
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Pursuant to the Adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

PRESENT

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B. (Speaker)

His Honour K. St.C. BEST, LL.B.(Hons.), L.E.C. (Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Development, Labour, Civil Service and Energy)

Mr. G. W. PAYNE, Q.C.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., LL.M (Leic.), LL.B. (Hons.) (Lond.), B.A. (Hons.) Dip. Ed.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Leader of the Opposition)

Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, M.B.B.S., B.Sc. (Minister of Economic Affairs, Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Hon. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism)

Hon. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M. (Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc. (C. Eng.) Minister of Transport and Works)

Hon. E. G. HUTSON, F.C.C.A., C.A. (Minister of International Business and International Transport)

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT, (Minister of Community Development and Culture)

Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc.

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. P. M. T. TODD, B.Sc., (Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development)

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS, M.B.A., B.Sc. (Minister of Health)

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, M.Sc., B.A. (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Rural Development)

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.,B.S. (Minister of Youth, Family and Sports)

Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session. I wish to welcome you back from the summer break. I hope that you are all rejuvenated and ready to continue with the people's business.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, August 7, 2009.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its Meeting of Friday, August 7, 2009, be confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am in receipt of a message from the Honourable the Senate to the Honourable The House of Assembly as follows:

“The Honourable the Senate has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, the Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009 passed the Senate with the following amendments:

Clause 16.A (1) was amended by inserting the words “along with a copy of the certificate obtained pursuant to Section 16” between the words “may” and “deliver” in the penultimate line of clause 16A. (1). In this regard the amended clause should read as follows:”

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Mr. SPEAKER: “In this regard, the amended clause should read as follows:

16. A(1)“WHERE

a. a person is indebted to the Fund and the repayment of the loan is not made in accordance with the regulations and the terms and conditions of the loan; and

b. the Committee knows or suspects that the person is entitled to or due to receive a payment from another person in this section referred to as the “third party”, the Committee may, along with a copy of the certificate obtained pursuant to section 16, deliver to the “third party” a demand for payment.”

The Honourable The Senate transmits the amended Bill to the Honourable The Honourable House inviting concurrence in the amendments to the said Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Loan Act, 2009.

Dated 12th day of August, 2009

Branford M. Taitt”

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am also in receipt of the Auditor General’s Report for the following:

1. Special Audit on the National Housing Corporation.
2. Special Audit on the Barbados Road Network Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am also in receipt from the Accountant General of the following:

1. Accounts and Statements for the months of February and March, 2009.

PAPERS

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009.
2. Statement and Instrument relating to the Maritime Labour Convention adopted by the International Labour Organisation at its 94th Session held in Geneva in February, 2006.
3. Annual Reports of the Labour Department for the years 2003 and 2004.
4. Financial Institutions (Royal Fidelity) (Merchant Bank & Trust) (Barbados Limited) Transfer of Business and Vesting Order, 2009.
5. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Limegrove Park Limited) Order, 2009.
6. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Sun Tour Limited) Order, 2009.
7. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Sea Rock Development Limited) Order, 2009.
8. Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 2009;
9. Value Added Tax (No.3) Order, 2009.
10. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations) Order, 2009.
11. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments, (Exemption) (White Park Development Limited) Order, 2009;
12. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Jada Builders Inc.) Order, 2009.
13. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Simpson Motors) Order, 2009.
14. Annual Reports and Financial Statements of Hotels and Resorts Limited, for the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.
15. Annual Reports of the Barbados National Oil Company Limited (BNOC) for the years 2006 and 2007.
16. Half-yearly Report of the Revenue Collection Departments under the Ministry of Finance for the period April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Reports on the Registration Department for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.
2. Report on the Vital Statistics and Registrations of the Registration Department for the year 2005.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

1. Final Appropriation Bill, 2009.
2. Resolution to grant the sum of \$1 985 813 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2009-2010 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 2009-2010 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and the Explanatory Notes to Head 68, be amended as set out in Schedule II.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, replies to Parliamentary Questions No. 3 and No. 5 are ready.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Bills be read a first time:

1. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2009.
2. Road Traffic (Validation) Bill 2009.
3. Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, 2009.
4. International Financial Services (Validation) Bill, 2009.
5. Final Appropriation (2008/2009) Bill, 2009

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to move the first reading of the Final Appropriation Bill 2008-2009.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in May this year, I informed this Honourable House of Government's intention to address certain aspects of the immigration policy. Today, I have the honour to lay in this Honourable House a Green Paper entitled "The Comprehensive Review of Immigration Policy and Proposals for Legislative Reform".

In Commonwealth jurisdictions, a Green Paper is a tentative Government report of a proposal without any commitment to action, the first step in changing the Law. This Green Paper is a discussion document intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation on a particular topic.

We are presenting through it, a range of ideas and inviting interested individuals and organisations to contribute views and information. This Green Paper is a statement by the Government, not of policy already determined, but of propositions put before the whole nation for discussion. We have produced it early in the policy-making process, while policy proposals are still being formulated.

Last May, I announced a new policy relating to an amnesty for undocumented CARICOM nationals which took effect from June 1, 2009, and which policy elicited much public commentary. Needless to say, the sanctions that applied to persons who do not qualify for the amnesty do not take effect until December 31, 2009. It is a pity that the critics of the policy were so quick to pass judgment without the benefit of the facts.

The debate on the new policy, if it did nothing else, revealed a significant deficit in public knowledge about CARICOM and our national obligations under the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It also brought to light real and imagined prejudices, but most of all, it uncovered the discomfort of the vast silent majority of Barbadians with the immigration policy pursued by the previous Government.

Even prior to the new policy, in relation to undocumented Caribbean citizens, a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Immigration was set up on June 28, 2008,

whose remit it was to craft a new and comprehensive immigration policy for our country.

Mr. Speaker, may I remind the Honourable House that this Government did not wake out of a sudden slumber and simply started a process in a reactive or ill-conceived manner. It was a pledge made to the electorate in the 2008 General Elections and we are keeping our pledge.

Undaunted, this Government will bring a progressive immigration policy before our nation when the discussion on the issues in the Green Paper is over. This course of action is necessary.

It is clear to the Government, and may I add, to a significant majority of our citizens, that the policies we came and found, together with the legislation governing immigration practices, were in need of a significant review. For the most part, these instruments have served their purpose. However, times have changed.

Recent events have impacted on the manner in which business, local, regional and international is being conducted, and by extension, on what is required by us as a country in order to meet these circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, some of the challenges we face include our commitments to CARICOM, globalisation and its attendant demands for the freer movement of persons across borders, border security issues, and last, but by no means least, the need to strengthen our institutions in order to enhance our country's standing as one where investment is not only encouraged and welcomed, but equally important, where it can be facilitated in a stable and productive environment.

Sir, when we ponder on these collection of challenges, we cannot but observe the obvious demand for systemic changes involving both policy and Law. At the policy level, we need to ensure that instructions are clear and precise, and in effect, adequate, fair and in a timely fashion, address those situations faced by members of the public on a daily basis. We also need to reduce the scenarios that give rise to whimsical Ministerial or other discretion and flimsy entitlements. We need to give timely information to applicants for various kinds of status and who interact with the Immigration Department, but most of all, we need to have an immigration policy that meets our national goals.

As for the legislation, there are far too many anomalies and ambiguities exploited by those who have worked the system over, which need to be remedied by way of amendments, amplification, or through repeal. This has contributed to inaction, uncertainty and a large backlog of outstanding applications not dealt with for over 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, one anomaly which stands above all else relates to a person who is deemed to be "ordinarily resident" and who, under the 2000 Constitution Amendment brought by the previous Administration, would have of right qualified for citizenship.

Section 3A. (1) of that Amendment states the following descriptions of persons are entitled to be registered as citizens of Barbados:

a. A person who has been ordinarily resident in Barbados throughout a period of 10 years (or such longer period as may be prescribed) immediately preceding the person's application."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this troubling provision could conceivably - and has in some Commonwealth countries - been interpreted as including persons who have been ordinarily residing in Barbados illegally and without documentation for 10 years or more.

Sir, I would like to doubt that this Honourable House would wittingly have agreed that it was intended for persons who are here illegally should be afforded citizenship as of right. This is a classic example of the anomalies of which I speak and which must be rectified urgently.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Paper is, therefore, intended to stimulate discussion on these issues which drive our immigration policies and are critical to both national security and national development.

Our intention is to circulate the document to the widest possible audience in Barbados, within CARICOM and to our Missions abroad for the benefit of our Diaspora. It is anticipated that on completion of this extensive dialogue, the succeeding White Paper would reflect my Government's position on this important issue, in addition to the views of the people.

We are seeking here to consolidate and sustain the principles of good governance, and in the result, ensure public participation in helping us to shape public policy.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George South.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Sir, I rise this morning to pay another tribute and congratulation, my first in this Honourable House, to His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, a young man who hails from St. Andrew,

a young man who on August 20, 2009, kept many Barbadians on the edge of their seats for 13.14 seconds.

Sir, we watched nervously as he started from the blocks, from what we have now been told was a slow reaction time. Our hearts sank as he knocked down the first hurdle and some thought, for sure, it was over. Our hearts then raced as we watched him gain momentum, and as he reached the finished line, all Barbados erupted in a scream and a frenzy.

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House A45, Sequence 05, 10.40 a.m.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, reports are that many Barbadians cried as they watched Ryan stand in that stadium, taking pride of place as our National Anthem was belted out for all the world to hear. C. Van Roland Edwards never sounded so good.

Sir, from then on, the congratulations have been pouring in and for days, even weeks later, I have been to functions and I saw that as we stood at the start of the functions to observe the National Anthem, there were some in the audience who were crying. At the end of the National Anthem, they would report that they remembered August 20, when they heard the National Anthem played and how the tears came to their eyes.

Mr. Speaker, that one day did so much for our national pride. I understood then what Jamaicans must have felt when they saw Usain Bolt in Beijing and even since then. We all rejoiced with Jamaicans because he is a West Indian, but it was nothing like when our own Ryan did it for us.

I said in another place that I relished Ryan's accomplishments that day because in my household there reside a couple of Jamaicans. I know the joy that they felt so I felt vindicated when I was able to say on that day, look, we Barbadians can do it too and I rejoiced, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that event as I said, restored our national pride and national identity. We felt proud of what it was to be Barbadian. We recalled what it was to be Barbadian. In fact, for a lot of young people, they never before attached any significance to being Barbadian and on that day, Mr. Speaker, if only for a time, that changed.

Sir, pride in our national symbols, our flag, our national anthem, something that I had been observing our young people seem to have none of, no pride when our Anthem was played, no pride in any of our symbols and I

noticed that started to change a little when Ryan accomplished Gold in Berlin.

Mr. Speaker, after that 13.14 seconds, our spirits soared and we dared to dream. Sir, that 13.14 seconds changed our world, at least it changed how we looked at it. Indeed, for us Ryan has become a hero and I recall the words of Mariah Carey's song - which I am sure you are familiar with, I know those in other age groups may be more familiar with it - that goes:

"...And then a hero comes along

With the strength to carry on

And you cast your fears aside

And you know you can survive

So when you feel like hope is gone

Look inside you and be strong

And you'll finally see the truth

That a hero lies in you."

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, from that time the congratulations were pouring in and across Barbados people were planning what they could do for Ryan's homecoming. Of course, we did not know then when Ryan would be coming home and there were a lot of speculations. It was only barely two weeks before that we were told for sure that he would be coming home on September 17.

Sir, the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sport, the Prime Minister's Office and the 13.14 Gold Committee - a committee that was formed by proud members of Ryan's community in Hillaby, members who had supported him from a long time ago - we then all came together to plan what we now recall as Ryan's homecoming celebrations on September 17.

I want to congratulate those persons. The members of all of the committees especially, and members of the 13.14 Gold Committee who had never before planned anything like this. They were the ones who led the plans. They were the ones who came forward with the ideas and for the most part, the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports and the Prime Minister's Office facilitated them. I think they did an excellent job. It was a fitting welcome, Mr. Speaker, for a hero, in fact, some say, a welcome fit for a king.

Of course, we had a very short time to plan and not everything was perfect. We know there were some mishaps and some protocols were breached, but all proud Barbadians on that day overlooked that and they looked to something bigger, Ryan's moment, our moment.

I know Ryan did not expect it, this tall, good-looking, very self-assured young man, he was overwhelmed. He expected that we would acknowledge him, but he did not expect anything of this magnitude. And so, we had the celebrations from the moment Ryan came off the plane. Indeed, until Ryan left this past week, Ryan admitted that he had not a moment's rest, everybody had something planned for him. In fact, before he even got to Barbados, there were celebrations in London where members of the Diaspora met to greet Ryan.

We had events here at the Kensington Oval. He was honoured by his former schools, Lester Vaughan and Lawrence T. Gay, in his hometown. There was a national service, even celebrations at his parent's workplaces and various corporate entities.

Sir, the University of the West Indies named their track, which is still under construction at the Lazaretto, after Ryan Brathwaite. Of course, we look forward to the completion of that track when the CBC antennae are relocated from the Lazaretto.

Certainly, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite felt the love, the pride and the appreciation of this entire nation. I know that many complained that when he made that accomplishment in Berlin there was no significant number of Barbadians there. In fact, he had to go around to get hold of a flag, so when he took his pictures, he did not have a flag there with him. Sir, certainly, if he felt alone then, he knows now, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that all Barbados supported him and all Barbados is rooting for him. Everybody wanted a piece of Ryan when he came home.

Mr. Speaker, our gem, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, is now in the diamond league. Don't be fooled, he is no flash in the pan, a flash that lasted 13.14 seconds. We know that Ryan has worked hard and he has a history of accomplishments behind him. In 2005, he clocked 13.34 in the first round in the World Junior Track and Field Championships in Morocco. In 2006, he won gold at the secondary school championships here in Barbados and gold at CARIFTA and gold at the CAC Junior Championships. In 2007, his last year at CARIFTA, he clocked 13.42 and became the top junior hurdler in the world and we all know he made the semifinal in Beijing and Ryan is determined to succeed.

By now he would have returned to school in Kansas at the Barton County Community College to finish up his academic course. Sir, he has big plans for his future after

track and field. After he finishes up there, he plans to hit the circuit next year and train intensely. He sees more gold in his future.

Of course, he has his sights set on the 2011 IAAF World Championships and 2012 Olympics. Our best goes with Ryan and I hope that Barbadians, especially the UK-based Barbadians, are planning to be at the Olympics to support Ryan, as well as our other athletes whom we know will be there. We wish him well.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage CBC, "we" TV, "my" TV to help us to do so. We heard from many Barbadians that they are disappointed at not being able to watch "we boy" on "we" TV. We have watched the West Indies cricket in South Africa at the ICC Championships Trophy and we know what happened there, but we want to see some of our successes, Ryan and our local athletes. They deserve to have our support on television. I think that would inspire them even further if they knew that we were here watching them as they hit the track, even at CARIFTA and at other meets. Right now our seniors are amassing medals. The media today tells us that they have amassed 79 medals so far - more than, I think, 62 last year - at the World Senior Games in Utah, and we are not having the benefit of this.

There is a lot more that we, as a nation, can do to help our athletes, to spur them along to greatness, and not just after the fact. We need to help our athletes on their way to the pinnacle of success. It is easy to recognise them when they have reached that pinnacle, but we need to be able to help them up and not ignore them on the way down either. Sir, we need to be able to do that.

While I was in Beijing, I met with our athletes there and since then, we have met with them and the National Sports Council has met with them. Sir, we have been inspired to change the focus of our sports programming to make it more targeted towards the success of our athletes.

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Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: We have supported several athletes in many disciplines with limited success, but having seen firsthand some of their challenges in Beijing, we set about to create a more focussed programme and to use our resources in a more targeted approach.

Mr. Speaker, we have completed the Strategic Plan and the Facilities Audit this year which would go a long way in helping us to be able to develop our athletes. We have a proud legacy of sporting excellence that we are not doing enough to build on. Mr. Speaker, I daresay that we

have started because what we have seen and done since Ryan's success is not the end, it is only a starting point.

We have to build on the legacy of our sporting greats like Sir Garfield Sobers, Obadele Thompson and Ronald "Suki" King who, this year is celebrating 25 years as a champion. These are our successes and we have to continue to build on that. Of course, Government cannot do it alone. We saw the corporate support that came out behind Ryan. Everybody came out and acknowledged and awarded him. There was no lack.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge our corporate entities in Barbados to continue to support sports and not to stop with what they have done for Ryan in these past two weeks, because Barbados has many more hidden treasures and we need help to unearth them, to polish them up and to put them on display for all the world to see.

Mr. Speaker, our youth sports programmes at the community, national and regional levels need support. Sir, while it is nice that corporate Barbados came out to celebrate with Ryan, we need their support even now as we develop new athletes.

Mr. Speaker, there is the Ryan Brathwaite Benevolent Fund. When I met with His Excellency and asked him what he wanted, he did not speak of himself, as far as he is concerned, he has arrived, he has no need and he is going to continue working hard to achieve more. What he wants is to see us do more for athletics and the athletes and indeed, that we support the Ryan Brathwaite Benevolent Fund. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Barbadians, especially corporate Barbados, to assist us in that Fund as we seek gold in 2012 and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, our youth are undervalued and untapped resources here in Barbados. Recently, I heard the point being reiterated that countries across the world are tapping into the energy, the agility, the quick minds and the other attributes of their youth, but sadly this is to use them as child soldiers, or drug peddlers and so on.

In Barbados, where we have no drug wars and no civil wars, our youth are expressing frustration because they do not feel that their energies, their skills and their ideas are fully appreciated and utilised. Mr. Speaker, I surely hope that it would not require a civil war for us to realise the value of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports has embarked on a path of youth empowerment with a clearer understanding of just what youth empowerment is, and is helping our young people to gain control over their own lives and their fates, and helping them to fulfil their purpose and their dreams. Mr. Speaker, because their dreams are varied, it can take them from the North Pole to

Tasmania, or from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean to the moon. In fact, we say that wherever you go in the world, you would find a Bajan.

Mr. Speaker, our youth are dreaming and they are dreaming big. Sir, the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs cannot do it alone, and so I am asking for the support of the other Government agencies, the non-governmental organisations and corporate Barbados, to help our youth to realise their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, when I met with Ryan in a private conservation, mid sentence he said to me that he could not believe it, that he used to lie in his bed and dream of this moment. Mr. Speaker, I stopped him and challenged him that wherever he goes as Ambassador to tell our youth that his success started with a dream. He used to lay awake at night dreaming of the greatness that he could achieve, and he has gone on to achieve that.

Mr. Speaker, Carl Sandburg said that nothing happened unless first a dream. Mr. Speaker, our young people need to know that. Anatole France also said that to accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan had a dream. To his dream, he added self-confidence, which is the essence of a hero, the essence of Ryan. To that he added determination, discipline and hard work. I urge Barbadians not to begrudge, or envy His Excellency on what he has accomplished. Some people have said to me that we have done so much for him and asked why he had to get all of that, that all he did was to win a race.

Mr. Speaker, we should not begrudge Ryan for his success, instead we should follow his formula. There are those who would say that it was sheer luck, but I beg to challenge them. Ryan worked hard, and we need to follow his formula. That day in Berlin he had a slow start. Indeed, many of us have had a slow start. We did not get off to the best of starts. Ryan knocked down the first hurdle, but he persevered and he won. Many of us have knocked down many hurdles, more than we care to count.

Mr. Speaker, that clip on radio with Ryan says that he knew there was gold there, and so he went for it. Mr. Speaker, we have to envisage gold. We have to know that there is gold there and continue to persevere for that. Mr. Speaker, I go back to that song in which Mariah Carey said that the Lord knows dreams are hard to follow but do not let anyone tear them away, hold on, there will be tomorrow, in time you would find a way.

Mr. Speaker, we must follow Ryan's formula for success which is hard work, discipline, determination and self-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of us to dream for ourselves, to dream for our children, and to dream for our nation. Ryan's parents dare to dream with him. Many parents, when their children dream big would tell them not to set their sights so high, to do something that they could accomplish, to win the school sports at their school. Ryan's parents dared to dream with him and they supported him every step of the way. His coaches, especially Alwin Babb, supported him and shared in his dream.

Sir, I want to encourage parents, coaches, teachers, mentors and everybody who work with children to listen to our children, hear their dreams, hear their heart, know what it is they want to accomplish, see the world through their eyes and not try to force them to see the world our way, but dare to dream with them and let them shape our view of the world. Mr. Speaker, let us empower them to achieve their goals to make the future that they dream of for themselves to fulfil their purpose.

