high service.

It is said that this is the highest court in the land, and while it may be for the history books and for the 30 Honourable Members in this Honourable House and the 21 Honourable Senators in the Other Place, for the majority of Barbadians, the highest effective courts are, in fact, the High Court and the Court of Appeal. I am told that the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Keith Roberts, has distinguished himself by becoming appointed as the first ever Master of the Barbados High Court.

It is a distinction of which we are very proud, to have one of our own from these precincts being able to accept that position. Sir, we have every confidence that the manner in which Mr. Keith Roberts will distinguish himself, will be of no less a standard than that which he has, within these precincts in this Honourable House.

Mr. Keith Roberts has had a long service at the Bar and therefore brings a wealth of experience, not just of the law but, indeed, it is fair to say, a wealth of experience of life in this country. I trust that Mr. Roberts will bring his judgment to bear, as he exercises the interpretation of the

Rules, in order to be able to make the High Court system more efficient.

I am particularly happy to see that this post has been filled. It is part and parcel of the overall reform process for the Court system, which the Government has put in place. I, therefore, look forward to hearing of the good results, which will be brought to bear, as a result of the functioning of the system, but in particular with Mr. Roberts leading the charge as Master of the High Court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it is fair to say that this Honourable House would want a formal letter sent to Mr. Roberts, congratulating him and indicating how proud we are that he has achieved this distinction to be the first ever Master of the High Court of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, next week, the Government will be hosting the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference and in that context, I beg to move that this Honourable House do now adjourned until Tuesday, July 10th, 2007, at 10:00

a.m.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to support the motion on the adjournment and to say that the Opposition concurs with what has been said about Mr. Keith Roberts. Sir, there is no doubt, for my 13 years in this Honourable House, I have found him to be very knowledgeable. We, the Opposition, expects that on the

next occasion we see him, Mr. Roberts would be wearing different clothing, that he would be wearing silk. We expect, on the next occasion that we have to address him, that we would be addressing him as Q.C. Roberts and not just Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt, coming from this Honourable House and with the position which he has previously held, that Mr. Roberts would be an asset and would be able to inform them of the Standing Orders. He would also be able to keep them under the right guidance, as he has always done with us.

Sir, as you know, this Court is supposed to be the highest court and the mere fact that Mr. Roberts is going to another court, we expect that in order for him to get a promotion, that the necessary promotion would be afforded him, so that he could be assured that it would be a true promotion, considering the fact that he would already be in the highest court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Opposition concurs. We hope that the Government would ensure that the honourable gentleman would wear the necessary silk, so

that if he is to preside over those, who are already in silk, that he must be wearing the best silk too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

The question that the Sitting be adjourned until Tuesday, July 10th, 2007, at 10.00 a.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

H:No:139(22)2.38 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.....	1
Hon. R.C. Eastmond, 1.	

PAPERS

Hon. N. A. LYNCH.....	1
1. Shipping (Incentives) (Utopia Cruises Limited) Order, 2007;	
2. Shipping (Incentives) (World of Watersports Inc.,) Order, 2007;	
3. Shipping (Incentives) (Captain Haddock and Company Limited) Order, 2007;	
4. Shipping (Incentives) (Sea Eye Inc.) Order, 2007.	
Hon. R. R. Farley, 2.	

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.....	2
Hon. R. R. Farley, 2.	

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.....	2
Hon. R.C. Eastmond, 2.	

ORDER NO. 6 – SEVERANCE PAYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007.....	2
Hon. R.C. Eastmond, 2, 3; Hon. R. R. Farley, 2, 4; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, 2; Mr. R.L. Sealy, 3.	

ORDER NO. 8 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF CROWN LANDS SITUATED AT WESTBURY ROAD IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULES HERETO IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.....	4
Hon. R. R. Farley, 4; Hon. Dame B.A. Miller, 5.	

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP.225 THE VESTING IN THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OF PARCELS OF CROWN LANDS SITUATE AT WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.....	5
Hon. R. R. Farley, 5, 6, 7, 9, 20; Hon. Dame B.A. Miller, 8, 13, 14, 15; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18;	

Hon. K.D. Symmonds, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 11, 12; Mr. R.L. Sealy, 12; Hon. G. A. Clarke, 15, 16, 20.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 9 (resumed)

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF A LEASE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 OF A PARCEL OF LAND,

THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN,

AT SAINT LAWRENCE GAP, CHRIST CHURCH IN THIS ISLAND

TO SAPPHIRE INC.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY.....	20
Hon. A. P. Wood, 22, 29; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, 22, 23, 24, 28; Mr. R.D. Marshall, 25; Hon. N. A. Lynch, 26, 27, 28.	

SUSPENSION.....	20
-----------------	----

ADJOURNMENT.....	29
Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 29; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, 30.	

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

CLARKE, Hon. G. A.
EASTMOND, Hon. R.C.
FARLEY, Hon. R. R.
KELLMAN, Mr. D. St.E.
LYNCH, Hon. N. A.
MARSHALL, Mr. R.D.
MILLER, Hon. Dame B.A.
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A.
SEALY, Mr. R.L.
SYMMONDS, Hon. K.D.
WOOD, Hon. A. P.

DISCLAIMER. This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Papers. Hon. N. A. Lynch says he is ‘commanded to lay the following Bills’, but the four items are Shipping (Incentives) Orders, 2007; a seconding and a question on the laying follow. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Minutes. Hon. R. C. Eastmond’s seconding line continues ‘Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no corrections or observations, then let these Minutes stand confirmed.’, so the Deputy Speaker’s words appear under his label. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 9, Mr. D. St.E. Kellman (about 11.10 a.m.). One of Mr. D. St.E. Kellman’s speeches consists only of ‘. . .’, and Hon. R. R. Farley’s point of order that follows answers remarks not in the record. Please confirm whether text is missing.

Q5. Order No. 9, Mr. R. L. Sealy. Mr. R. L. Sealy refers to a ‘broadside on the Caribbean Commercial Bank’ in a debate on the Caribbean Development Bank. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Resumption, Order No. 13. After the 12.26 p.m. take-slip a slip reads ‘House 139A Seq 3’, out of sequence with the slips either side (Sequence 15 and Sequence 16, 1.40 p.m.). The Order number ‘ORDER No. 13’ is also typed as an ordinary line. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 9 and Order No. 13, seconders. Hon. Dame Billie Miller and Hon. A. P. Wood address ‘Mr. Speaker’ when seconding, although the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 26th June, 2007, with the Deputy Speaker, His Honour J. M. Edghill, presiding; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood, and the Minutes of Tuesday, June 19, 2007 were confirmed. Hon. N. A. Lynch laid four Shipping (Incentives) Orders, 2007, among them those for Utopia Cruises Limited and Captain Haddock and Company

Limited. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley moved the first reading of the Airport (Amendment) Bill, 2007, and Standing Orders were suspended for the rest of the Sitting.

Under Order No. 6 Hon. R. C. Eastmond moved the second reading of the Severance Payment (Amendment) Bill, 2007, which he described as housekeeping: the Act referred always to the Minister of Labour although responsibility for severance had been transferred to the Minister of Finance, and the amendment would invoke section 40(3) of the Interpretation Act so that references pointed to the Minister responsible for severance. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman questioned only how long the correction had taken, and Mr. R. L. Sealy asked about other amendments proposed to the Act; the Minister replied on the scales under section 20. The Bill passed Committee, with Mr. R. D. Marshall in the Chair, and was read a third time.

Under Order No. 8 Hon. R. R. Farley moved the Resolution vesting in the National Housing Corporation Crown land at Westbury Road, St. Michael, formerly seven parcels, five acquired for the Bridgetown By-pass Project; the occupants of the model houses there would be able to buy. It was agreed to without debate.

Under Order No. 9 Hon. R. R. Farley moved the Resolution vesting about 1.5 acres of Crown land at Wildey in the Caribbean Development Bank for the expansion of its headquarters, presenting it as part of the Government’s policy of making Barbados the location of choice for regional and international headquarters; he described the Bank as perhaps the largest provider of development finance to the region, with a triple A credit rating. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman raised the arrangements with the West Indies Cricket Board and LIAT and warned against regional institutions that did not act in the people’s interest, drawing points of order from Hon. R. R. Farley and Hon. K. D. Symmonds. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley called his remarks an unfortunate attack on the Bank and listed projects it had co-financed; Mr. R. L. Sealy replied for the Opposition; and Hon. Dame Billie Miller, Hon. G. A. Clarke, who was twice asked by the Deputy Speaker to keep to the Resolution, and Hon. K. D. Symmonds supported it. The Resolution was agreed to, and the House was suspended until 1.30 p.m.

On resumption, Order No. 13, a Resolution to approve the lease of Crown land at St. Lawrence Gap, Christ Church to Sapphire Inc., was moved by Hon. R. R. Farley. He explained that the 1 809 square metres on the seaside of the former Dover Convention Centre site was not to be substantially developed and would remain accessible to the public, beside the 5 730 square metres earlier vested for a hotel. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman sought an

assurance that nothing would be built on the land; Mr. R. D. Marshall and Hon. N. A. Lynch supported the Resolution, which was agreed to after the Minister's reply on beach culture and public access.

On the adjournment Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley paid tribute to the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Keith Roberts, on his last

day after 25 years, on his appointment as the first Master of the Barbados High Court, and asked that a letter of congratulation be sent; Mr. D. St.E. Kellman joined in for the Opposition. Because Barbados was hosting the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference, the House was adjourned until Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.