Mr. Speaker, letting our young people achieve their goals even if they do not do it here in Barbados is what sustainable development and our future is about. We need to encourage them. As I said, it is not just a Government effort, it takes all of us to be able to empower our youth.

Mr. Speaker, we talk negatively about our young people, but our young people are complaining that what they are doing is because we are not hearing them, or crediting them with dreams and visions, or helping them to accomplish those visions. Mr. Speaker, I want all of us to change our outlook on that, and I have asked His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite to help us to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I want to urge all of us to do as His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite did. Sir, as advised by that Nobel Prize winner 1921 for Literature, Anatole France, to accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe. In fact, Germany's greatest man of letters, Yohan von Girta, said to dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men. His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite dreamt big and he moved the hearts of all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, we wish him well. I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I too would want to join this Honourable Chamber in congratulating His

Excellency Ryan Brathwaite for his outstanding performance in Germany. Sir, I do not want to repeat the exact words of the Honourable Minister of Youth, Family and Sports, but I want to say that all of Barbados were exceptionally proud and happy to have shared in this wonderful occasion.

Mr. Speaker, however, what I was most impressed with was the spectacle that was staged at the Kensington Oval for such a humble Barbadian who performed outstandingly on the international circuit. I thought that the spectacle at Kensington Oval was well-organised. I was in the television audience all the time and I can tell you that what was beaming back into Barbadian homes was a spectacle. Sir, this young man certainly deserves every kudos and honour.

Mr. Speaker, it is against this background that I would want to compliment the Organising Committee and this Government, for that wonderful gesture for such an outstanding Barbadian. Sir, when I speak, I do so on behalf of the constituents of St. Michael South East, who have asked me to speak on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, more important, I believe that the time has come when we, as a Parliament are, at some time, going to have to establish what I would call the Ryan Brathwaite and Obadele Thompson School of Athletic Excellence. Sir, His Excellency Obadele Thompson received bronze in the Olympics and His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite received gold on the international arena.

Mr. Speaker, I say that against the background that the University of the West Indies has dedicated an athletic track for His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite. I am saying that with the completion of that track, considerable consideration would have to be given to take it a step further and create this School of Athletic Excellence in Barbados, with the University of the West Indies being that venue.

Additionally, in order for us to create this School of Excellence, I believe that all like now we should be looking at the best potential athletes that we have in Barbados. I also believe that with the creation of the Constituency Councils, all the Councils across Barbados should be mandated that a portion of the Funds allocated to them, should be allocated for athletic development within the communities. Sir, I believe that every community across Barbados should have a serious athletic programme because the community, in my view, is the bedrock of all development.

Sir, I am saying that against a background when we should also be recognising some of our outstanding community sportsmen and sportswomen. I am saying that from the perspective, that I believe that all communities

across Barbados and the leaders of the Constituency Councils, the non-governmental organisations and community organisations, should start the process of the creation of a Hall of Fame, or a Wall of Fame in Barbados, in every Resource Community Centre, Church or elsewhere.

Sir, for instance, let me give an example. In the Pineland community, which has produced many outstanding athletes - and I am sure that many persons would argue with that - we are now creating a situation to establish that Hall of Fame, or that Wall of Fame. We are taking it from mere talk. We are seriously asking the private sector and other interesting parties across Barbados and within the communities themselves, to contribute to this important and worthy cause, to put on display these outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen.

Sir, very shortly I will be sending a letter to the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, to have Newton Crescent renamed after Reuben Bailey. Reuben Bailey was one of the most outstanding long-distance athletes we have in Barbados. Therefore, I am asking the Minister to have Newton Crescent renamed after him.

Mr. Speaker, I am also asking the Honourable Member to rename the roundabout in Regent Hill after our only Olympian, Mr. Rawle Clarke, who is the current organiser of the Senior Games. He is also, in my view, doing an excellent job. He is the cousin of the Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development.

Mr. Speaker, I am also asking that the Golden Rock area be renamed after Victor Houston, another outstanding athlete, who is now coach in the United States of America, and who is doing exceptionally well.

Mr. Speaker, I can promise this Honourable Chamber that come the next Olympics, the Pineland Community would produce another outstanding athlete by the name of Miss Kerry Beckles, whose family is from Philips Road, Pine.

Sir, further down we have Mr. Mario Burke. Mr. Speaker, I say that against the background that His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite has now motivated a lot of young people in communities across Barbados to strive for excellence, that they would do their best to become the best.

Mr. Speaker, it is through this single opportunity that this one shining light in Barbados has now provoked a sense of ambition among many young people who once thought that they were without such. These young people could now enter the field of athletic competition and,

therefore, further enhance Barbados on the international sporting arena.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has made a very salient point about the behavior and mannerism of young people across Barbados, particularly what we would want to call the inner cities of Barbados. Sir, when we talk about the inner cities, we want to refer to the housing areas. In America, they are referred to as "projects". In Barbados, we have not reached that level because "projects" in America are normally associated with extreme organised violence. In Barbados, I can tell you, if only it is a belief, that the young people within these communities all believe that they are natural singers and performers, therefore, Government has a distinct responsibility to make sure that their aspirations, thoughts and ambitions are realised.

Sir, at the same time, I would want to propose in this Honourable Chamber today that across Barbados we start the process of creating - I had this discussion with the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, and I want to share with Barbados that it was the Lashleys idea that we create what we call - recording studios in all the communities across Barbados, so that by having these community centres outfitted with the technical resources, a young person could wake up believing that he, or she, has a talent and that they could go into one of these centres and do a recording. Sir, only God knows how many top-class musicians, performers, entertainers, et cetera, from a holistic point of view, this country could produce from that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that Barbados is famous for across the world, even in China, an old man told me once that he went to China and when he went to an area in Peking, he found a Bajan there selling Cockspur Rum. Sir, wherever you go, you could find a Barbadian. Mr. Speaker, the point is that our greatest resource is our human resource.

Sir, during the periods 1951 to now have I ever seen such raw talent just waiting to be further developed. I believe that Government's policy is a youth policy, it is a dedication of a youth manifesto toward the development of this nation's youth. Sir, I believe it should be supported by all and sundry in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the time has now come where we must tap into the talents of our young people in all levels of sports in Barbados. Sir, if we have now to reorganise the level of sporting activities, we have to think outside the proverbial box.

11.10 a.m.

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Most of our thinking is captivated within the box which has been established, and hence you meet the bureaucratic structures that prohibit fast thinking, fast growth and an escalation of ideas, because there are centred in a particular way and pattern of doing things in Barbados. Therefore, I want to propose that when we re-examine our sports policy - and I am happy to have the honour of working with the Honourable Minister of Youth, Family and Sports - we have to reorganise sports at the community level we should make sports an income beneficial and an income proponent so that we will no longer make sport at sports.

Sir, I am proposing that we establish a Super Soccer League in Barbados at the community level, a Champion of Champions Tournament where the soccer players could earn for themselves. Sir, as a buttress to the School of Athletic Excellence, we should have a School of Cricketing Excellence. The Legends of Barbados are pushing it, and also football. Sooner, or later we will be discussing the exploits of the late great Victor "Gas" Clarke in this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, in any of our sports, whenever it is captured on the global television network, CNN or BBC, there should be an athlete representing Barbados. The only thing happening is cricket, the recent debacle. As it relates to Barbados excelling in West Indies cricket, as a third choice, a Barbadian was selected to captain the team, but that is another matter.

I believe that Ryan Brathwaite is serving as a spirit of inspiration and motivation. Certainly, in the communities across Barbados, he has generated that kind of hype and excitement that would certainly propel those persons who believe they did not have an opportunity, but now there is one for them. Do you know why? He comes from a community that really inculcated family values.

Additionally, the youth in Barbados, when they see Ryan Brathwaite, particularly those who live in the Pine, Gall Hall, et cetera, see themselves as persons who have the opportunity to further improve their particular discipline.

Sir, as I conclude on this very important item before this Honourable Chamber, that is giving credence to an ordinary humble Barbadian, I feel very humble that I have been given the opportunity in this Honourable House to lend my rather soft voice to this very loud and great debate that is taking place all over Barbados.

Sir, finally, I conclude by telling Ryan and all Barbadian athletes who are propelling, to be the best that they can be, and to let no obstacle be greater than the cause.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Sir, I certainly would like to associate myself with all of the comments which have been made about Ryan Brathwaite. I do not now know Ryan Brathwaite, like most of you. Ryan is a constituent of mine and I have known him from a very tender age. I believe that during the last General Elections he would have been one of those youngsters, a part of a group that was very close to a group in Hillaby we called the "Thursday Club".

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Certainly, because of his association, or his parent's association, we have always had his interest at heart.

I have certainly followed his career as a junior straight to the interschool sports. When you meet Ryan, in person, you knew that he was somebody special. He was not like the average sportsman at that tender age who tended to be aggressive, but he was a very quiet individual. There was always something special about his mastery of the hurdles.

Those of you who are familiar with athletics would note a lot of those athletes who participated in hurdles, they jump and run. Ryan from a very early age developed the art of gliding over the hurdles. He has certainly perfected an art which, I believe, at some later stage, the coaches throughout the world will want to copy.

Sir, I say this, because I recall, a number of years ago, we had an outstanding athlete by the name of Anton Norris. He perfected the art of jumping in the traditional way. I think that he was very close to the world record at that time, 6 feet 8 inches. I am reminded by the former Honourable Attorney-General that he is a former Combermerian, at the University of Waterford, like myself. Sir, Anton Norris was so good at his game that he was able to beat every other athlete in that particular event in the Caribbean and Latin America. There is only a limit to how far you can go.

I have watched the 110 metre hurdles at the Olympics, as a former athlete, myself. I am a fanatic when it comes to athletics. I do not go to work during the Olympics. As a matter of fact ...

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: You said that I represented Barbados in a marathon? I did not know you knew that.

Sir, getting back to Ryan and Anton Norris, Anton Norris perfected that traditional jump and he probably

jumped higher than anybody else in the world, but he could not go any further.

The advantage that Ryan has is a glide, and he glides over the hurdles and then moves. So when he glides over the hurdles and moves, it is fairly obvious that his competitors who are jumping and running would be slowing down and all of his flamboyance comes into play towards the end of the race. That is why he won. We all knew that he would have achieved greatness because of his style.

Sir, I do not think that we have come to realise the genius of Ryan in the hurdles. When you go back to about two or three years ago, and you check the advance of Caribbean athletes in the Men's hurdles, and you check the times, it was extremely difficult for one winning the Carifta Games in that event to even make the standards in the Olympics. For someone at a tender age, Ryan, not only to make an Olympic standard, but to actually win the event is something remarkable. I must say that this is something which is good for athletics in Barbados.

I recall the days when I was a very lonely person. It is a good thing to see people now jogging and running on mornings. In my day - I do not want people to feel that I am that old. I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would have been in those times, although he was not an athlete. I was very lonely. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South, he probably would have been coming home at a time when people are now moving out on the road to practise. This is something that did not happen.

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House A45, Sequence 09, 11:20.m.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: I am saying that it is good for the athletes that this has happened. Many of us only started to get involved in golf after the success of Tiger Woods, somebody that you could identify with, and Tiger Woods is far away. It is good that we could identify with someone from among us. This is fantastic.

I certainly look forward to the next Olympics. I was in Beijing. I went to Beijing specifically to see one athlete run. I am telling you this, maybe I am a fanatic of Ryan Brathwaite. I followed him, as I said from school days, and I honestly believed that he would have won the Olympic Gold. I went back to my hotel room and I cried, not deliberately, tears flowed from my eyes...

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: The expectation was so great. I listened to the Minister of Sports and I must congratulate her on her presentation. I honestly felt that Ryan Brathwaite because of the genius as I knew from seeing him as a little boy, progressed to CARIFTA, to the Latin American Championships, to the Olympics, seeing him in Beijing in the heats, I honestly felt he would have won. Sir, if there is one person that was not surprised that he would have won the World Championship was myself.

I recall in Beijing, after the Olympics, I was in a conversation with my good friend, Wallace Griffith from ShopSmart and a former President of the Amateur Athletic Association who is very well known to most of you, a genius in his own right, no other than Mr. Austin Sealey, and we were talking about the next Olympics. When I said that Barbados would win a Gold Medal in the next Olympics, I remembered Austin Sealey turned to me and said, "Come on George, we might improve, but we cannot win a Gold Medal at the next Olympics."

Mr. Speaker, that is like five years ago, when people were speaking about the Presidency of the United States of America and people were talking about a black man becoming President of the United States of America...

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Sir, and not being doubters among us, but it sounded so farfetched and so out of reach, a small country like Barbados, no stars, very few people even approaching the standards for Olympics, and you are talking about somebody winning a Gold Medal. It was no different with the Presidency of the United States of America and look what has happened. I do not think that even Obama himself, thought that he would have been President of the United States of America.

Therefore, I am indeed proud, not just because Ryan is a constituent of mine, not just because his family is very close to me, not just because Ryan Brathwaite is part of the Hillaby posse and that group, The Thursday Club, not just because we did not wait for Ryan to win a medal to set up any Ryan Brathwaite Fan Club. The Ryan Brathwaite Fan Club came into prominence since the recent events, but the Ryan Brathwaite Fan Club was there all along because we wanted the rest of Barbados to know that we had a genius among us.

I am glad that the Minister of Sports, the real Minister of Sports, can speak in this House, in the way that she spoke. I would like to thank her too. I do not know if she had anything to do with it, she might not have dealt with it directly, but from the dealings that I have had with her, I believe that she would have insisted that I was invited to the naming of the facility that is to be opened at the University of the West Indies. I was very pleased that she

took it upon herself to ensure that I was invited to that event. I would like to publicly thank her for ensuring that I was invited to that function.

One other thing that I forgot before I leave this particular area. I was so overwhelmed with Ryan Brathwaite's performance and his talents that at the last Annual Conference of the Barbados Labour Party...

Asides.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: No. I cried in Beijing. I knew what I was seeing. I was seeing a genius in the making.

Sir, in October 2008, last year, long before the World Championship, I impressed on those organisers within the Barbados Labour Party, the Conference Arrangement Committee...

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: I do not like to do like Honourable Members of the Other Side and talk about the Barbados Labour Party, but at the Barbados Labour Party's Annual Conference, the programme was already in place, all of the speakers and everything were finished. I did not see the Programme. I had to intervene because a lot of us were not aware of the talents of Ryan. I ensured at the Annual Conference that Ryan Brathwaite was given an award.

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: That is a fact. He was given an award at the Annual Conference. He was out of the island at the time, and his mother, who on the same day when all of the celebrations, fuss and everything else that was going on at Kensington Oval, she celebrated with us at the Thursday Club, on that same Thursday afternoon.

Ladies and gentlemen...

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, Honourable Members, please.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sorry.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a "celebratory" mood and because this heading is "Congratulatory Messages and Speeches," we do not have to follow the normal process here, but in celebrating Ryan, we should not forget the persons who have made this possible. The persons who are Gold Medalists in their own right, who never had the skills, or the talents of a Ryan Brathwaite or a George Payne to go and win races for Barbados. I speak about this with a passion. I have spoken about it on more than one occasion.

In my view, one of the greatest Barbadians that we have had, in terms of pushing athletes in this country, is none other than a man called - I know you do not like us to call names, but I think you would excuse me in this - Mr. Austin Sealy, a former President of the Amateur Athletic Association who was, I believe, the most outstanding Barbadian "Athlete" whom we have ever had, in terms of his organisation.

I recall the guidance that I got, either at the hands or feet of Austin Sealy in those early days. I sometimes wondered why a man who was a busy bank manager would go out of his way to drive to Orange Hill to collect me and take me to the National Stadium to train, as he did with so many other athletes. Sir, I was an athlete from First Form, and he was the first person that shared that dedication. I believe that people like him, should be commended. The people like him are now reaping their own rewards in Ryan Brathwaite's success and we should not forget them.

House A45, Sequence 09, 11.30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Sir, these are people like Elizabeth Ernsshaw, Esther Maynard, Frank Blackman, Trevor Welch, Tyrone Lovell, Gerston Clarke, Catherine Jordan and coming a little closer to home, the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Noel Lynch.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to say the wrong thing. I would like to say that the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South was not as selfish as another Honourable Member in this House, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. The former Honourable Member for St. Michael South was the President of the Barbados Amateur Athletic Association and he did very good work. He performed very well after Austin Sealy. He is, maybe one of the best Presidents we have ever had at the Barbados Amateur Athletic Association.

The former Honourable Member for St. Michael South recognised that being a Minister of Government, would conflict with his duties as President of the Barbados Amateur Athletic Association. Mr. Noel Lynch could have been the President of the Amateur Athletic Association as I speak and getting the kudos for Ryan Brathwaite.

Sir, in all of his humility, he put this nation first. I think there is a lesson to be learnt from this. I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central should follow the example of the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Noel Lynch, because if he has performed well as President of the Barbados Football Association and he resigns now and the Barbados team reaches the Finals after the next Football World Cup,

whatever is in store for him is intact. Austin Sealy did not seek to remain as President of the Olympics Association.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have been giving some latitude, but we still have to adhere to the Rules of relevance. As far as I am aware, this is a congratulatory statement with respect to Ryan Brathwaite, so I would like you to remain relevant to that, please.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I apologise. I am still celebrating Ryan's success. When you are celebrating, sometimes you tend to go overboard.

Mr. Speaker, right in front of me is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, and whenever I look at the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I remember the good things Austin Sealy did for the former President of the Barbados Amateur Athletic Association.

I believe we should be reminded of these individuals. I would certainly hope that at some particular point in time, that particular individual would be given his due honour in the same way that other gold medalists and other people who have served Barbados well have been rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, in my book, that former member is certainly one of my heroes, if not my hero. I was, indeed, very pleased to be the recipient of his generosity at the Beijing Olympics when I went there, together with the Minister of Sports. We certainly felt honoured to be in his company.

In all this, Mr. Speaker, we must not look at this event as a one-off event. Ryan Brathwaite has won a World Championship medal. I spoke about his genius. I would hope that the real Minister of Sports, as I speak, is looking at the 2012 Olympics and planning the programme. We do not want any excuses for breaches of protocol, because my prediction is that barring injury, Ryan Brathwaite is going to win the 110 metres hurdle at the next Olympics. I said that in Hillaby and at the Beijing Olympics to the former President of the Barbados Amateur Athletic Association and I will say it again.

Mr. Speaker, I get the feeling that we would not have the same Government by 2012. The way how things are going in this country, there is a strong possibility that what happened in the past because... I am not trying to push anybody, but you may recall that we had a Government that was elected in 1991, and in 1994 you had an implosion of that Government and you had another Government in 1994. The last Election was...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am going to caution you again with respect to relevance. I really do not

think that you should use the opportunity like this. Personally, it is getting to be in poor taste Honourable Member, and if you persist in the irrelevance, I would have to ask you to take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I take your point, but I was just speaking within the context of there being a different Government in 2012, based on our history because there was a Government four years after 1991, and the last Election was in 2008, and there is a possibility, if history repeats itself, that there would be a Government in 2011. That is the extent of what I was trying to suggest.

Mr. Speaker, all I am saying is that we know now that we have a genius among us who would be competing in the next Olympics, and we have enough time to prepare him. Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, it matters not who was invited, or who was not invited, that is not important at all. It is important that we, as a people, would be able to rally around that symbol, Ryan Brathwaite.

There may not be another Ryan Brathwaite for another 20 years, therefore, I believe that we should take this opportunity to, at least, start the planning stages in earnest very early, so that we would not be left scrambling when Ryan Brathwaite wins the Olympics gold medal in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to use this opportunity to remind Government... I think that Government on occasions tends to ignore sports. It is good that the Minister of Tourism is also the son of a former athletic legend. The amount of exposure that you can get from the achievement of a Ryan Brathwaite is greater than the millions of dollars that you could spend in the tourism sector.

I believe that the Government at this stage should look at the budget for sports. The Minister has alluded to it and I certainly look forward to a renewed interest, even if it means having to come back to this House for supplementaries from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we should uplift our sports programmes. I recall speaking to the Vice President of the Barbados Olympics Association. Sir, one saw his emotion on television when he was being interviewed at the airport when Ryan Brathwaite came in. I had reason to speak to him at length and that same emotion came out. In our conversation, I recall him making the point that he believes that Barbados could do it if the Government puts more money into sports. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this is just the trigger for good things to come.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I certainly would like to associate myself with all of the comments which have been made by the Minister of Sports, and give my support to this

Resolution and these congratulations to Ryan Brathwaite and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

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

House A45 Sequence 10

11.40 a.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this matter before this Honourable Chamber and to state that although I have not been blessed by the Almighty with any progenies thus far, as a teacher of many years. I feel very proud having taught His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite Mathematics at some stage in his academic career.

Mr. Speaker, I feel very happy this morning to stand here to congratulate him for his excellent achievement at winning that 110 metre hurdles, and to say to all Barbadians that the symbolism of the fact that Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite was able to overcome those hurdles within that event, and to emerge as world champion, can be related to the hurdles which people, and Barbadians in particular, would have to overcome as we journey through life.

Mr. Speaker, as Honourable Members before mentioned, Ambassador Brathwaite struck the first hurdle. Sir, the biomechanics of athletics and others would tell you that having struck the first hurdle, it is very difficult to recover and to excel because the others, who would not have struck that hurdle, would be ahead of you and gaining momentum, but Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite was determined and came back and won. It was a close finish, but Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite won nonetheless, and continued to win subsequent races. Sir, I would invite Barbadians to hold onto this shining example of dedication to the cause, to fight the good fight of life and never to give up.

Mr. Speaker, you and I both went to that noble institution in St. John called the Lodge School and that our Motto is "Possunt Quira Posse' Videntur," which means "they can, because they think they can". Sir, we knew that motto even before the President of the United States of America talked about "Yes, we can." Sir, I have taken this motto, internalised it and used it to overcome the hurdles of life.

Mr. Speaker, this motto is very powerful when we can have the mindset, where we have tremendous self-confidence in seeking to achieve whatever goal we have set

ourselves. Therefore, be it the economic challenges confronting the world today, Barbadians must be resilient as a people. We must use Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite's example to pull ourselves up from our bootstraps and regardless of whether we have been made redundant, laid off, or whatever challenges are presented to us, we can retool. We can get into other careers. We can even become entrepreneurs, or we can go into the private sector. Sir, we have that mental intellect, regardless of whichever school we would have gone to.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite went to the Lester Vaughan School. I taught at the St. Leonard's Girls' School, the precursor to the Lester Vaughan School, and I know that many of the staff currently there are very dedicated. I have also taught at a number of educational institutions, from older secondary schools, for example, Queens College, to newer secondary schools, for example, Parkinson and Deighton Griffith.

I can assure Barbadians that our education system is sound and that throughout the school system, regardless of whichever secondary school one attends, be it Alma Parris through to Harrison College, the staff are very well-qualified. Sir, some members of staff have Ph.Ds, Masters and Bachelor Degrees. They have a wealth of experience, with most of them being trained in teacher training methodologies. Therefore, no one should feel cheated, regardless of whichever school they attend.

We encourage parents and guardians to work with those children and make them believe in themselves. Sir, they might be off to a slow start, like Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, they might have struck a hurdle, they might not have gotten the marks they wanted at the Common Entrance Examination to get to the school they wanted, they might not have gotten all the CXC's, A'Levels, or Degrees, but rather than ridiculing these persons, we must work with them and encourage them to believe in themselves.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my philosophy when I taught my students, that regardless of whichever school they may attend, regardless of how academically-inclined they were, I always encourage them to believe in themselves and to know that they can also succeed. It may take them a little longer to succeed, but they can eventually succeed in whatever they are doing.

Sir, this is what Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite would have heard from me and I am very happy about that. Sir, I come here feeling very proud of this achievement, proud about the fact that he would have listened to teachers, his parents, Sunday School teachers and others, as we all sought to nurture him to be the gentleman he is now.

Sir, Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite was a lad when I taught him. He is the humble young man that we see here today. Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite was not ill disciplined. He was well-brought up by his parents, and I congratulate them for nurturing such a fine gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the broader picture is to tell the people that regardless of their station in life, regardless of their current circumstances, that tomorrow can be, and will be a better day. Sir, we pray to the Lord and ask Him to bless us, but He works through each and every one of us, so that we are responsible for our respective destiny, so that we are blessed with health oftentimes and with basic amenities, but that as bad as things are, there are people out there in the world who are suffering because of wars. We live in a politically-stable environment but today as we speak, all around the world in several hot spots, be it Afghanistan or the Middle East, people are suffering in terms of wars and deprivation.

Mr. Speaker, we in Barbados should take these blessings from on high and, as the Bible says, not to bury our talents, but to nurture them, so that they could multiply. Sir, our destiny is in our hands. We as a people have the natural resources, the health and the intellect, that we can excel in whatever we choose to, if we apply ourselves.

Sir, I would want to say that we must apply ourselves fully. We must be disciplined. We must be determined. If we simply give up and decide to blame Government, or the system, if we decide to become marginalised, we would have ourselves and no one else to blame.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to represent the good people of the City of Bridgetown, and we have produced tremendous national icons. Sir Garfield St. Alburn Sobers was born in the heart of the Constituency, in the Bayville area.

Sir, I remember years ago on public television, Captain Farmer, the then Commissioner of Police, telling the nation that young "Garry", with all of this talent as a teenager, he wanted him to play for Police in the First Division and that the quickest way to bring Garfield Sobers in, was to bring him in, not as a police officer, but as a member of the Police Band, where Garfield Sobers played a wind instrument, I think the clarinet. Mr. Speaker, Sir Garfield Sobers is now a national hero.

Mr. Speaker, another great cricketer, Sir Everton Weekes, was from New Orleans, the City of Bridgetown. Jackie Opel, the first person who invented spooze, our Barbadian music, was from Green Park Lane, the City. "Mitch" Springer and "Grant" from the band the Opels were from the City. Richard Stoute, who is nationally recognised, started singing in the public bath in 8th

Avenue, New Orleans. Sir, there are other persons such as doctors, accountants, dentists, who all came from the City of Bridgetown.

11.50 a.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Hon. P. M. T. TOOD: Whether you are a carpenter, mason, doctor, Lawyer or engineer, the part you play as an individual in the national development is very important, the individual citizens. We must work together as a people, using Ryan Brathwaite's achievement to motivate us as a people to be resourceful and to ensure that Barbados flourishes.

Sir, as I said, I have been privileged to have taught at several schools throughout our island. I remember teaching at Queen's College with Mr. Alwyn Babb, the distinguished coach of Ryan Brathwaite. I know this humble man is dedicated to his cause. As I told the students of Lester Vaughan School, earlier, when Mr. Babb left Queen's College, he was substituting for the substantive Physical Education teacher. The whole school shed tears because they noticed the greatness in this man for the couple years that he was there.

I invited the children of Lester Vaughan School, a newer secondary school, to acknowledge that we have world-rated coach teaching daily at that school. So they are privileged and should look forward to working with Mr. Babb, so that future Lester Vaughan students can become future Ryan Brathwaites, they can.

Sir, as I said, I taught at several schools and I taught people like Janelle Inniss. She was at the Parkinson School, when I was there. Jade Bailey was also there. I taught Millicent Maximilian, a long distance runner of great repute.

Sir, I remember when you and I were at the Lodge School, we used to have the Interschool Sports. At that time it was limited to the older secondary schools. I went to the Lodge School and then did A' levels at Harrison College.

Sir, at the Lodge School we had interschool sports, but it was limited to the older secondary schools. You and I would remember that at that time, the great sprinter was Ronald Clarke, who went on to be a distinguished medical practitioner. There was someone called "Black Pearl" at Harrison College. They were keen competitors, and at Parkinson School you had Eric Berry. Back then the newer secondary schools were separated, but I am happy now that they are all together, removing all of this bourgeois discrimination. As I said, it demonstrates that all of the schools have very well-qualified teachers and those

students can become excellent when they go on to get athletic scholarships

Sir, when I was at school I was working very hard to get an athletic scholarship. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew mentioned Frank Blackman. I was keen on the triple jump, with tremendous potential. Mr. Blackman told me that. He watched me while I was practising at Harrison College. I did not know that he was watching me, and he begged me to train with him.

In fact, I met the Honourable Member for St. John, the Prime Minister of Barbados, we met for the first time while that Honourable Member was the National Affairs Chairperson on the Guild of Undergraduates at the University of the West Indies. Even from then, the Honourable Member for St. John knew about public service.

The National Affairs Chairperson did not engage in the free trips around the world. He was responsible for organising inter-faculty games and getting discounts for students. He was holding the tape at inter-faculty games at the National Stadium, and I was a triple jumper. I always remind the Honourable Member for St. John when he laughed that I barely made the sandpit. Anyone who knows about athletics knows that the distance between the back board and the sandpit at the Stadium is at least 30 metres. So to make the sandpit you had to have potential. Sir, that is how we met.

I know the discipline involved in athletics. You have to persevere, so Ryan's achievement is no simple one. It is a demonstration of his discipline and dedication over the years. I congratulate him and he is a shining light for the rest of Barbados to follow.

Sir, there is a tremendous opportunity for working-class Barbadians from the City and throughout Barbados, who may not be academically inclined, but have the raw natural talent of being an athlete, a soccer player, or netballer. I taught national netball players like Oliver Walcott and Casandra Cutting. I know they are humble people, but they worked hard. I am saying that through a number of these sports, they can get athletic scholarships where they can become graduates and professionals earning a lot of money, or they may choose to be entertainers making a lot of money.

Sir, John King and I sat in the same class at the Lodge School. I never thought that he would become a world famous singer, my school mate. People like Toni Norville, I was privileged to teach her, Romanicia Murray and Maria Williams, all professional singers. I am very proud of their achievements. Your neighbour next door, fellow Barbadians, whoever they are, can be some of these celebrities too. The sky is the limit.

Sir, too many people look down on others and say you will come to nothing because you may have had a slow start in life. You may have had a few hurdles, or you may have had a few transgressions, but the Lord is a forgiving Lord. None of us can stand here and say that we are all perfect. We are all sinners, so we must be able to forgive ourselves, forgive our neighbours and, of course, seek to do God's will. Seek to be a better citizen, seek to uplift ourselves. I congratulate His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite for overcoming these hurdles and fighting for himself, his family and Barbados.

Sir, I would not go on much further, but would just like to add that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was going quite well until he, unfortunately, spoiled it by trying to compare and to cast aspersions on the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. I would just remind the Honourable Member for St. Andrew that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, or none on This Side have ever publicly had a big argument with Obadele Thompson.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have just cautioned the Honourable Member about relevance, about good taste, and so on. I really would not like you to breach those Rules. Let us keep it relevant and let us keep the topic on discussion, as you are well aware.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I agree with setting the record straight. Ryan Brathwaite is another potential Olympic medal winner, and This Side pledges not to go down that line. We need to uplift Ryan Brathwaite, so this is the tone which is coming from this side.

Sir, I heard one of our leading sports medicine authorities, according to newspaper reports, suggested that Ambassador Brathwaite should not take any supplement. I am not a medical practitioner, but I know that the Government is committed to helping His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite in his preparations.

I would just say that the little knowledge that I know of supplementation is that Osafa Powell, the Jamaican athlete, held the world record before the current holder, his compatriot Usain Bolt.

From what I read and documented, before Osafa Powell broke the world record in the 100 metres, a couple years ago, he was finding it difficult to recover from exertion and so forth. He had a brother who introduced him to a supplement of multivitamins. Osafa started to take this supplement and three months later he broke the world record in the 100 metres to such an extent that the parent company, a \$7 billion company, around the world, officially sponsored him and other world athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I take that same supplement, that is why you hardly ever see me with a cold. That is why I have all of this energy to walk up and down Bridgetown.

Sir, I know that the learned practitioner was seeking to be cautious because a lot of these supplements some athletes take may be tainted with banned substances, so clearly he was acting in Ryan's interest. I would not want us to go overboard. I would say that we seek out the best supplements to ensure that Ryan can be fortified with all of the antioxidants and vital nutrients that supplement and fight off the free radicals.

Sir, when you exert yourself by jogging, your body produces free radicals that actually attack the body.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is very familiar with this. I remember in his private practice, publicly some of his patients, cancer victims, talked about his good work in advising them to take ground provisions.

H45 12:00 noon Sequence 12

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

House A45, Sequence 13, 12.00 p.m.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: You hear about the yams that Usain Bolt takes, so a lot of these foods that we take to supplement our basic consumption of food stuff is important, because many people cannot afford the many servings of fruit and vegetables that one would normally have to take to get the necessary nutrition. Therefore, good supplements, organically produced with no fertilizers, or pesticides, and tainted substitutes are good for the body.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that many western trained persons are now catching up with the East. Doctors in Europe have been trained in herbal medicine for years and people in the West are now catching up. Unfortunately, you have some professionals, who would tell you that supplements are a waste of time. I am saying that is foolishness, because it has been proven around the world that good quality supplementation is very good for our vitality and good health and so, I would look forward to a team of specialists working with Ambassador Ryan.

Sir, other athletes are going to be doing it, so if we are going to play hifalutin, when others around the world are getting the necessary supplements, then we are putting ourselves at an unnecessary disadvantage. I am sure that His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite will be well-taken care of and will get the best advice possible.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would just invite us all as a people to rally around Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite. He is a very humble young man, and he needs our support.

If he has some challenges, we must be there to guide him and to tell him, yes, you can overcome these hurdles, you will succeed, you will make Barbados proud.

I urge Barbadians to follow his example and to fight the good fight, and to know that we as a people will recover from this economic downturn and will rebound with great success, as we move our country forward in the years to come.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to express congratulations again, to His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, and to say from the outset that the journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step and those steps that Ryan has made so far, have caused us in Barbados, and indeed the Caribbean, to be really very proud. I also want to add that Ryan has earned and deserved all the accolades that have been bestowed upon him.

Mr. Speaker, I consider him to be a humble, Christian, well-disciplined young man who has placed our country on the world map, as has been said by so many Honourable Members here today. Therefore, as we walk the length and breadth of Barbados, even the little ones in the nursery schools are singing his praises that are associated with his successes in Berlin.

I felt blessed, Mr. Speaker, particularly when Ryan put his hands up and thanked God for his achievements on the track. Every step of the way so far, in all his public and private gatherings, he has been praising God for all that he has done for him and for others. I think that gesture in itself shows his fortification in faith and in the Master. Therefore, I want to highly commend his parents for raising an ordinary village boy, who has performed extraordinary feats and has put Barbados on the world stage.

Indeed, Sir, Principal Barker from the Lester Vaughan Secondary School, the teachers, the coaches, particularly Mr. Alvin Babb, have all dedicated time and services, and have tied their resources to assist, not only Ryan, but scores of other young Barbadians, who have shown that they have the ability and capacity to be successful in the athletic arena.

Sir, I cannot forget the role that has been played by the Amateur Athletic Association. I have not sought your permission and, therefore, will not call names, beyond Mr. Babb's name just now, except to say that I believe that as a result of their input as well, that he has been able to be

shaped into the fine young Barbadian citizen that we have all witnessed.

Mr. Speaker, I can speak of his involvement with his neighbours, his friends and others in the community where he lives, where they gave him the nickname “Flash” because every time his mother sent him to the shop, before she could wink her eyes he was back with whatever item. Then, of course, in school with his schoolmates, they gave him the name “Frenchie” because he would always eat french-fries. I am saying this because this is what his mother said.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: His mother said that when he came home for lunch, almost every day, his main meal was french-fries. Therefore that is where he got his name “Frenchie” that he has held so dearly, and his friends in the neighborhood have also called him by that name.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that Ryan’s successes so far should be a good barometer to dispel the myths that many Barbadians have, that at common entrance time, the results determine whom you will become. Mr. Speaker, that is not all you know, because some of us have some very strange stigmas that we associate with schools and people and, indeed, some institutions.

A lot of people seem to be of the belief as well that where you live will always determine your success - where you came from - a lot of people tell you that. Sometimes they even refer to the school that you have attended, so when you talk about the Modern High School, the Federal High School and the Community High School, people seem to think that those of us who have attended those schools are second-class citizens. Therefore, I would not wish to associate myself at all, Mr. Speaker, with that sort of comment, except to say that it is not the school that one attends. It is indeed a lot to do with the goals that one sets out, and what they do with the time that they spend in those various institutions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you would know that it is with great pride that Ryan attended the Lester Vaughan, my neighbourhood school and that school is named after one of the most outstanding Barbadians, the author of the National Pledge, none other than the late Lester Vaughan, SCM, JP, who always upheld the highest standards. Indeed, the title that he gave the primary school where he was Head Teacher, my alma mater, is “Train for Life Here and Hereafter.” I know that is not the motto of Lester Vaughan, but indeed Ryan’s training would have started at the Lawrence T. Gay Memorial School and then further, when he was transferred to the Lester Vaughan in St. Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan’s parents made that extra push and he has been able to make some indelible marks on the Barbadian scene, and indeed, in the international arena. He has been statesmanlike in every endeavour, Mr. Speaker, and I trust that God will continue to help to point him to hold on to that humility. That is what will make the final Ryan Brathwaite. He has to hold on to his humble approach in order to make the other strides that he has made.

I have had the distinct honour to be closely associated with him. I believe even a little closer than the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, which I will not disclose because the Honourable Member for St. Andrew does not live in the Constituency of St. Andrew.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: ...nor does the former candidate for St. Andrew, Mr. Speaker, but Ryan’s mother, Ms. Young, has been associated with me for many years because she is the caregiver of two of my grandchildren. Therefore, we have forged relationships for more than 20 years. She is also a very strong community person and she tides as her time and resources, sometimes though limited as mine are, in the Association of Friends of the Gordon Cummins District Hospital, so we have further opportunities to have communication on a number of matters.

House A45, Sequence 13, 12.10 p.m.

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Miss C. Y. FORDE: I believe that Auntie Angela, as she is more familiarly known by us, and Mr. Eugene Brathwaite, Ryan’s father, would have done outstanding work in mentoring, nurturing and providing for Ryan so that he could be able to develop such an outstanding personality. The manner of Ryan alone speaks volumes of what his dedicated parents have been doing.

Mr. Speaker, I asked that God would continue to help them to be able to develop in their own lives and indeed, in that of the work that Auntie Angela does in shaping the lives of the little children of Barbados in the Government day nurseries.

Mr. Speaker, the parents of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite should be emulated by all Barbadian parents. Too many of us give up our children to the school, the community, the nursery and the Church. We forget that our major role as parents is to work and nurture our children. Ryan’s parents are different. They worked hand in hand to nurture and prepare him for life.

Mr. Speaker, yes, I agree with the African saying that it takes a whole village to raise one child. We have

seen that through what has transpired over the last few weeks with Ryan back home in his community, where he has been honoured at one of the highest levels in this country.

I believe that the recipes that Mr. Brathwaite and Miss Young have been using to raise Ryan should be shared with other Barbadian parents, so that they know that they have a responsibility and that the future of their children is pertinent to the development of Barbados. Too many of us adjudicate our responsibilities as parents, and leave our children out to the wiles of the devil.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to the other point that Ryan is a true example of Barbadian pride. He has the persistence. He displays the good discipline that is necessary in any sphere of life, whether it be in athletics, employment, the school, the Church or wherever.

His Excellency Ryan has continued to make tremendous sacrifices in order to reach his goals. He has to get up early and train. He has to stick to a diet. He has to conform with Rules. He has shown a measure of thrift because there has not always been a lot of money to spend in his growing up, like most of us would have experienced, but he and his parents, like many other proud Barbadians, have ensured that what little they had, they used it to be able to meet our individual needs.

Indeed, I am looking at the initiative that he would have been able to put in place, the goal setting and finally, the godliness. I know that I should have put that first, but I mentioned his approach to life. I believe that all of that have helped us to develop an outstanding Barbadian man.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the youth of Barbados have been able to develop yet another role model whom they could emulate. They could copy his style with the good discipline and all the other aspects of good living, those virtues that have been mentioned, in order for them to be able to achieve.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I want to also make mention of the scores of negatives that come through from persons whom our young people see as role models that have negative influence on their development.

Mr. Speaker, I speak about the lifestyles and the language. It seems now to be the okay and popular thing for everybody to be using expletives in every statement. I do believe that some children and some students at the university write expletives in their compositions because that is something that is catching on because they are watching these popular channels for young people where almost every other word has to be an expletive.

Sir, that is not Ryan. I, therefore, hope that our young people would remove themselves from that. There are lots of vices that are impacting on them, such as the promotion of sex, the way they dress, the hairstyles and the greed. They must have money to buy everything that is in the store, or the boutique. I think that is the wrong way to go. Mr. Speaker, Ryan was not raised like that. I can speak about that with a measure of authority.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the whole breakdown in society where the impact of friends and peers lead our children to use a lot of alcohol and drugs. Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, believe that the parenting component would help our people to uplift themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to highly commend the media in Barbados. I told off our national television station at first because we did not get to see that race, but I believe that they played catch up and, therefore, I want to commend not only the print media, but the electronic media for His Excellency's promotion and trust that the media will, in every sphere of life, every day of the week, promote some other young person who is a role model in this county, because our young people are yearning for that kind of guidance and direction.

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite is a homemade mentor whom I believe, will continue to influence our youth, our people and indeed, our future. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew spoke about his acknowledgments in the Barbados Labour Party last year because we recognised the potential that he had. Ryan is not the only one from the Lester Vaughan School. There is Leeanne Kellman and quite a few others whom, for the last six to seven years, have been blazing the trail in the area of athletics for Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I want to highly commend them.

I also want to commend a Barbados Labour Party Government for the Sports Promotion legislation and indeed, the adjustments that were made earlier this year, to ensure that those young people are specially looked after through the Funding and the training that would be offered to them, to help to bring them up to world standards.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that His Excellency Ryan will achieve all his goals, and that the academic strides that he would make in Kansas and indeed, in the area of athletics, that God would assist him in becoming even more successful. Ryan is an inspiration to all. All of us in Barbados are proud of him. I look forward, as well as I know the rest of Barbados does, to his future successes on the international stage as he follows his dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Auntie Angela and Mr. Eugene Brathwaite must be highly commended. They too deserve a medal for the exceptional way they have raised

that young man to bring the pride and joy into the heart of all of us in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to more young Barbadians excelling in the area of athletics, academics, agriculture and all the other areas because these are the kinds of icons, His Excellency Ryan and others, who would help to give them that guided light to bring them to be able to achieve those outstanding goals that they would have organised.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a very brief intervention. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown summed it up very cleverly, but perhaps he may not have realised the gravamen accompanying the statement when he said that his Excellency Ryan overcame many a hurdle. That is a loaded statement, because those of us from rural Barbados and those of us who are poor know what it is to struggle and such like.

I trust that the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown would someday, be able to further carry forward that statement when he truly gets to appreciate the ways of us rural speakers and rural people.

Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely certain in what role I am speaking here today. His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite went to school at the Lester Vaughan School with my son. My son Rondel R. R. Eastmond opted to leave the Coleridge and Parry School to go to the Lester Vaughan School because the Lester Vaughan School had a curriculum that the Coleridge and Parry School did not have. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas would remember the days she would see my son going there.

Mr. Speaker, I speak emotionally because my son used to be a fairly good athlete and he brought home some trophies.

House A45 Sequence 14

12.20 p.m.

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Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I can also speak as a former athlete. There are at least three Honourable Members in this Honourable House who, if their memories were to work, would tell you that in Trinidad, in 1988, at the ripe age of 36, I won a sprint race. There is an Honourable Member, not necessarily on the

Floor as a Member, himself a former athlete at the University in Waterford, but who is in the precincts, who could also confirm this is true.

Mr. Speaker, I speak not just as a former athlete and rural man, but as a nationalist and as a Caribbean man, the reasons which will become obvious. Mr. Speaker, perhaps it all started with Jim Wedderburn. Why do I say it started with Jim Wedderburn? Sir, in pre-colonial times, achievement at a universally-high level was almost unknown to our people. As fate would have it, Jim Wedderburn, a humble and distinguished rural man to this day, did not run for Barbados, he ran for the Caribbean under the federal experiment.

Mr. Speaker, I will come to the Caribbean side on integration in this short speech. Sir, we do have a situation now where, until recently, I heard the American media yielding to the fact that, in recent times, America has not been dominating the 100m, 200m, 400m.

Sir, let us picture a scenario where, if we were fully integrated into a Federation of the West Indies, in other words, if the legacy of Jim Wedderburn had continued from 1960 to now, and had we gone forward as one united Caribbean, we could then single out a number of achievements that have come our way.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a "Bolt" and we have seen a "Flash." Sir, ironically, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite is nicknamed "Flash." Sir, over time we have had persons like Rawle Clarke, Noel Lynch, Freida Nichols, Tony Cadogan, Pedro Hinds, Hadley Hinds and many others, competing in situations where, at one time in this country, we were guilty of sending more officials than athletes to international events, where many officials opportunistically pounced on opportunities that should have been rightly provided to the athletes themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I do not question the achievement of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, but the legend of his achievement as a marathon runner would have to be told to this Honourable House. Honourable Members on That Side, as I singled out particular persons, laughed with glee but until then I had not mentioned the great achievements of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, as legend would have it, between Hometown and Orange Hill, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew would come down from Orange Hill to Folkestone, to go to the beach. Sir, there was a family in Hometown who took no liking to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, who would run him up the hill, from Hometown up to Orange Hill.

Asides.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: There was a man named “Tyrone Speed”, who picked out the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and would run him from Holetown uphill, through Greenwich Village, through Orange Hill, back into Holetown. That gave him a sense of discipline, endurance and courage to beat the odds. That is the legend in St. James about the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew went on to represent Barbados in marathons. In fact, in 1981, the Honourable Member was seeking to enter this Honourable House as the Member of Parliament for St. James South, and I saw him during the course of the Election campaign running far distances. This means that up to about 20 to 30 years ago, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew still had it in him to demonstrate some physical prowess, one which I have no doubt has not departed from him.

Mr. Speaker, in the context of what we are doing, the Honourable Member for St. George South, in a scholarly and well thought-out presentation, presented the facts concerning a person who, unfortunately, has not been running for the Federation of the West Indies, but because of political fracture with the breaking up of the Federation, had to run for an independent country, Barbados, which is now known for leading the integration movement, certainly in the periods of 1994 and 2008.

Mr. Speaker, based on what I heard last Friday, it seems to me that Barbados is prepared to continue to give thrust to our integration movement. In 1989, at Grand Anse, a decision was taken that Barbados takes a special responsibility in all this. Sir, I trust that we in the Caribbean could get together for cooperation in sports.

The CARIFTA games represent an opportunity where youngsters are given an opportunity to be exposed to competitions and to the disciplines. Sir, in a Caribbean that has known Jim Wedderburn, a fellow from Jamaica called “Porry,” a real 200m man, a country that has produced a modest and brilliant young man named Obadele Thompson, Sir, I am happy and delighted to hear that Ambassador Obadele Thompson is prepared to assist Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, in terms of his techniques, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, in normal sprinting there is the 100m, in hurdles there is the 110m. Hurdles require much strength and much concentration. Therefore, if we look at Ryan Brathwaite’s achievement in clocking 13.14 seconds over 110m coming over hurdles, one wonders if he could not accurately compete in another sprint race as a backup in either the 200m or 400m, although some coaches do not particularly encourage their charges to take part in more than one event. Sir, both “Flo Jo” and “Bolt” have proved

that you can run more than one event, for they both did so successfully.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite. What struck me on the day when he performed so well was his speed between the hurdles. What also struck me was that when it was announced in that close race that he was declared the winner, a Caribbean journalist commenting expressed his pride about Caribbean achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I like to see Caribbean people achieve, and whoever dismantled the Federation should turn in his grave with sorrow. I am advised and verily believe that the principal person who broke up the Federation had made the pejorative comment: “Don’t mind Barbados, dem Bajans does live in trees.” He said that, then went on to mislead another Caribbean country by saying that one from 10 leaves nine.

Mr. Speaker, what strikes me about this particular achievement is that it has served to do something which is very necessary for all Caribbean people and all Barbadians. This young man, Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, who I know his early friends call him “Flash”, can be employed by this noble country, not only in an ordinary diplomatic way, but in many respects his achievement represents a unifying force, unifying all Barbados.

12.30 p.m.

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Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Any nationalist anywhere in Barbados, or the Caribbean, likes to know that whatever our differences, we are unified. What we need are role models and symbols of unity, and this young man has proved himself capable of being a unifying force. I trust that he becomes the role model whom others can emulate.

We have a lot of talent in Barbados. We have a lot of talent in rural Barbados. Fortunately for rural Barbados, if your area has no real proper playing facilities or pastures, notwithstanding the volume of traffic, you could improvise and use some other place to play sports.

I recall teaching at St. Leonard’s Boys’ School, and the place did not have a pasture. The ancient Romans used the word “ludus”. Ludus in Rome meant “school”, and it meant “play”. I felt deprived when there were potential athletes at St. Leonard’s Boys’ School, who literally had to risk their health running in the road in those days. We had to provide proper facilities.

I was not too impressed with the argument that because the Garrison Savannah is close to the Garrison

School that automatically the Garrison Savannah is the preserve and property of the Garrison School.

Sir, I am now being told that Springer Memorial School has never had a pasture. It is, therefore, a tremendous credit to them because Springer Memorial School is habitually addicted to coming first in the Girls' sports, despite not having proper playing facilities. One wonders what the case would be if they did have proper playing facilities.

I submit that we need to rally behind this young man. We need to remember Jim Wedderburn and the Obadele Thompson of this world. We must not let the memory of Jim Wedderburn ever be lost. One of Wedderburn's greatest achievements, of course, would have been, I have no doubt, to have met the man who became Mohammed Ali. They contested at the same Olympics, which I believe, were held in Rome. To all young people of Barbados I say, discipline, as was said by the Honourable Member for St. George South and other Honourable Members, including the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, discipline, hard work and commitment to duty, but young people also have to learn anger management and how to cope with disappointment.

Sir, I want to see our young people learn anger management and how to cope with disappointment. I want our elders of our society to teach our youth how, in the absence of the perfect scenario, to improvise until you get there. We rural people have improvised. Before the Credit Union Movement was launched, going back years, St. Lucia would have had the "Su Su". We had the "meeting turn", and somebody else had the "partner", improvisation. There are Honourable Members in here, whose parents' sense of determination that they succeeded, saw the parents make sacrifice, and young people have to learn to make sacrifice.

Sir, for many of us, school work was painful, and school work always involves sacrifice. To have to train repeatedly in one day involves sacrifice. We have to teach our young people to defer gratification, and deferring gratification lends discipline. Honourable Members must not snicker and laugh when I speak about gratification. I am not going to plead guilty that I do not practise what I preach. I am not going to plead guilty to that at all, so Honourable Members who mistakenly think that I bring forward gratification rather than defer it, are actually wrong.

Sir, we have seen the Trinidadians do it, Haynesley Crawford and others. We have seen the Bahamians do it. We have seen the Jamaicans do it. We have seen even smaller islands do it. We have seen Barbados do it. The World Championship, despite not being the Olympics, is not many steps behind the Olympics. I trust that

Ambassador Brathwaite will be able in the near future to perfect things to such a degree, that next Olympics he will prove that he is indeed a World Champion.

I close by saying, it must be noted in this Honourable House that since that 13.14 seconds in the world champion, he went to two other Championships and won, so, therefore, the achievement at the World Championships was no fluke. The achievement at the World Championships, despite the closeness of the race, and the absence of the Cuban Championship, was no fluke. He ran twice after that and he won. Let him who deserves the prize win it.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, clearly this debate will continue. At this stage I beg that this Sitting suspend for lunch until 1.45 p.m.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

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House A45, Sequence 19, 1.53 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable House is resumed.

When the Suspension was taken, we were on the matter of the Congratulatory motion with respect to Ryan Brathwaite, to that we shall now revert.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to add my contribution to the encomia, bouquets and kudos that have already been paid to His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite. In Barbados, we have in the past, paid tribute and celebrated other sportsmen and entertainers. I believe that the celebration we witnessed a few weeks ago for His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, is

single in the fact that he stands out because we see him as the boy from next door, unpretentious, simple human being from a rural district, exemplifies and stands out in our minds as one who has done us proud on the international scene.

Mr. Speaker, when we stop and think of what this young man has achieved, it serves to highlight the fact that the arts and sports are a powerful force in any society and, especially here in Barbados. Unfortunately, too often, we underestimate this fact.

I was recently told by a gentleman from the Caribbean Regional Negotiation Machinery who was making a contribution at that forum, and when he was introduced as someone from Barbados, he was greeted with some blank steers and some enquiring faces as one coming from Barbados, and they wondered where is Barbados. Of course, when he mentioned the word, Rihanna, right away the audience reacted with a certain recognition, and this is really evidence that they understood Barbados in the context of Rihanna. Sir, that is a reality and in truth, it was an epiphany of this individual. Sir, that is the power of individuals like His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite and Rihanna Robin Fenty.

Mr. Speaker, in just a matter of seconds, Ryan Brathwaite catapulted Barbados into the international focus in a way that I would daresay no tourism promotion tour could ever do. We know that we spend millions of dollars on our promotions through the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) and agencies like that, but when Ryan raced on that particular day, and the two races subsequent to that one, millions of people actually witnessed the occasions and immediately the word, Barbados, came to the lips and within the sight of several people, who would have witnessed those races.

Sir, therefore, there cannot have been many Barbadians, who were not moved by the sight of this young man standing on that podium that particular day, the Barbados Flag aloof and, of course, the strains of the National Anthem filling the airways. Mr. Speaker, it was without doubt, an extremely emotional moment for most Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I did not witness it, but I heard to it on the radio, and I could not witness a single dry eye, because people who were standing in my immediate vicinity were filled with emotions at the achievements of this young man.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, there is a tendency to underestimate the power of the arts and sports. Stalwarts like the Right Excellent Sir Gary Sobers, Sukie King, to whom I will return in a minute, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, Kamau Brathwaite, Austin Tom Clarke and the

Honourable George Lamming, have all earned for themselves, international recognition.

I want to return to Sukie King, in particular, because as we speak, Mr. Speaker, Sukie is locked in an epic battle for the Three Move Restriction drafts series with the World Champion. The last score I heard, of course, Sukie was tied. He was one game ahead and this morning I understand he now tied squarely with the champion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to single out Sukie from among those stalwarts I just mentioned, because Sukie has not been given the recognition in Barbados that he should have been given, I think. Maybe, it is because of some quirks in his personality, but that aside, Sukie has distinguished himself as truly a champion, maybe not on the level of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, but certainly he has distinguished Barbados on the field of draughts.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a society here in Barbados that is an extremely snobbish society and I make no apologies for saying that, and draughts is seen as a normal working-class kind of game and Sukie himself is categorised as working-class. Sir, I said that despite the quirks in his personality, and I am sure there are some, maybe he is not singled out and given the type of recognition, which he ought to have been given here in Barbados.

Therefore, I am calling really on the Ministry of Sports in particular and, maybe Government, in general to pay some attention to this man, who has taken the game of draughts to the international level and has distinguished himself as a true champion, really locking horns with the best and most time of the time, coming out on top.

House A45, Sequence 19, 2.00 p.m.

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Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, it is not only international acclaim that is important. Involvement in these two activities could have a significant effect on the development of our young people at any level.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at what type of involvement that could be have through these involvements. It can be a promoted sense of social inclusion, a sense of belonging to a wholesome and positive group, a sense of fulfillment of reshaping our own personal mirror images of ourselves, certainly our young people can look to this, and it can also instil a needed sense of discipline.

I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that the sport teacher, or the music teacher conducting a school choir can attract and hold the attention of his, or her class, in a way that a history teacher, a geography teacher, or a teacher in any other

discipline, cannot do. It is evident that when teachers, especially in the arts, have the attention of their pupils, they really do. I am saying that this is an area that we ought to be playing some attention to.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of sports, there are the obvious health benefits which result from physical exercise. Mr. Speaker, over the years we have regarded sports and the arts as extracurricular activities in our educational system. We have persisted in seeing them as being separate and distinct from the academic curriculum. However, Mr. Speaker, it has been proven time and time again that they could be used to reinforce and enhance academic achievement.

As a matter of fact, several times we shun away people who are not academically inclined, or who might not be the bright sparks in the schools, or the educational institutions, but who certainly have underlying talents in other spheres, whether it is in sports, or the arts, and channel those under-achievers, as we so categorise them, into the areas of sports and arts.

Mr. Speaker, it has been proven that sports and arts could assist people to improve their academics. Mr. Speaker, drama and the visual arts could be used widely to deal with complex issues in teaching, providing a vehicle for children to confront and also to articulate in clear terms, sensitive issues like sexual and physical abuse.

I do not know if you had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to see the picture "Hush 2", the second in the sequel of that movie written, produced and acted out by locals. Mr. Speaker, I want to really commend the producers and the writers of that show for an excellent movie. It is now being shown at one of our local cinemas.

Mr. Speaker, sports and arts could be utilised in teaching social values, conflict resolution and in general, in sharpening the thought process of many of our young people. I daresay, Mr. Speaker, that Michael Jordan, the famous basketballer, when he was asked the question, expressed this very well when he said that when he steps on to the court, he does not have to think about anything, that if he has a problem off the court, he finds that after he plays, his mind is clear and he could come up with a better solution.

He said, it is like therapy, it relaxes him and allows him to solve problems. Mr. Speaker, that is really from the mouth of a true professional. Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, important that we get involved and acknowledge the arts and sports for what they are.

Mr. Speaker, a number of studies carried out across the United States of America examined the relationship between academic performance and involvement in sports,

and shows conclusively that it really makes a difference. The studies all confirmed that young people involved in the arts and sports make a significant contribution, not only to themselves, but to the societies on the whole. What the involvement points to is that more were involved in communities and more readily gave community service and established themselves as role models for their peers.

Mr. Speaker, several questions were asked of students at the school which His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite attended and they all pointed to Ryan as a role model. They see him as someone to look up to. Mr. Speaker, certainly this is a credit to him.

The second thing that we should look at is that the study showed that they did better academically and showed a lower dropout rate than those who did not participate in sports, or in the arts. They had greater self-esteem and greater self-confidence. They were less likely to be involved in crime. They had a greater ability to communicate with their peers and adults, and they were far more articulate when it comes to delivering themselves.

They were better able to express themselves without anger and to resolve conflicts. They had a greater ability to focus on complex tasks and to see themselves through to the completion of those particular tasks. Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about is complete human resource development, self-actualisation and self-accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite is an excellent example of all those things that I spoke of when it comes to involvement in sports. Here is a young man from a humble beginning who has developed a discipline and a focus which has enabled him to excel in the particular field of endeavour.

His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite is a role model par excellence. He is someone, Mr. Speaker, who has proven that dedication and hard work would lead to eventual success. To my mind, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite exemplifies something which was once said by the great Mohammed Ali when he said that champions are not made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them, a desire, a dream and a vision. Mr. Speaker, I could, therefore, see this being acted out clearly in Ryan's actions.

Mr. Speaker, with the commitment of this Administration to Ryan, with ongoing training and the commitment to ensuring that his Olympics dreams become a reality, and also with the commitment of his coaches, handlers and families, I want him to be assured that we would be solidly behind him in his quest for not only the world gold as he has achieved already, but we are behind him so that by 2012, he would achieve an Olympic gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations which have been sung to His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite ever since his achievement at the World Championships in Berlin in the month of August. By that achievement, His Excellency transported this country on to a new plateau of experience, a new perception of itself.

The achievement is quite in line with other achievements which this Region has registered over time. Not too long ago, our sister island of Jamaica was able to boast the achievements of her own greats. All of these are reminders that it is not the size of the country from which you have come that will determine your capacity to measure up to the bureau of world standards. Size is no determinant of your capacity to dream.

The late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow used to always lament the fact that as a people in the Caribbean, we have tended to be imbued with a sense of our own inadequacy. Mr. Speaker, whenever performances like those of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite happened, they remind us that we are as good as people anywhere else in the world and that small islands have a contribution to make to the treasury of human civilisation.

House A45 Sequence 20

2.10 p.m.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: Who can forget, for example, that so small a country as Malta, in the 1970s, through its Ambassador Arvid Pardo, contributed enduringly to the Law of the Sea Treaty, which we were able to conclude some years later. It was Malta, through Alfred Pardo, who fought for and established the principle that the deep seabed should be the common heritage of mankind.

Mr. Speaker, this Region has made its own statement. We are a few million people scattered across the Caribbean Sea, but so far we have been able to produce three Nobel Laureates, two in Literature and one in Economics. They are in the persons of the late Sir William Arthur Lewis, Mr. Derek Walcott and V.S. Naipaul.

In this Region, we have produced judges for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in the persons of our own Sir William Douglas and Justice Michael De La Bastide, who is now President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. We have produced judges for the International

Court of Justice, in the person, for example, of Dr. Mohammed Chahavidine of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Sir, it was Trinidad and Tobago, through its then Prime Minister Mr. A. N. R. Robinson, that was the premium moving of the International Criminal Court, which is now an institution accepted across the world.

Mr. Speaker, in our part of the world, we have made our own statement about our own worth and it is not proper for us to believe that we are inferior to anybody else anywhere in the world. Sir, in the event that we had forgotten, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite has reminded us of that fact.

Mr. Speaker, it is not without significance, of course, that the race which he won was the 110m hurdle. It is a familiar human habit to treat hurdles as obstacles to daunt and to paralyse humans into inaction. What can be distilled from what Ryan Brathwaite has achieved is that hurdles are there to be confronted. Hurdles are there to be treated as challenges. They are there to be scaled by those of us who set goals for ourselves and who are determined to achieve those goals.

Sir, that is a message that is particularly relevant in our present circumstances. The world is now going through its worst crisis in about 100 years. People all around us are experiencing, seemingly, or in some cases, unendurable pain from the economic and social dislocation which has resulted from this world crisis.

Mr. Speaker, while sitting in my office last week, I was jolted by a news item that said that during the month of September, 263 000 people have lost their jobs in the United States of America. Of course, between January and August, about 743 000 persons in the United Kingdom have lost their jobs too.

Sir, we in Barbados have been feeling the full effects of that global dislocation, but these are not hurdles that should paralyse us into inaction, or should daunt us, or that should so overwhelm us that we do nothing. His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite reminds us that these are challenges which should be scaled and which should motor us on to the goals which we have set for ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak today, there is not one citizen of Barbados whose life has not been beset by a hurdle of some kind. For many more than we would have wished for, that hurdle is the inability to find a job, for far too many, that hurdle is the inability to get a house, or to access a house spot. For others still that hurdle may be a son, or in some cases, a daughter who is involved in crime, or who is a victim of drug abuse, still for others that hurdle may be a marriage that is not working, or worse still, a broken and embittered marital relationship.

Sir, whatever the hurdle with which life has confronted us, His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite's message to us is that we should not be daunted by the hurdle. We should not be paralyzed by the hurdle but that we should see it as just another challenge which we need to confront courageously, which we need to scale and that in so confronting and scaling it, that we keep our gaze firmly fixed on the goals before us.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Brathwaite has shown us that with the requisite determination, with the requisite largeness of heart, with the requisite foresight and vision, we can achieve the goals we set for ourselves, as long as we are prepared to see the hurdles that life throws in the way, not as obstacles to progress, but as challenges to the strength of our character.

Mr. Speaker, I would wish to say that it really does not matter, and I hope that the country does not overreach itself in putting too much pressure on His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite in terms of the London Olympics. We wish him well and I certainly hope that he would achieve gold at that level. Sir, if he does not, he has already taught this country a lesson from which it should never, ever recover.

Mr. Speaker, we must not be imbued with a sense of our own inadequacy, that is why I feel so pained that an institution, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which was called into being in 1833, the same year the Emancipation Act was passed in the Caribbean, and to which we have had recourse since then, should now be in a position to tell us in the Caribbean that we are wasting too much of its time, that they have more important things to do and that they do not know why we do not look after our own business.

Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken about this matter in this Honourable House, that too many islands in the Caribbean have been found loitering on the colonial premises too long after closing time and that it is an insult of gargantuan proportions that Lord Nicholas Philips should be able to tell independent nations in the Caribbean that they are wasting too much time of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: Thankfully, Barbados and Guyana have been spared the pain of that insult, since we have embraced the Caribbean Court of Justice both in its original jurisdiction and in its appellate jurisdiction.

Barbados and Guyana, as I have told this court before, have always gone into the forefront to lead this Region together. It happened when Carifta was established

in 1965, it happened when CARICOM was established in 1973, and it happened at Grand Anse when we conceptualised the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and it has happened in our stepping out boldly to embrace the Caribbean Court of Justice. I hope that people like Usain Bolt and people like Ryan Brathwaite have told our leaders in this Region that they expect us to stand on our own feet, that we are as good as anybody else in the world.

All human beings, and indeed all nations, have a choice. We make that choice whether we know it or not. That choice is between dying on your feet and living on your knees. Barbados as a nation has determined that it prefers to die on its feet, rather than to live on its knees. The inspiration which this nation received from Ambassador Brathwaite could not have been more timely. I sincerely hope that young people in this country, single mothers in this country, unemployed persons in the country, people of all sorts in all stations will distill from Ambassador Brathwaite's achievement the lesson it has for them.

A small country, small parish, small dwelling house, but a spirit that was robust, dreams that were large, and a commit to the pursuit of excellence, and the result has been a gold medal at the World Championship.

Sir, it was no easy thing to sit for the first time and to listen to the strains of the National Anthem of Barbados being played in Berlin. It is an unforgettable experience, and a simple young man, unpretentious, laying no claims to any particular kind of pedigree, no special kind of pedigree, he brought us that moment of elevation.

It goes to show that men must not be judged by what they achieved always, but what they have the courage to attempt. He had the courage to attempt greatness, and, of course, fortunately for him he has achieved it. There are many others who may attempt it and not achieve it. This is not to put down any of those persons.

The important thing is for us all to recognise that the size of our country is no impediment to the statement that we can make to the world, if we want to make a statement and if we have a statement to make. That is why we should always have a statement to make.

We should always become a sphere of human endeavour, which we in this country think we can enrich by the contribution of our peculiar brand of genius, and in so doing we would have justified the faith that the fathers of our Independence reposed in us, when they fought for our nationhood and when they made it clear that they would not be found loitering on the colonial premises beyond closing time.

Therefore, indebted to all those who have spoken in this segment of the debate, I think that Ryan Brathwaite is a young man of whom we can all be proud, and I wish him well.

I just want to repeat, we must not pressure too much into believing he would have let us down if the best does not happen in London. We want him to do well in London, but he has already taught us a lesson which partakes of immortality which is, that even though we all have our hurdles to confront, hurdles are not obstacles. There are challenges to the strength of our character and to the robustness of our determination.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Sir, I rise to give support to the comments that were made with respect to His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite. Also, to point out that one of the things that has not been mentioned is the fact that he attended Lawrence T. Gay School and received his primary education at that school.

Sir, we heard about Lester Vaughan School, but I want to point out that very often we do not appreciate the contribution that primary schools make in terms of moulding people's character. In fact, what we do know, primary schools represent the foundation, or the springboard upon which you can determine whether a student would have an easy or difficult passage through secondary school. I believe that we have to understand the contribution that the Lawrence T. Gay School made, in terms of molding the character of Ryan Brathwaite during those early years, cannot be understated.

Sir, in our society, very often we have a situation where some individuals fall through the cracks. One of the things that should be noted about this young man, he was able to take from his environment the things that helped him to succeed.

As a matter of fact, a few weeks ago when he returned to his old school, Lawrence T. Gay, he admitted that some of the things he learnt from his primary school teachers helped him and gave him fortitude in terms of his achievements later on in his life. I really think that young people who are in the education system now, have an opportunity to do well.

It also says that unless we are in a position to extract from our environment the things that would help us to do well, I believe that in itself would not help us to do the things we need to do in the future. That is why I want to emphasise that the primary school has a very important part

to play. I want to stress that in respect of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, it played a very critical role.

Sir, one thing we cannot do, we cannot underestimate the achievement he has made. The fact is that it sends a message to young people who want to achieve. It says you have the opportunity to do just as well or even better, if you are actually prepared to put in the time and effort in order to succeed.

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House A45, Sequence 23, 2.30 p.m.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: I listened to him and he said that he went through a process which was difficult. He made a lot of sacrifice. but at the end of the day, it worked.

Sometimes you have children in a classroom and you might see some succeed and others do not succeed and you often ask why this happens. The fact of the matter is that very often, it happens because some are able to take from that environment.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things I want to emphasise, that he felt helped him was the role of his parents. Very often again, Sir, in a society in which we tend to underestimate the role of the parent as far as preparing a child for success, what it says in respect of Ryan Brathwaite, is that his parents played a very positive role in terms of ensuring that Barbados produced a quality athlete which the world has to respect.

Again, you will note that his parents were persons of modest means, but at least the things that they were able to give to Ryan Brathwaite mattered, which was to ensure that they had the time for him. I noted that when his mother was not there, his father was readily available and it speaks to the fact that it is not every parent in our society that is Lawless.

Mr. Speaker, there are some parents who actually fulfill the roles to their children that they need to fulfill. If we take that as an example, if every parent did the kind of work with their children that Ryan Brathwaite's parents did, we can see that the results would be much different. We can see that the ability of children to succeed would be much more enhanced, and that parents would be playing a much more constructive role in the lives of their children.

We have to appreciate that the parents were there for him, and I think that while we are praising His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, we need to compliment his parents that they took time out to produce an excellent example of what

this country can produce, if we put all of our hands to the wheel.

Sir, I go back to the school because one of the things that we hear people complain about, in terms of the schools, is the fact that the schools are not serving a purpose in terms of moulding children. One of the things that I would say is, that in that school, and even his own generation, there would have been other students who had gone to school with His Excellency, who might not have succeeded in the same way and sometimes we ask the question, why? Unless we prepare our minds to grasp the opportunities that are presented to us, we would not succeed. Again, in respect of Ryan Brathwaite and that school, he was able to identify the things that he needed to take from his environment, and therefore, he was able to benefit from them.

Sir, I also want to identify the fact that he did not get there on his own. The fact that he had coaches who helped him in terms of trying to reach his goals, I also think that cannot be understated. In that respect, we need to recognise the role that the coach at the Lester Vaughan played, in terms of helping him and getting him into athletics, as well as into the hurdle's event which actually is where he brought Barbados a lot of fame and pride.

In that respect again, I want to say that unless he was in a position, or he had the frame of mind and the discipline to be able to benefit from the things that were being taught to him by his coach, he would not have been able to succeed.

Again, it says that very often in our society, the many things that we need to succeed are very often in front of us. The problem is that very often, we are not able to recognise those things and upon recognising them, we are not able to take advantage of them.

Sir, in respect of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, he was able to do things, recognising the things that needed to succeed, and at the same time, he was able to take advantage of those things to help him to succeed. Sir, in that respect I think that we need to give thanks to his parents, the school that he attended and the coaches, in terms of providing those things that made that critical difference in his life.

Sir, with my brief intervention, I just want to say that we need to applaud his achievements and we need also to encourage him to succeed even further and to continue to recognise those things in his environment that will help him towards greater success in the future.

I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I too would want to salute His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite World 100 Metre Hurdler. Indeed, Sir, when I saw and heard the National Anthem of this small Barbados, it really brought tears to my eyes because it was the very first time that we have heard the National Anthem of Barbados played at an Olympic, or of a Championship of this nature.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, like the last speaker who spoke, that there are many persons who play a vital role in the life of an individual. I believe he made a plea for parents, the schools and coaches to look carefully at individuals in their care, because, Mr. Speaker, we have many Ryan Brathwaites out there.

We have many persons in the school system and in the community that can be role models and can succeed, but we have to look carefully at what we are doing in the society. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have to look at the role of mentors, coaches, parents, schools and the society.

I can speak of a small youngster growing out of a very humble, poor village and I heard mention today of the great Sukie King. Again, Sukie King is from a very poor, humble village in St. George, but because of the role of the school, because when we saw Sukie playing draughts, he was not flogged or cast aside. He was encouraged to play his draughts and even old gentlemen in the society of Newbury and Cottage areas were able to encourage him to play his draughts and he indeed succeeded.

I believe that the community of St. James, St. Andrew and the surrounding parishes are indeed happy for young Ryan Brathwaite who has succeeded because of hard work, dedication and commitment. I believe these three ingredients are essential for persons within our school system, and persons within our community.

Too many times, Mr. Speaker, we hear people saying I can't, I won't. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South reminded this House today that we have to be more positive, and I think at this time in our history we want to hear words like, I can, I will, and I shall. Sir, too many times we still hear I can't, I won't and, therefore, would not do anything.

I believe that we, as Members of this Parliament must, through our commitment and dedication, put our country first. We must, through hard work, dedication and commitment, send the signal across the world that we as a small nation can succeed, if we want to succeed now that we have this Ryan Brathwaite's image.

House A45, Sequence 23, 2.40 p.m.

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Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, we could look at those leaders around the world, whether it is in sports, politics or other matters of endeavour of human life, who wanted to succeed. We could talk about people who used their mouths, brains and eyes to succeed. Barack Obama talked his way to the highest level. Those leaders in our society who could talk the most use the word the “gap” and talk their way into the hearts of people. I see the Honourable Member for St. Philip West laughing.

Mr. Speaker, we see a number of persons who have talked their way through positive orientation. We could talk about Barack Obama, Mohammed Ali and Ronald “Suki” King, positive persons. Mr. Speaker, Ronald “Suki” King always says he can do it. We could also talk about some people in our own society who have been able to use positive inferences in order to move themselves into a society that we call the good society.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need more persons in our society to be positive and to look at things from the point of view that they can work, they can achieve. If this is done, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the parents...

Honourable Members called for a more active role in a child’s life. Many parents want good children, but are they prepared to go the extra length to attend the Parent-Teachers’ meetings or to look at the total development of the child?

A couple years ago, I came across an organisation in the Bahamas called “The Parents for Children in Sports”. These parents mobilised themselves to form an organisation to provide Funds. They do not rely only on Government, or on the business community.

I heard today a call for help from the business community. I believe that communities can help themselves through organisations. We have seen it succeed and succeed every time. Whenever a community comes out and mobilises in terms of putting their heads, thoughts and resources together, that community succeeds.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if there is one lesson to be learnt from this exercise, it is that Barbadians and Caribbean people can succeed if they work in a collaborative effort to move these nations forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite who would go on with our blessings to the next Olympics, and who would go on to win more races in the future. We have to give him all the encouragement. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, in this whole thing of free gifts, handouts and so on. I believe that

sometimes small things like prayers and kind words would help persons to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the individual is also important. We have to change attitudes. I go into the school system sometimes and I see children just running around, because they think that the Government would provide everything free for them and that their parents would provide. There is no dedication. Some of them believe that they could achieve without hard work. That would never work, Mr. Speaker.

All of us are here because of hard work. All of us are here because of dedication and commitment. Even young politicians want to reach here, but they are not prepared to work the extra mile. Persons could only succeed in a society by some measure of hard work.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Some of them are prepared to run. I would remark that they all want to run, but some of them will not face the tape either, and some of them would not get past the starter’s gun because they all want to run.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: It happens on Both Sides. Mr. Speaker, the lesson to be learnt here is that dedication, hard work, commitment and a positive attitude of, I can, I will, and I shall, will help us to succeed. Mr. Speaker, I believe that these things that I heard a mother and a community...

Mr. Speaker, I must thank Voice of Barbados and the media for bringing a number of excerpts from the community, his parents and his school. Mr. Speaker, what came across to me is that this was a positive child from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a teacher for a long time. I have seen in the school system that those students who adopt the positive attitudes, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South spoke about, are the ones that will succeed and we have to give them all the credit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see a change in the school system. I am saying it purposefully today because I am not totally happy with what is coming out of the school system, out of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development in these latter days. There are still too many teachers who are not prepared to go to school and do the extra work. I am not talking about today, I am talking about our generation.

There are still too many parents who are not prepared to encourage their children to do hard work, but want them to achieve. There are still too many parents who

want their children to get the “As”, the “1s” and the “2s” and so on, but are not prepared to encourage their children to do work in the evening, or on weekends and are not prepared to sit with their children and read with them.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that once this is achieved, we should see better children in our society and a better society in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this victory of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite would send a signal throughout Barbados that we need that positive attitude and we need it coming through at this time.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have had many speeches in here today appropriately congratulating His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite, for what really is an extraordinary accomplishment and one that allows this country, for the first time, to be able to boast of a gold medal in a major international athletic championship in the name of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. James North has appropriately set the record straight in relation to the accomplishment of the great Jim Wedderburn, after whom one of the stands at the stadium is named. Indeed, many Barbadians may have been unaware, certainly the younger ones, of his accomplishments at that time, but the beauty of technology is such that the accomplishments of His Excellency Ryan Brathwaite are now known and associated with Barbadians, not just living in this country, but across the entire globe.

House A45 Sequence 24

2.50 p.m.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it has brought a keen sense of pride for our country that has hitherto only known that global pride in cricket as it relates to sporting championships, and in draughts as it relates to board games in the form of Ronald “Suki” King. Sir, the fact that we can now speak proudly of Ryan Brathwaite having attained gold at the World Championship, is a significant achievement. It is true that Andrea Blackett would have done exceptionally well in her goal at the Commonwealth Games, but the Commonwealth Games, as great as they are, are still not the World Championship because it discounts, perhaps, more than half the world’s population.

Mr. Speaker, what is significant to me is that Barbados may well be developing a niche in the field of athletics in the area of hurdles. I think that many of the persons who work with the Amateur Athletic Association have begun to recognise that. It is something that we should pursue because, in a very real sense, we have been able to establish, with Andrea Blackett and with Ryan Brathwaite, that we have the capacity, both of whom would have received their early coaching here. Indeed, technique is a critical component of that particular discipline within athletics.

I do believe that we would do well to invest more in this particular area of athletics, and I trust and hope that one of the things that would flow from Ryan Brathwaite’s achievement, is not only the recognition that we can do it, but that we must do it. Therefore, insofar that we must do it is concerned, I do believe that the training programmes, which were started some years ago for sports training at the community level, are too valuable for them not to continue.

Sir, I would want to urge the Government that rather than stopping those programmes within the Youth Development Programme, that it is an area of activity that they would want to reinstate. Secondly, in addition to reinstating, there are a number of district athletic clubs...

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of some of these athletic clubs because a number of them train at the National Stadium. If you go there on afternoons, you would see perhaps three, or four different clubs doing their training. Some other clubs train on WIBISCO grounds, some train all around this country.

Sir, I would want to say that the time might be appropriate for us, particularly with the intention of our young people being captured by Ryan Brathwaite’s accomplishment, to be able to provide the kind of further support that is necessary for many of these clubs to take on more youngsters, particularly where there are instances when some of them have parents working, in circumstances when these young people go home on afternoons, there is not necessarily that structured environment for them to go back out into. Mr. Speaker, it would be a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, if you were to talk to any of the coaches, you would hear them crying out that they do need the support, to be able to bring on further people, to provide scholarships for those who they believe have the talent. Sir, where those parents could afford to, they would pay separately.

Sir, I do believe that if you could increase the base numbers of people participating in the sport, then you are more likely to be able to find those who are prepared to take it on as a permanent part of their development.

Sir, I give the example of a young lady from Hothersal Turning who, when we first introduced the sports training programme at the community level, had never touched a volleyball. Sir, not only did she learn to play volleyball, but her accomplishments were so great, that she was eventually awarded a scholarship to attend a North American university. That young lady became the first member of her family ever to go to a university. That lady is now back in Barbados and is teaching at a secondary school. Sir, that simple exercise of being able to go to training at Friendship Pasture, appropriately known now as Yorkshire home ground, has changed her life forever.

Mr. Speaker, I believe these are things on which there should be no divide. The truth is, I feel strongly that there should be a sports and cultural training programme in every community in Barbados. This should be held at least three times a year, as part and parcel of building out the basic people who we know have talent.

Mr. Speaker, our artists, sportsmen and sportswomen are effectively global citizens. If they perform above a certain level, because of their proficiency in the particular discipline, no one asks them for work permits, or for the other things to which ordinary people would be subjected. We have seen it in the case of Rihanna, Ambassadors Obadele Thompson and Ryan Brathwaite, and the other artist who has been signed on. Sir, hopefully we would see it with Shane Brathwaite and others. They are Barbadian ambassadors, even without the designation, and are capable of earning foreign exchange for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe I would have had cause to spend a few hours with Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite before he returned. Sir, one of the things that has struck me about this young man was his total sense of commitment to this country, his sense of discipline, his recognition that his "shelf life" as an athlete is limited.

Sir, as you know, a wrong injury could bring his career to an end almost overnight. Therefore, two things have to happen. He has to be able to exploit his capacity to earn from the discipline of athletics in the short period of time available to him and, at the same time, he has to save.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite's recognition of the importance of saving and budgeting struck me because for most young people it is a question of instant gratification - money comes in, money goes back out. Sir, with Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, we see a young man who is grounded, one who understands his responsibilities. Sir, I wish him all the very best.

He is due to finish his degree in networking and computer science and he recognises too that is important. Sir, unlike many others, he recognises that he has the hunger to continue to win and, therefore, for the period of

time that the Lord would allow him, he would use his talents to the best of his ability. He would make sure that he brings honour, not just to himself, or to his family, but to his community and to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe, therefore, that the appropriate Resolution that would flow from this Honourable Chamber is timely. I believe that it reflects the sentiments of a nation that is well proud of the accomplishment of one of its own. I believe that his ability to overcome hurdles throughout his life and to reach that point is something that is most worthy. I believe that ought to inspire other young people, who must recognise that in life it is not a straight road, or an easy path to one's dreams.

I believe that it would inspire young people that very often obstacles and hurdles would be put in their way and that they need to be able to overcome those obstacles, that, in so overcoming them, persistence would bring them success at the end of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I would only want to say that in my experience in life, you do not reap success without a level of inner confidence. Therefore, the success that Ryan Brathwaite has reaped, as a result of that inner confidence, in very much a large way, is due to the manner in which his parents would have raised him.

I think, therefore, as we celebrate Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite, as others have done here today, I would want to salute both his mother and father because that "rootedness" which he exemplifies today, could only have been put in at a very early stage of his life. It is not something that comes to one late in life.

It is something which is instilled in you, which becomes habit. The truth is, I think it is appropriate to salute his mother and father for the excellent job they have done in ensuring this young man had that inner confidence to believe that it was possible, and indeed ultimately to have achieved it.

Mr. Speaker, I would wish to associate myself with these remarks.

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Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member for St. Andrew has indicated that we, at an earlier time, would have recognised his promise, and we are glad he has fulfilled that promise. I would say simply that I look forward to good things by other Barbadian athletes, and in particular that youngster Shane Brathwaite, who I think we are yet to see in him the best of what he has to offer.

There are a number of other youngsters who are coming up now who also, anyone who would have followed the CARIFTA Games from those years, would have realised that even the Jamaicans were given a wake-up call by one or two of our sprinters in this last CARIFTA Games, and I trust, I hope that we can provide that necessary support, not just in terms of athletics, because there are people who work in the Amateur Athletic Association for free, who continue to do an excellent job giving of their time, Catherine Jordan, Esther Maynard, Trevor Maynard, et cetera, and Noel Lynch. More important they have a sense of rootedness, as well as, to whom they are and what they are about.

It is not only the ability to execute the sports that matters, but it is where the mind is at, and it is the level of confidence and self-esteem that underpins that prowess that ultimately determines victory. If we as a society can provide that enabling and supporting environment to those youngsters, then I do believe that the confidence we all have, that the sports and cultural practitioners of our country, can become global citizens, and it can be a tangible economic benefit, in terms of the foreign exchange which can inure to this country's benefit, that can become a reality and will be something that will satisfy all of us, who happen to have come to public service as a major achievement of our time.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I too would like to identify with the congratulatory comments, particularly and so eloquently expressed by the Minister of Sports and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. I want to add my congratulations to His Excellency, and to thank him for the inspiration which he has given to this small nation.

I now direct that our sentiments would be expressed in the usual way.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: To ask the Minister of Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware that there is urgent need for the southern part of Olton Road, St. Peter, in the Constituency of St. James North to be properly extended to provide a better amenity to the residents of Olton Road? (a) If the Minister is aware, will the Minister state what steps have been taken, if any, are taken to address this matter?

2. Is the Minister aware that the entire area above and North of Gordon Greenidge School including the area known as Bakers Wood is exceptionally dark after 5.00 p.m. and exceptionally dark in the morning occasioned by a cluster of trees rendering the area dark and dangerous? You would have heard about the hit and run incident where a man was hit and run down and the person who struck him ran away and somebody pursued him. That was in the news recently.

3. If the Minister is aware, will the Minister state what steps have been taken, if any, his Government intends to take to remedy this problem?

Mr. Speaker, I give notice of those questions.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I want to give notice that the answer to Question 4 is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Question 3 (1). Prior to the proclamation of the Public Service Act, at December 31, 2007, the records of four temporary or acting public officers were checked and it was estimated that 2 300 of these officers were eligible for appointment or promotion. By July 28, 2008, 1 180 of these appointments were approved and the appointment letters issued. At July 7, 2009, a total 2 432 appointments on promotion were approved which exceeded the initially projected number of 2 300.

Question 3

(3): It is anticipated that all appointments under Section 13 of the Public Service Act 2007-41 will be completed by December 31, 2009.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, Question No. 4.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the question, I cannot help but note the enthusiasm.

1. (a)

Yes. A roundabout is proposed and is considered as part of the completion works at the Trents/Orange Hill Project. It is anticipated that this action would alleviate any danger to motorists at this junction.

This project is actually in the process of public tender as we speak.

Question 2

(a). Yes. The Ministry has established a road marking programme. As part of its programme, the intersection at Westmoreland, near Gamble Hill linking on to the Ronald Mapp Highway will be repainted. This, as a matter of fact, probably has now been repainted. This will also alleviate the dangers which currently exists in the area.

Question 3.(a): Yes. In the area of Lower Rock Dundo and Gibbes, the Ministry will give consideration to the realignment and widening of this road.

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House A45, Sequence 27, 3.10 p.m.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Question 4(a):

The Ministry has completed one cross culvert in Trents Tenantry, consisting of the spiral-like, reinforced concrete grain. Work is expected to start on another drain to the west of this area. When completed this should alleviate the existing flooding conditions.

The answer to Question 5A:

Yes. Road designs with a view to land acquisition are required to be done prior to the widening of the road at Eastry House. In other words, the answer to the question is yes, but road designs, with a view to land acquisitions are required to be done prior to the widening of the road at Eastry House. This work is expected to be done in the 2009/2010 financial year.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I notice that three supplementary questions are permitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member, please go ahead with your questions.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, as you will recall notice of this question to which the Honourable Minister has just replied, would have been given on October 1, 2008, quite a while ago. In relation to this first answer, is it that the Ministry has done enough of an assessment of the area between Lancaster and Trents to pick up the accommodation works that were promised, which affect a Peter Alleyne and a Katie Maynard?

I am asking the Minister if his Ministry has advised him of Katie Maynard's and Peter Alleyne's concerns regarding accommodation works along that road. If the Ministry is not aware, or if the Minister is caught by surprise, then I want the record of Parliament to note these concerns. Sir, I will formally write a letter to the Minister.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not aware and I would beg the Honourable Member to please write and indicate the specific details of which he speaks.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: I have other supplementaries.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Thank you, Sir.

Supplementary Question No. 2:

Is the Minister aware that when Highway 2A was remodelled and redesigned, that many people between Lancaster and Bakers were subject to land acquisitions? In other words, their properties were taken and to this date, no compensation has been offered to any of these people.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I am not aware of the specifics which the Honourable Member raises, but again, we will invite him to present the details and have them appropriately responded to, Sir.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, the third question, please.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, in light of the volume of traffic and the present dangers, notwithstanding the

Minister's assurances in his first reply, is his Ministry working closely enough with the Royal Barbados Police Force effective patrols in that region between Lancaster and Gamble Hill?

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any other matters under Question Time?

Honourable Members, I believe that there would have been another answer ready but the Member who would have asked that question has signified his desire to have the answer postponed and it will so be postponed until a later Sitting. This would have been number 5.

ORDER NO. 5 – THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2009

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, in considering Order No. 5, I beg the Chamber's consideration of looking at both Number 5 and Number 6 together as the two are strongly related to each other, one being berthed by the occurrence of the first one. It would, therefore, be what we refer to as a cognate debate on items Numbers 5 and 6. I have already had some discussion with the Opposition Members who have agreed to this modification.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. Unless there is any objection to that course of action, then the two of them may be read together.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Sir, in moving the Road Traffic Amendment Bill, 2009, various amendments had been made to the Road Traffic Act, Chapter 295 of the Laws of Barbados to give effect to increases in rates and fees, pursuant on the 2008 Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals delivered in this Honourable House on July 7, 2008 by Minister of Finance and Prime Minister.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that by virtue of the provisional collection of taxes at Cap. 85 of the Laws of Barbados, these various fees, rates and taxes, should have ceased to be payable after four months, it will be necessary to validate all fees, rates and taxes paid after that period by the appropriate (Validation) Bill, in the form of the Road Traffic (Validation) Bill, 2009.

Sir, the amendments to be introduced in this Bill are to facilitate the payment of rates and fees under the Road Traffic Act, relate to a number of areas and I will try to summarise most of them. They are the issuance of limited trade plates and road worthiness certificates by the Licencing Authority; the registration of bicycles, and vehicle investigation by the Licensing Authority's personnel. There is also the matter, Sir, of the termination of the repayment of unused Road Tax paid by the Ministry of Finance.

Sir, it is also of interest that the use of the metric system is an amendment which we will have to deal with because it was never dealt with in the past, and it replaces the whole imperial system of measurement previously used, and still existing in our Laws, new fees for the regulation tests and tariff cards, tariff cards, of course, being the rate sheet, more or less, under which the taxi operators charge their customers.

Mr. Speaker, the sections of the principal Act which are proposed for amendment to facilitate the imposition of the rates and fees are as follows:

Section II of the proposed Bill amends Section 6 of the principal Act to provide for the issuing of limited trade licence plates to importers, dealers, or repairs of mechanically propelled vehicles on the payment of the relevant fee, as set out in the Ministry of Finance.

House A45, Sequence 27, 3.20 p.m.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: It is important to note, Sir, because one could almost hear the quiet breasts on the Other Side in anticipation of what they may want to say, but it is important to note that these charges have been in place for a long time, not since 2008, but more than 14 years ago in some cases.

Mr. Speaker, as the research was done, the tasks became clearer and greater due, not only to the new initiatives set out in the Budget of 2008, but indeed the negligence on the part of the previous Administration in looking into these matters and validating the collections. Sir, I wait to hear what would be said in that regard.

Section 4 of the Bill proposes to amend Section 15 of the principal Act by renumbering the substantive Section 15 as subsection (1) and adding subsection 2 and 3. This Section now allows for the investigation of motor vehicles which have not been used for periods of more than three months on the payment of the prescribed fee by the Minister of Finance. Once again, Sir, an amendment, which as we sought to deal conclusively with, the validations stood us in the face and had to be dealt with, again, a

matter of the lack of detail by the previous Administration in dealing with this matter.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the question of the replacement of tonnes by kilogrammes, although very simple is, in fact, required, and therefore Section 6 of the Bill will amend Section 28 (1) of the principal Act by deleting the word “tonnes” and substituting the word “kilogrammes” wherever it appears.

Section 7 of the Bill amends Section 51B of the principal Act by deleting the substantive section and replacing it with a new section 51B. This Section now provides that where the owner of a motor vehicle is required to obtain a certificate of road worthiness before his or her motor vehicle can be registered in accordance with Section 5 of the principal Act, the motor vehicle must be examined in accordance with Section 3 (1) of the principal Act on payment of the prescribed fee set by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

The Section further provides that motor vehicles which have been accepted by an insurer as a total loss must obtain a certificate of road worthiness before they are licensed by the Licensing Authority.

Sir, that one is a new item which, as part of the budgetary presentation in 2008, would have required the amendment. However, Mr. Speaker, I need to repeat the fact that as we search the Bill to make sure these amendments were fully dealt with, these other areas which have laid unattended for so long, came to light.

Mr. Speaker, it has also become necessary for the introduction of various new provisions of the principal Act to facilitate the collection of the said rates and fees. The various sections to be inserted into the principal Act are Section 3 of the Bill and the insertion of Section 5A. This new Section 5A would require the registration of bicycles by the Licensing Authority on application by the owner, and on payment of the prescribed fee as set by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, Section 62A is inserted, which introduces the payment of a fee for regulation tests. Again, a payment that has gone on for years, but has never had its legal basis confirmed, so the Honourable Members on the Other Side need not ponder on these things.

Sir, it is proposed that a Section 104 be inserted into the principal Act immediately after Section 103. This Section introduces the fee for the tariff card, which, of course, existed for some time again, and is merely being effective in the Budgetary Proposals referred to by an increase from \$1 to \$10.

Mr. Speaker, provisional collection of taxes allows the Minister of Finance to increase rates on existing taxes. The imposition of such a tax is effective on the date of its announcement in Parliament unless the announcement accompanies a specified date.

Mr. Speaker, the Act, by virtue of Section 3 (2), states that if any tax, or increase in the existing tax becomes payable and ceases to be so payable, if the appropriate enactment of the imposition of the tax, or for increasing the rate of the existing tax is not made or passed within four months of the date when the budgetary proposals are made in this House.

The provisions of Section 4 further state that, without prejudice to the generality of Section 3 where there is introduced in the House of Assembly any Bill providing for the imposition of a tax, or an increase in the rate of any existing tax, then subject to subsection 2, such tax, or increase in the rate of an existing tax, shall be payable with effect from the dates specified in the Bill, or if no such date is specified, from the date, I mentioned this before, on which the Bill is introduced in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, there are reasons why this Bill has taken so long to get to this House, and I have touched on them before. While recognising the delay, I need to applaud at this stage, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Ministry of Transport and Works in reaching a conclusion on these matters.

Mr. Speaker, the point also needs to be made that this is not a substantive debate on the traffic amendments in Barbados, because that item is still a matter that is under the consideration of a Special Committee of the Ministry of Transport and Works and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, along with the major stakeholders, the Police, the private sector vehicle owners, the Transport Authority, the Transport Board, the Road Safety Association of Barbados and the Traffic Management Department of the Ministry of Transport and Works, as we grapple with some of the new ideas which are being put forward to assist with an effective Bill to be presented before this House.

Of course, one would recall that these amendments were presented back in 2007 by the former Administration, but they were sent back because of poor drafting and presentation by the Honourable Members on That Side.

Sir, we do not want to suffer that indignity once more. We want the people of Barbados to have a fair opportunity to contribute to some of the ideas which would inform that final amendment.

House A45 Sequence 28

3.30 p.m.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, even now one hears the debate in public in this regard with respect to drivers using cellars, the question of drunken driving and its contribution to accidents in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, Barbados is a society, I am sure, matured enough to recognise that it is time that we come on board with regulations that attend to these kinds of activities. We must make our roads safer.

Mr. Speaker, the Royal Barbados Police Force has continued to make representation that they need to have more “teeth” in respect to dealing with such offenders. Therefore, not only does the Law have to move, but in tandem, the technology which we provide for the Police Force and to the Barbados Licensing Authority, has to take a step in a direction which would allow them to carry out enforcement in a meaningful way.

There are some who would argue that the existing legislation in the Highway Act is sufficient. Sir, the point I think being made at the Ministry’s level is that we want to bring to this Honourable House and to the people of Barbados, a full amendment of the Traffic Act, which deals with these burning issues. Sir, nothing is going to be totally acceptable to everyone, but at least they would meet the needs of a modern society. They would also meet the needs of a developing Barbados, which is part of the First World.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember that we boast as our main business activity, as the foreign exchange earner, our tourism product. We, therefore, have to provide a standard on our highways and roadways which allows both the visitors and Barbadians alike to easily interpret the intention of the Law and the intention of the persons who guide these matters.

Mr. Speaker, importantly, along with that has come the widening of the ABC Highway and new roundabout junctions. Sir, a roundabout is just a traffic junction and Barbadians must remember that, but there are different Rules which govern the use of a roundabout. Sir, the amendments to the Traffic Act will, again, deal with the question of how we use our roundabouts.

Mr. Speaker, we are noticing that as the use of the highway increases, there is a tendency for more “scrapes” occurring at these intersections. Sir, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has been charged with the responsibility of pursuing a public relations campaign. Sir, I regret that we have not been earlier, in terms of our presentation of a public relations programme, which would indicate how the traffic management team at the Ministry wants Barbadians to use the dual carriageways and roundabouts.

Sir, signage is fine, though not sufficient, but if we do not get our public relations programme out there, then Barbadians would develop their own methods of using the intersections and then it would be ever so more difficult to try to impose a different method of use.

Mr. Speaker, I have urged the officers of the Ministry to make the publication of the use of the highway an absolute priority at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the use of breathalyzer testing by the Police Force, a number of agencies have made representation in helping to deal with the question of driving under the influence of intoxicating substances. I feel very strongly that will be part of the recommendations going forward.

Mr. Speaker, regrettably, we have had a number of accidents on our roadways. We are also going to have to deal with the question of the ATV vehicles. Sir, we could spend the entire day talking about who is responsible for what. The point is that today we have a situation to manage. I believe that the Ministry, in discussion with these stakeholders who have an interest and whose livelihood depends on the activities of these kinds of vehicles... All we are saying is that there have to be restrictions how we use these vehicles and indeed, how we drive in general.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing, and I am sure it would amaze you too, if you were to be made aware of the number of requests we get for changes in our roadways, by the introduction of speed humps to slow traffic in our villages. This is a question that has to be dealt with and we continue appealing to drivers, which I think is important. Sir, I do believe that persuasion would go a long way to allowing Barbadian drivers to recognise the importance of the use of our highways. We may think we have heard that before, but certainly I have not been bombarded...

Sir, like most Barbadians, I sit in front of my television on evenings. I have not been bombarded, either by newspapers or television, with any message that tells me this is the way we must use our highways. We need as a Ministry to put in place a strong public relations campaign which carries the message of road safety, which tells Barbadians how we expect them to use our roads. It is not only for our children.

Sir, not many of our children drive vehicles and so it is not only for our schools, it has to be a programme that caters to our adults. It must get into their workplaces, into the newspapers, into the radio and on television. Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of measures which would inform the final amendment to the Traffic Act. It would put a character on where we would see the Barbados traffic management system going.

Mr. Speaker, there is the question of roundabouts versus traffic lights. Regrettably, we have had a situation not too long ago where there were two deaths. Sir, I want to take this opportunity to offer my sympathy to the families of those persons who lost their lives in those tragic accidents at Lancaster.

Mr. Speaker, history would reveal that this is a project which was before the Government of Barbados since 1996, and that it was approved for completion by the Ministry of Transport and Works. History would also reveal that for some reason, the Honourable Members on That Side felt they should not carry out the construction of this roundabout.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the treatment of Highway 2A, I heard the Honourable Member for St. James North constantly referring to the question of the treatment of Highway 2A junction. Sir, I asked myself where was the Honourable Member when these roads were being constructed and improved? Why were they not marked adequately? Why was the roundabout at Deans Town not completed?

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, the Eternal and Undying Almighty knows that I wrote, before your time, to what is now your Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, could you get to the point of order? What is the point of order?

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I am correcting the Honourable Member by suggesting that I did make representation to his Ministry, prior to his time, and that I did get some very rude replies saying there was no need for the things the Honourable Member is now saying that I have defaulted in not getting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, that is not a point of order.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Honourable Member has interpreted it that way. What I am saying is that the Honourable Member might have made representation, but that he had absolutely no impact on the powers that be at that time.

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Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member for St. George North, for instance, would have been the person who made those rude responses, I believe, or would have been responsible for those rude responses. I find it

interesting the kind of energy which the Honourable Member for St. James North now embraces these questions that he raises almost weekly in these Honourable Chambers about the junctions on the Highway 2A. I find it almost unacceptably strange. I know the area well. I was born in Mile and a Quarter, St. Peter, and I have travelled Highway 2A and Highway 1 all my life, until I took up residence in Christ Church sometime around 1985/1986.

Sir, the point is, the Administration of the Barbados Labour Party has got to take some serious responsibility for the kind of half measures that were put in place on such an important roadway as Highway 2A. We are committed, as I indicated on the answers to the questions. We are committed to the improvement of these road junctions, and the Honourable Member will be able to say to his people and the people who use that Highway, I am able to say on behalf of the Ministry of Transport and Works, that we care and we are going to make sure that the project is done.

Sir, I want to touch on the issue of road signage and road markings and indicate to all and sundry, that I have placed road marking and road signage on the top burner of the Ministry's priorities. I believe that it lends for an elegant society when our roads are marked and our intersections are properly signed, so that people approaching these intersections do not have to guess. They know from 50 metres out, or 100 metres out what they are coming upon.

I want to use this forum to reiterate to the officers at the Ministry, as a policy position, the marking of our roads and signage of our roadway, not only our highways. That is the point I want to make. I am not talking about the highway which is generally the responsibility of our central Ministry. I am not talking about that alone, because that is a priority. I am talking about what we call the depots, 13 of which are strategically placed around this island. There are to be tooled up so that like road works and like debushing, or may be even better than the road works and better than the existing debushing, we mark our roads in a way that Barbadians can use them safely.

Sir, I feel this is going to help to bring a level of satisfaction to our road users and appreciation for what we in the Democratic Labour Party see as absolutely important. I believe that we have the support of the country. Sir, as I read the commentaries in the Press, I believe that we have the support of the country in this regard. I would like to commend, therefore, this programme to our nation so that we will collectively urge upon our workers to make sure that this objective is achieved.

Sir, therefore, in winding up, I would like to state that the question of validation is not a question of the collection of these fees. It is not a deliberate attempt by this

Administration to get monies from any unsuspecting citizen. I know that there are political operatives on the Other Side who set about to make that their daily business. I have shown in my presentation that indeed, the Barbados Labour Party has been responsible, if they say innocently, then so be it, of collecting the majority of these taxes for the last 14 years, without recognising that they were not legally empowered to do so. We seek to correct the situation. This Bill, the amendment and the validation, seeks to make this correction, and I commend them now to this Honourable Chamber.

I thank you.

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

Mr. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on this Bill. This Bill is critical. The Honourable Member said, in closing, that it was not a deliberate act to take fees from unsuspecting persons. I gather he means persons who are not suspecting, innocent people.

Sir, I went through the various Clauses of these two Bills. In the first one the Sections to amend the Road Traffic Act speak about a dealer who wants to import or to repair motor mechanical propelled vehicles must apply for a limited trade licence, and he must also have a limited trade licence plate. Upon his application, he must pay a fee to the Ministry of Finance.

Sir, Clause 3, Section 5A. (1) says that “a person keeping a bicycle for use on a road must register the bicycle and must pay a fee.”

Clause 4. Section 15 and throughout the Bill speaks about the collection of fees. This Bill does not, in any way, improve the Road Traffic Regulations. It does not improve traffic management in anyway.

The Minister spoke about a regulation test which was before his time. I suspect that there was a regulation test long before all of our time. There was always a regulation test. I did a regulation test. I am not sure that the Minister did one, because I notice he drives on the opposite side of the road most of the time in his big vehicle.

Sir, there has been a regulation test in existence for a very long time. The present Government has seen it fit to charge \$30 to write on a single piece of paper that is what it is. It is one test comprising about 130 questions on the two sides of the paper. So the Ministry of Finance is now collecting \$30 for that, a new stipulation. Therefore it is

written in the Act that persons now taking the regulation test must pay the fee. This is new, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I can see nothing new in this new Bill at all. If you look at what the Minister said, when you check Section 2 of the Bill to validate the payment of the collection of fees, it states:

“Notwithstanding Section 3(2) and (5) of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, all Road Tax and

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House A45, Sequence 31, 3.50 p.m.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: other fees, purported to be paid and collected by the Licensing Authority during the period, the first day of August 2008, to the date of commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been Lawfully and validly paid and collected. Therefore, all fees collected by the Ministry of Finance whether or not it is written in the Law, have been validated.”

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are two sides to the Ministry of Public of Works. The Ministry of Public Works undertakes the maintenance of roads, building of new roads, undertaking to provide roads for the people of Barbados to get from one destination to another.

It also collects revenue on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, so this is not anything new about the Minister of Public Works. This is about the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance, who is the Honourable Member for St. John came here a year ago and introduced a number of taxes, and these taxes are indeed very burdensome.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if you were to carry out an assessment across Barbados, one would find that every Barbadian driving a vehicle, would consider these fees very high. We cannot say enough to give Barbadians comfort, when you move private cars' fees, where they were paying \$265, they are now paying \$400, an increase of 51 per cent, \$330 to \$450, \$600 to \$900 and \$1 000 to \$1 600.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, who drives a very posh vehicle, similar to what I used to drive, is now paying \$1 600 from \$1 000 for his vehicle, but he can afford it. Sir, what about the ordinary person, the poor man, whom he has moved his little Suzuki from \$265 to \$400. It is a high fee. The Ministry of Finance is doing very well. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the roads...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I wonder if the Minister of Finance has passed on this substantial sum of money that he has collected to the Ministry of Public Works, because I have noticed that they have not carried out any new road works in this country. Nothing new has happened. I would want the Minister to tell me what new road works have been carried out to justify this increase.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance said in his Budgetary presentation that this money was not only to service some debt left by a previous Administration...

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, to indicate first of all that I drive a Mercedes is wrong. I drive a 1 600 Vitara.

Sir, to indicate further that there are no new road works going on, is like he is being led around Barbados in blindfolds because Barbadians are not saying that, so the Honourable Member must be out of his mind to try to mislead the Chamber with this presentation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, it is here to see like a blind man on a trotting horse, that there is nothing new going on. If he talks about the road by Combermere - because I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central would get up and say that we have a new road going up by Combermere - but that road was started by the Barbados Labour Party when I was the Minister of Public Works. We started the road from the Globe to Hindsbury Corner, Phase I. Phase II was to be completed and money was there under a programme for \$30 million. Sir, this was negotiated and signed by the Ministry of Public Works in 2006, for a two-year programme to do the roads on Highway 3, so there is nothing new.

Mr. Speaker, if he talks about the road in the Prime Minister's Constituency at Bath, the Bath road was completed. It was a road left by the last Administration. Therefore, what the Government is doing, the Government is completing road works that have been started and negotiated by the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am not saying that it is a bad thing to continue the roads, because we agreed that the road works are necessary but to say that they are new and that these taxes imposed on the backs of Barbadians are supposed to pay for all these works, is not true. These

works have started long ago and they have not been completed yet.

In fact, I learned previously that when the Honourable Member for Christ Church South speaks about the 10 roundabouts that were approved in 2007, he is giving Barbadians the assurance that these things were planned. I wonder if he and the Ministry are undertaking new plans for the roundabout at Orange Hill, because the Minister must be aware that it was a Democratic Labour Party that built Highway 2A, as I remember.

It was a previous Democratic Labour Party that awarded a contract to Rayside Company to complete the road works at Highway 2A. The roundabout was deliberately left out, even though the technicians said there was a need for a roundabout at Orange Hill.

In our time, we agreed to the roundabout at Orange Hill. It has taken a long time because of the constant backward and forward movement. Some persons agreed with it, then you heard that it was not necessary and for the last five years, we were told that lights were supposed to be erected there. It was changed. Then, Mr. Speaker, it was agreed that it would be done with private sector and public sector financing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that, when the Minister gets up to say that these regulations and this Bill is so important and that we did nothing, he speaks about the 2007 new Bill that was badly presented by the public sector and by the Minister at the time, when this Minister brought the Act back there and we went to a Select Committee of both Houses to agree to some changes in the Bill.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister has failed for the last two years to bring the Resolution here, which is subject to negative Resolution, the amendments. He is supposed to bring them here, and he has not. The regulations were supposed to come here. The Act was passed since 2007. I have asked the Minister constantly, when he is going to bring the regulations. They have not come as yet, and the Act was passed since 2007.

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Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the importance of the regulation is that it gives teeth to the Act because it allows not only the Royal Barbados Police Force to carry out their duties in an effective manner but also allows the Ministry of Transport and Works to do their work, for example, the weighing of vehicles on the highway. That regulation has been passed but it has not come here.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to talk about persons carrying their driver's licence in their possession once they operate a vehicle. Mr. Speaker, all of these regulations were part of the Bill that was passed in 2007 but they have not come here. Even though, Mr. Speaker, they went to both Houses of Parliament, we have not seen it here.

Mr. Speaker, we are satisfied on This Side that this Bill only speaks about the collection of fees, whether it is bicycle fees, regulations fees, the new fees or vehicle investigation fees. All of these fees have risen in excess of 50 to 60 per cent and they have caused tremendous hardships on Barbadians, yet we have not seen any new improvement of road structure across Barbados. There are still a number of things left that have to be done. Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on to talk, but the truth of the matter is that this Bill speaks merely of a collection of fees.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister should tell us what is happening really at the Transport Board. Over the last couple of days, the Minister spoke about the Transport Board not doing what it is supposed to do.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am not quoting the newspaper article.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Transport Board needs not only guidance. There is too much political interference at the Transport Board which has caused some severe hardships at the Transport Board. We have seen this happened not only in recent times. Whenever the Democratic Labour Party forms the Government, there is always a tendency for the changing of management, both at the top and the middle levels.

The Minister is not satisfied with the achievements of the Transport Board. The Transport Board is run by a Chairman, but it is the Minister who has ultimate responsibility and he is not satisfied. The Chairman was there and he did not speak.

The Minister went into the heart of St. George to tell the people of St. George that he was not satisfied with the new service they had received at St. George Parish Church. The people were quite happy with this service as far as I know. They were not complaining that they were getting enough buses or not enough buses, yet the Minister went to St. George and tell the people of St. George that he is going to reduce the bus service from one hour to two hours on Saturdays and Sundays and said that he is not comfortable.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister is telling Barbadians that they would be more comfortable to take the buses which they are accustomed taking in one hour segments in two hour segments.

The Minister said that in January 2008, there were 307 buses on the road. Sir, between January 2008 and today, the Minister has not told us if he has bought any new buses. I want the Minister to tell us if he has bought any new buses since 2008. The Minister said that 297 buses were operational at the start of the school bus system.

Mr. Speaker, I told the Government, when it introduced the school bus system, that I was not in agreement with it. The reason for this being is that when I was Minister of Transport and Works, I set up a pilot school bus system where buses were travelling on the northern route first to see how many buses were required to carry out a full system. However, Sir, before the Minister could test that system, he decided to implement a system of free bus service and, therefore, with only a pen, the Minister came and introduced the free bus service without proper assessment.

The Minister took a number of old buses that were not road-worthy, that could not stand the test of proper scrutiny and sent them to the Licensing Authority which was responsible for passing those buses. Some of these buses had on smooth tyres and some had in batteries that could only last for one day.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, they took some old buses and threw some paint on them. Some of these buses had old rings that were sooting and causing tremendous hardship on the environment of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is guilty of causing environmental problems in this society. The Minister is now complaining that they are now down to 210 buses. He said that 70 buses have gone missing. The Government always talks about something gone missing. The Minister said that 70 buses cannot be found or cannot be put back on the road or are not road-worthy, something to that effect. He said something about 70 being inoperable, in other words, that 70 buses cannot be put on the road.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister must understand that by introducing a good system, you have to introduce it correctly. I believe that the Minister must make a case for new buses. I am more than sure that the Minister of Finance would be willing to ensure that he gets the new buses in order that the system of the free bus service could continue. You cannot have a system, Mr. Speaker, where you have only 260 buses, or thereabout, on the road that you need on a daily basis to satisfy the public when you are working at optional level. In other words, if the unemployment remains at 11 per cent...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The point I am making is that people were working up to 2008. Mr. Speaker, if you reduce the buses, you are going to have problems with people getting to work. Sir, you have to be able to put enough rolling stock on the road, or you have to incorporate the minibuses. That is what we were thinking of. We made the point that you have to incorporate the private sector in this entire system if it is supposed to work.

The Government came with a good policy, but it was implemented in a bad way. Sir, you need to have a dedicated school bus system because something will fail and you cannot blame the management of the Transport Board as the Minister is doing. The Minister is not comfortable with them, so somebody is going to be sent home very soon.

House A45 Sequence 32

4.10 p.m.

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Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, you cannot blame the management of the Transport Board. Sir, in order to satisfy what the Minister wants. You have to provide buses, and you cannot get on television and say that you have bad drivers.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you, I lived in North America and I live in Barbados. Sir, we have some of the best drivers in this country. I am also satisfied that the Transport Board has trained its drivers and that they drive very well. There are not many accidents. In fact, I was told that the accident level at the Transport Board is less than 10 per cent in any one year, which is good. Sir, for the Minister to say that the drivers are not performing well is really stretching his imagination too far.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the availability of buses at the Transport Board will continue to dwindle. We need new buses. Sir, it is now two years. The number of new buses came in some time in 2007. Sir, if the Minister would look at the report that was done by This Side in which the Transport Board was calling for 50 new buses on an annual basis, he would see that is two years now.

Sir, the Minister has not brought in any new buses and, therefore, the Transport Board would be due 100 buses in order for them to satisfy what the Minister wants. The Transport Board must be given 100 new buses in order to meet the current demand for school children, as well as the general public. Mr. Speaker, the facts are there. There are more than 14 000 school children travelling every day on Transport Board buses, since both primary and secondary school children are now travelling. Sir, what Government has done, without thinking...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am saying that it was a good idea, but that you have to understand primary school children are now travelling freely too. Sir, do you know what has come to my attention? A lady said to me that once before, children going to Cuthbert Moore School used to walk from Market Hill to the school. Sir, the children are now boarding the bus at the corner of Market Hill and getting off at Cuthbert Moore School.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, if 100 children get on the buses at Groves Corner, travelling to Cuthbert Moore School, it means that passengers who want to get to work would not be able to do so. That is the point I am making. Therefore, the Government has to put more buses on the road in order to satisfy the programme that it has implemented. Government cannot put the blame on the management of the Transport Board because a bus has a life span.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is an engineer by profession. He must know that every engine has a life span. Therefore, a bus has a life span of about 10 to 15 years. Sir, I am suggesting that some of the buses that the Transport Board are now trying to put back on the road are in excess of 25 years old. Some of those Leylands and Mercedes buses were bought in the late 1980s, and should be taken off the road. Mr. Speaker, I would want to say that I had asked the Chairman at the time, along with the present General Manager, to look at a system where we could lease buses.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to this Honourable House that in most developed societies, Governments do not buy buses, Governments lease buses. Therefore, by leasing the buses, Government would not now have to keep the number of old buses in stock. Government could lease the buses from a reputable garage, either Simpson Motors or Courtesy Garage. Government must find a system where it could get buses available in order to meet the demand at this time. Sir, the Minister must go along that route in a sensible and proactive way, rather than in a confrontational manner.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make this point. I was away for the last two weeks, enjoying your company. We had good times in beautiful Tanzania. We worked together. Sir, when I came back here, something upset me greatly. Somebody called me last night and told me how they saw the Transport Board being unfairly criticised on television by the Minister.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Sir, I did not hear it, but I said it could not be true.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: The Minister said a year ago, so it had to be under his watch.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, a year ago, when the Minister introduced the school bus system, the Minister said what wonderful things were happening. A year ago, the Minister said the Transport Board had been doing very well. The Minister said that the Transport Board had been producing and that he thanks them for putting enough stock on the road. Therefore, the persons who would have caused problems over the last two years must now be the Board and so, the only persons who should be fired should be the Board.

Mr. Speaker, if the Board is the one causing the problems, they should be gotten rid of and not the General Manager, because the General Manager takes his dictates from the Board. Therefore, the Board must be at fault for putting a good system into bad wine bottles. Sir, that is the point.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South must look at the Board.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, it is amazing, and I want this to be said, it must be put into Hansard. Sir, when I held the portfolio for the Transport Board, I did not touch a single fellow. I am now hearing that people are scared, that people who have mortgages to pay are being sent home.

Sir, the Minister has to understand that people in this country have a right to work and that you simply cannot send home people willy-nilly. Sir, if there are any problems at the Transport Board, it is that people are fearful of losing their jobs, which is not good in this present climate. Sir, if people are fearful of losing their jobs, they are not going to work properly.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to do a number of things, one being the need for a motor insurance bureau. Sir, the reason we are suggesting this is that there are too many people now driving about without adequate insurance, or road certificates. Sir, it is important that we take a look at this. I believe that people would take a chance, as we cannot police persons enough.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you, do not be surprised if you were driving your car one evening, only to find that the car in front of you has the same licence plate as yours. Sir, this is what is happening. A number of persons have been coming to the Licensing Authority claiming that they have seen vehicles with the same identified number plate as theirs.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, we sought to regulate that because of the fact that there are a number of producers in this country who are producing licence plates. The Act provides for persons, who want to produce licence plates, to be registered with the Licensing Department.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: That is part of the Act, and the Minister would not bring the Regulation here.

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Mr. G. A. CLARKE: There is nothing fancy about doing that. All he has to do is enforce the Law that persons who want to produce licence plates should be registered with the Ministry of Public Works, the Licensing Department, in order to manufacture those licence plates.

I am saying that such a bureau would help to determine how many people are really driving their vehicles without the necessary payment of taxes and insurance. Obviously, the bureau will also look at those persons who are too poor to pay the licence and what assistance should be given, especially if they have to transport their families and children to school. We have to look at an Insurance Bureau to assist the Ministry with its work. Investigation needs to be carried out properly.

Sir, I believe there are more road deaths in this country than murders in any one year. It is important for us, therefore, to look carefully at this. In fact, one of the accidents occurred at Orange Hill, where a person drove a vehicle without the owner's consent, he had no insurance or licence. It is a serious problem that needs to be addressed, and people will take a change.

I know of a case in North America where a minor took up his father's vehicle one night. His family was asleep. He took up the vehicle, went down the road and knocked down about three or four persons killing all of them. It happens from time to time, but I am saying to you that we have to tighten up. I would not expect it to be everywhere. I would not expect the Ministry to be everywhere, but a system must be put in place in order to

help those persons who will take a chance. Too many persons are taking chances now, because the taxes are too high. Therefore, you have to be able...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Not that you are taxing the minors. I am saying to you that there are too many persons who will take a chance and run the system because they have to pay upfront. Why the Licensing Authority cannot give some form of schedule where persons can make their payments in instalments if they are experiencing hardship? I am sure that if you have to pay \$1 600 for your vehicle, why can you not pay it in two or three instalments? You cannot currently do this. Let us suppose that your road tax is \$600, why can you not pay it in two instalments? There must be some system to help those persons.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: There was a time when there was a rebate. Persons were able to claim a rebate on any unused road tax. For example, if you sold your vehicle during half of the year you were able to claim half of the taxes. The Government is now saying that you cannot do that because it is cumbersome. They say it is cumbersome to collect. People were enjoying that benefit. There was nothing cumbersome about that, as far as I know.

Sir, all the Ministry of Public Works had to do was to ensure that the person paid half of the year's road tax and the person was reimbursed by cheque which was mailed to him. Persons got their unused portion in the post. It was not cumbersome. The Ministry of Finance has to do their job. It is not the Ministry of Public Works at this time. I believe that the unused tax was a good practice where persons were able to receive part of their taxes. This is important.

Sir, the Minister spoke about changing old imperial systems to metric, and so on. That is nothing new. The examination of vehicles has always been done. The Minister made a point today that these things have to become Law. When a Minister of Finance brings his Budgetary Proposals, he brings one Bill. A Bill comes afterwards to validate everything the Minister has imposed on us. So there is no need to put everything in the Act.

I notice now that Section 104 of the Regulations is now part of the principle Act.

9. "The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after Section 103, the following new section:

104. Every owner of a hackney carriage, maxi-taxi..." the English term for a taxi.

Sir, that is all it is. This is included here because the Government has something here which I cannot contemplate. I am thinking that the Government seems to be thinking about increasing the fees for taxis and maxi-taxis. I want to know what mischief was this playing at this time. Why do you have to bring it here in the Act.

Was it necessary to put Section 104 in the Act to make it compulsory? Is it, therefore, the contemplation, from my point of view, if the Government intends to increase the fees now payable by taximen? Every taximan has to pay a different fee for his book. It is a book which they get. As a taximan you have to get a hackney record, so you have to pay for that. I wonder why Section 4 is here. It is a new section?

I do not believe the Government should increase regulation fees. It is here, no problem, but they have increased it. It is a new system and a new fee. Once before there were no fees.

Finally, I believe that this Bill is really the Bill of the Minister of Finance. There is nothing new coming from the Ministry of Public Works. They have not changed anything in terms of road traffic, although the Minister spoke about signage. A national signage programme was started, with beautiful signs across Barbados and signs were supposed to be improved. The only visible thing I have seen the Ministry has done over the last two years, is to change the colour from pink to green. If you pass by the Ministry of Public Works, you have a building, it looks good, and I must tell you, it blends in with the nice St. George Valley. When you look at the building against the St. George Valley, it is all green.

Sir, if I had very little to do, I would have contemplated painting the building green, but we were so busy in our time, planning two big contracts, which the Government is enjoying. I told the Minister at the start of this Session that he is sitting on a good wicket because I knew we had a number of programmes that would last for the next two years. I want to hear what is happening to Highway 3, right up to Market Hill corner and Wilson Hill. That is a new package which the Minister needs to bring.

Sir, there was also a new programme that was to be put in place for the St. Lucy northern district, and that was to be given to Brathwaite Construction. We wanted to be fair. We gave C. O. Williams Construction one. We gave one to Rayside and, therefore, Brathwaite Construction should get the one in the North. I have not seen that yet.

Sir, I want to say that there is nothing new about this Bill. It is only validating the proposals contained in last year's Budgetary Proposals. It is a bit late, but it is only about the collection of fees at this time.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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House A45, Sequence 35, 4.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution, inaccuracies included, which we will deal with at another time.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2009, be read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7, inclusive, were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, in Clause 8 there are two corrections that need to be noted.

8. (3) The regulation test referred to in subsections (1) and (2) should cover knowledge of

a. the Road Traffic Act;

b. the Road Traffic Regulation, 1984 - and not 1981; and

c. the Highway Code”.

The reference in the margin, S.I. 1981 should also change to 1984.

I beg to move that Clause 8, as amended, stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Clause 9 was called.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, in Clause 9, the inserted Section 104 should read:

104. Every owner of a hackney carriage, taxi or maxi-taxi shall renew the notice referred to in regulation 77 of the Road Traffic Regulations, 1984 - and not 1981 - on payment of such fee as the Minister of Finance prescribes.”

Again the reference in the margin should be to S.I.1984 - and not 1981.

I beg to move, Sir, that Clause 9, as amended, stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by the Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill, as amended, in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 6 – THE ROAD TRAFFIC (VALIDATION) BILL, 2009

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

House A45, Sequence 35, 4.40 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Road Traffic (Validation) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 7 – FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND
VALIDATION) BILL, 2009

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to make one statement relative to Orders No. 7 and 8, which are the Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, 2009 and the International Financial Services (Validation) Bill, 2009. Mr. Speaker, both pieces of legislation arise from the same circumstances arising out of the Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, proposes to make provisions for an increase in licence fees.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, is the intention to take these two Bills, Orders No. 7 and 8, together?

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I propose to make one statement in respect of both Bills, since they arise out of the same circumstances.

Mr. SPEAKER: Right. Unless there is any objection to that course of action, we will take the two Bills together.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am obliged to you.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, was to give effect to the increase in license fees announced in the 2008 Budgetary Proposals. However, Sir, since the legislation to give effect to these fees was not drafted and presented to Parliament and passed in time, it means that we also have to validate the collection of the fees during that period.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will remember that the fees which would have taken effect from January 1, 2009 are as follows:

Local main branch \$250 000;

Local other branches \$20 000;

ATMs \$1 000 per ATM other than at branches;

Trust Companies \$100 000; and

Insurance companies \$20 000.

Therefore, before the House is the Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, 2009 to give effect to those increases, and also to validate the collection of these licence fees since the legislation was not in place by January 1, 2009.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the Opposition's comments on these particular matters have already been stated on the occasion of the Budgetary Proposals, but I believe it is important for us to reiterate and to keep in context our position as it relates to these matters, especially given the recent attention that has been focussed on the international business sector in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, one of the critical things that have always faced Barbados as we have sought to market our international financial services sector, has been the central issue of competitiveness. Sir, it seems as if we have always assumed that because we are dealing with foreign investment and foreign investors, they are not sensitive to issues of cost.

Sir, I believe that those of us who have practised in that area, including the Honourable Prime Minister, one of my colleagues from St. Philip, the Minister of Health and other practitioners, would be clear in our minds that on many of the occasions when we as a group, or perhaps even singly have sought to market our domicile and to market the instruments of investment in our domicile, that we have been asked repeatedly, is it cheaper to operate in Barbados over the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands or Bermuda?

Sir, one would hardly think that an entity that is administering millions, if not billions of dollars, would be concerned about the fact that travel to Bermuda might actually be a little more convenient than travel to Barbados, especially when you are flying on a private jet. Sir, you would equally hardly think that there might be worried about the cost of an extra \$20 000 in Barbados in licence fees over a comparable jurisdiction, but the fact is that they are. Sir, while these institutions may have chalked up huge

profits, we are always faced with the issue of competitiveness.

Therefore, Sir, it is important for us to recognise that Barbados is not the only domicile that is seeking to market these services, because some of these companies have a raft of service providers who go to work every day trying to see if they could save or shave off of a particular operating expense \$10 000 or \$20 000, and so we have to bear this issue of competitiveness in mind. It is often laughable the kinds of dollars that they are sometimes seeking to save.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that those of us here who have been engaged in the sector have often been asked to respond to quotations, let me know what it costs for me to do this in Barbados, and then when once you respond, they will tell you that in the British Virgin Islands it is \$20 000 or \$30 000 less. Sir, we must not see our licence fees as simply levying on an entity that has deep pockets, an increased amount of money.

Sir, the fact is that some entities do not mind paying an increase if there is a commensurate increase in value. They may pay an increase if the length of time it takes to get a work permit is diminished. They may pay an increase if the period of due diligence is shortened. They may be willing to pay an increase if their relationship with the Corporate Affairs Department, which could sometimes be a little turbulent, is eased. An increase, therefore, has to be taken in the context of value for money.

Sir, the fact is, and we know, because we have heard the Representation, that the exempt insurance sector is extremely concerned about the increase in the fees, but they are equally concerned about the fact that, given the increase, there is no connection, no advantage, or no improvement in any of the line services that they are seeking in our jurisdiction.

House A45 Sequence 36

4.50 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) has had a grand week of activities, including Church services, reception at Ilaro Court, et cetera. Sir, I know they have the International Financial Services Sector at heart. I am aware there have been a number of consultations with them. I have not gotten the impression that these consultations have been in any great detail.

Sir, the fact is that we are at a critical juncture. One noted economist has made a very pointed criticism of the Barbados system and has recommended that we need to

increase the level of regulations. Certainly, when we were in Government, we left a completed framework and a charter for an overarching institution that would be charged with the responsibility of regulating all the financial services organisations in Barbados. I understand the Government, as it is now, has taken that and intends to run with it.

Mr. Speaker, we have to keep focussed on the issues that are attendant with operating financial services jurisdictions like ours, especially as we are constantly being under the microscope from foreign governments, who are very eager to brand us as tax havens, who are very eager to see that they collect their share of the taxes that companies from their jurisdictions would pay, but are instead avoiding through using Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we had established Invest Barbados, and we had our own vision. It may be that the current Government's vision has changed, it may be that it has remained the same, but what is certain is that when we left Government, the International Financial Services Sector was delivering to the Government of Barbados two-thirds, 66 per cent, of our corporations' revenue. What must concern us now is that the revenue from the sector appears to be significantly down, the numbers of registrations and re-registrations are also significantly down.

Mr. Speaker, while other territories may complain of similar features, we are obligated to bring the International Financial Services Sector back to a position of significant prominence. Sir, we are not going to get there by any fancy cocktail parties at Ilaro Court, or as a result of any of the cosmetic things that have happened over the last week. Sir, we need clearly to refocus the International Financial Services Sector. Sir, the statistics speak for themselves. It is not the Barbados Labour Party who is saying it is down. It is the Reports from the Central Bank that have been laid in this Parliament. Sir, those Reports demonstrate the significant decline in activities.

Mr. Speaker, wherever you want to lay the blame is a matter for you, but certainly a Harvard study which was done around 1993/1994 made it quite clear that those companies that were able to "ride-out" the recession at the time were those companies that increased their advertising budget. It is an easy thing to try to shave off some dollars and cents in the face of a recession and to cut back on spending, but the statistics clearly show that those entities that ramped up on the marketing component were able to see through that particular recession.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the dynamics today are very much the same and, therefore, I believe it is opportune for us to try to increase the presence of Barbados in the various jurisdictions. There are some initiatives, again started by us, but we are happy to see that the Government

is carrying on with them, but the sector appears to us to be in dire circumstances and, therefore, it is incumbent on the Administration to try to revive the Financial Services Sector.

Mr. Speaker, we increased licence fees, but we also had to be prepared to guarantee to the entities functioning in the sector that those things that continue to be thorns in their sides, or pebbles in their shoes, are removed. Initiatives have been taken, but not always continued.

Sir, I believe the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) has a strong enough voice and is able to represent its own issues but it would be remiss of us if we did not echo some of those concerns in this Honourable Chamber, as we consider these increases in fees.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Honourable Member has said much. In fact, I do not think the Honourable Member has said anything worth responding to. Sir, I have made a vow that I am not going to allow - the word is not "mud" - any residue of any criticism from me to affect the Honourable Member for St. Joseph from the task which is shortly to be entrusted to him, or for which the Honourable Members for St. Peter and St. Andrew are working so assiduously, and with great passion to entrust upon him behind the scenes. Sir, I am not going to do anything to help, nor to interfere with that mission which is currently underway.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things I want to say, not in response to what the Honourable Member has said because, as I said, there is a certain elliptical way in which he has made his argument. He has a Bill before him, so he is just talking: "O, we started a few things." "We are not sure what the Government is doing." "There had a few cocktail parties, but nothing is happening." "Revenue is declining but we are not sure what they are declining by." Sir, there were no specifics.

Mr. Speaker, that is all that speech was. Sir, coming from a Shadow Minister, who is responsible for a sector that plays such a critical role. You would have thought that the Honourable Member would have researched something and come to this Honourable Chamber and say: "Look, these are the concerns we have and these are why we have them."

Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member is concerned about a cocktail party, let me make it abundantly clear that I did not host any cocktail party. The association

asked to host a cocktail party at the people's residence, Ilaro Court.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: It does not belong to me, it belongs to the people of Barbados. It was their cocktail party. They said they wanted to hold it there. Mr. Speaker, I have already heard this talk about parties from another Honourable Member on That Side.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the residence does not belong to me. There is nothing there that I plan to take with me when I leave. Therefore, it does not bother me if the citizens of Barbados now have the opportunity to use what is theirs.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) said they wanted to hold a function. I was not in the island at the time. The Acting Prime Minister was the host of the function, and it was held at the official residence of the Prime Minister of this country. Sir, that is the first point.

Sir, I think that if the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) is working hard in representing the interest of its members, if it is seeking to increase investment, if it is seeking to build unity in the sector, if it is seeking to profile Barbados, if, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has said, this sector is so important to our economy, then I believe if the Government does nothing else and the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) asks to use a Government property for such an event, that we should be generous enough to allow them to use it.

Sir, it seems as though the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is annoyed about that. I do not know if he was not invited, I do not know what it is that is agitating him about it. Sir, as I said, the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) is doing its job.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) has objected to the increase in fees. That is not new. There are people in here who have objected to licence fees, who have not paid their licences either. I do not want to go into the facts. I did not speak on it, I kept my mouth shut again. There are people who objected and said that people are not paying the licence fees because they are too high, but when the licence fees were at the old level, they still did not pay them.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You do not know who? You do not know who spoke in here today? It is not the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I am telling you that. It is not you either, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, to the extent that you announce the results of the vote and to the extent that you have spoken, I am saying it is not you.

5.00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, it is not the Chairman of Committees either and nobody else on This Side spoke, so all of the mock rage about increases in licence fees, we never increased it.

The world is facing its worst economic crisis in 70 years. There are people who are still writing and saying that the Democratic Labour Party never foresaw the crisis even though we took steps as far back as 2008 to bolster revenue to deal with the debt and other issues that we came and found. Do you know that by 2009, Honourable Members on the Other Side were saying we have to introduce a stabilisation tax, we have to set up a Fund and we have to do all of these things, but a year before that they were criticising the Government for raising additional revenue, which additional revenue, even in this environment is not sufficient to deal with the challenges of our fiscal deficit. Since then, there has been a deterioration in the international market.

In addition to that, the G20 have launched an assault on domiciles in the Caribbean and they used the expression in the Caribbean very loosely. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph said we are doing nothing about it.

Well let me tell you something that just happened two weeks ago. The Caribbean met with the World Bank President, the first time that an occasion like that has been organised as part of the annual World Bank International Monetary Fund meetings. We met with President Zoellick and the World Bank has agreed that we work on a joint mission to make representations to the G20 about the manner in which they have been seeking to ostracise, black list, and to essentially alienate the international business sector in the Caribbean. I do not boast about Barbados' role, but the ask Barbados to lead the exercise, along with the World Bank. The regional leaders asked for that, who were at the meeting. We have already started that process.

Our reputation remains at least the same, because I know that there are Honourable Members on That Side who believe that every time a new Government takes over

that apparently the world stops, so you are to identify new roads. Apparently there are new roads that are need to be done from January 16. I do not know who built them. Apparently there are new roads. The old Financial Services Commission is not relevant anymore. The new Government is to come up with a new one.

We have been working on entities to regulate the non-bank financial sector for years. That is not an idea you came up with, or the Barbados Labour Party. That was part of the original investment loan back in 1993. It is something that the International Monetary Fund has been asking from the 1980s in Barbados. All you had to do was to determine what kind of Financial Services Commission you want.

The criticism of the slow pace at Barbados has been developing its Financial Services Commission cannot be laid at the feet of the Democratic Labour Party, because we have kept to the schedule that the previous Administration had in place. It is no different.

I announced in the Budget that the legislation is being drafted now. It is an institution equivalent to the Central Bank in terms of its status, how the people are appointed, its role, and we are proceeding with it. It is no different to what was anticipated, except that there may be some changes that may arise out of developments in the financial sector domestic developments. It will strengthen regulation.

It is clear, particularly from the CLICO scenario, particularly from Great Northern Narsha and our experiences in Barbados, that there is a dramatic and urgent need for improvements in relation to the Office of the Supervisor of Insurance. It is clear that there is need for better regulation of the credit union and cooperative movement sector in Barbados. We recognise this. We cannot go out to the world and have in our backyard activities taking place that damage our domestic reputation and then go out and tell others, well, you should not be demanding of us higher prudential standards.

We are arguing not that Barbados is any cheap destination. It has never been and will never be. That is why we are so high in the Human Development Index. Somebody has to pay for the quality of life that people enjoy in this country, and it does not come out of thin air.

In any objective analysis, the quality of life that an international business executive, the friends of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, for example, would enjoy in Barbados is comparable to what they enjoy at home where they come from. That is a fact.

If banking fees alone are the issue, something is wrong. Does that mean that if we eliminated banking fees

that Barbados would all of a sudden become the premier destination for the registration of international banks? If we eliminated the fees, would all of the exempt business come to Barbados overnight? If we eliminated all of the impost that Government draws to pay for the education of its people, roads, airport and seaport, if we eliminated all of that we get from the offshore sector, made it an entirely fee-free sector, would that make Barbados the most competitive sector in the world? Obviously, no. That is why tax havens are not more attractive than domiciles like Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is arguing a point that, to my mind, is unworthy of somebody like him, who has had both private sector experience, but has also worked in a job on behalf of the people of this country who also have in Barbados to find their own space, educate their children, have adequate health care facilities, and so on. That I assume is a unique position, because there are not many people that have that position. There have only been so many persons in this Honourable House who have worked in the international business sector and also been practising politicians.

I have never heard any yet until the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, who when he speaks for the international business sector, forgets that he has constituents in St. Joseph who need a bus service, who have children that are born in our maternity wards, who have children that have school meals, and whose grandparents worked assiduously to build up this economy to what it is today.

When there was no international business sector there was a Barbados where people were working hard to improve our quality of life, so I am unpersuaded by those arguments. I am not saying that we should not be competitive, but I do not think that argument should be adduced. That do not make sense in the context of our international business sector.

Sir, as I said in the Budget, what we promote for Barbados is not just products. It is the Barbados experience which includes quality of life, our tourism facilities, our excellent restaurants, our good health facilities, our good educational facilities, young people

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House A45, Sequence 39, 5.10 p.m.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: who are adaptable and trainable, people who have professional skills, a good telephone network, that is what we promote, so, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that arguments about the costs of

the jurisdiction in this context are sufficient to cause the Government to rethink its strategy.

There are things that are being done in the international business sector. There has been an engagement with BIBA. The Minister worked with BIBA on the production of a new document earlier this year. He has made announcements regarding the sector and would you believe, that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph saw the plan and in this House of Assembly said it is the same plan he had, but in this debate is saying that he does not know if the Government had any plan. The same exact plan that the Honourable Member for St. James Central laid in this Chamber, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said, "Oh no, this is our plan, this is nothing new, we had this on the drawing board, this has been already published," and he was in here parading.

Mr. Speaker, that is our plan you know and now today we hear the Government has no plans, which means either that your plan was no plan, or correctly, that the Honourable Member's memory is convenient, or alternatively, that he just speaks for the sake of being heard and not because he has something sensible to say. I believe that Sir, is my conclusion of what happened in this debate today.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Financial Institution (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 8 – INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES
(VALIDATION) BILL, 2009

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am going to adopt my arguments in respect of the previous Bill and, therefore, move that this International Financial Services (Validation) Bill, 2009 be read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. ALLEYNE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the International Financial Services (Validation) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 2 – LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in a previous debate in this House, not a budget debate, I indicated that the Government was going to take steps, particularly because of the high capital costs of the construction of the Boardwalk on the South Coast, to recover some of that capital by way of the application of the Development Duty, under the Land Development Duty Act.

An Order may have, or will be coming to the House shortly to cover that area from Hastings and Rockley, from the land of now, or late of Evelyn Clayton right through of the Peterkins Limited up to Magic Isle on the south. The application of development duty would apply therefore to any sales that take place of land in that particular area.

House A45, Sequence 39, 5.19 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation is to increase the outer limit of the application of the duty. Prior to the amendment, the outer limit was 10 years, so a development duty area could be declared and the provisions of the Act would apply for 10 years. Having regard to how capital is depreciated in Barbados, the Cabinet felt that 10 years as the outer limit was too short a period, and that 15 years would be a more reasonable figure which is why the legislation, the Land Development Duty (Amendment) Bill, has been brought here today, to substitute the words “10 years” with the words “15 years”. Sir, other than that, the Land Development Duty legislation would remain the same.

Mr. Speaker, I often lament that there were substantial capital developments that took place in Barbados over the past 14 years, and while we were giving concessions to new investors via the Special Development Areas Act, ministerial discretions, the Tourism Development Act and other pieces of legislation, there were often people who benefitted from astronomical appreciation in the value of their land as a result of Government’s investments.

Mr. Speaker, the Boardwalk is a beautiful project. If it were to ease the mind of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, it was not my conception and I am sure it was not his either, so we are equal on that. The Board-Walk was a project conceived by the Inter-American Development Bank. It has spanned both Governments and it is a facility most deserving to Barbadians. I cannot think in terms of any physical development that I have seen in recent times that has given Barbadians a sense of ownership again of beaches and access and land and, wherever it can be repeated, it must be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, that Boardwalk is a place where people of all ages walk up and down, exercising and strolling at all times of the day and night. The physical works have also had the effect of extending the beach area which, if we are not careful, the owners of those beachfront properties would eventually start to argue that they have an interest in under the old legislation, so again we are going to have to move possibly with the Beach Accretion Bill, or some permutation thereof to ensure that we truly protect our beaches, provide access to them and that people are not unjustly enriched at the expense of the taxpayers in relation to these developments.

Mr. Speaker, another area where you could see it, and the Land Development Duty Act was applied to it, is the Spring Garden Highway. There were owners after the acquisition had started and before they were paid, who then

argued that they were to be compensated for the beach on the Other Side of the highway because, under our legislation, that accretion on the foreshore and the adjustment of the high and low water mark would be to their benefit.

Mr. Speaker, that is a peculiarity of settled colonies. In other countries, it would not be so, but our Common Law as well as the application of legislation creates that scenario.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that I do not think that any individual Barbadian, whether or not you own land on the beach, should have benefitted from the substantial amount of money that the Spring Garden Highway costs to the taxpayers, which we have had to pay back, and likewise on the Boardwalk on the South Coast as well as the one on the West Coast. Those persons who sell properties and benefit from a substantial capital improvement will pay some of that money into the Treasury of Barbados in recognition of the investment by the taxpayers in this country. That essentially is what this piece of legislation is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore beg to move that this amendment to the Land Development Duty Act do now pass.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have no difficulty with the Government's amendment in this respect in relation to the Land Development Duty Act. Indeed, we accept that the principle is sound, that where the Government invests substantial sums of money in the development of infrastructure in a particular area, that those who would substantially benefit from that capital investment ought not to unjustly benefit either from a sale within a particular period of time thereafter, and therefore, we will support that.

I note, however, the Prime Minister's comments in relation to the Boardwalk. Sir, really and truly, the infrastructural preservation of the coast of Barbados is critical. It is not only a question, as the Prime Minister said, of the actual physical environment, but also the extent to which it allows Barbadians to benefit from the ambience and indeed from the opportunity to be able to exercise, or relax, or whatever on the coast.

We would certainly support any effort that continues to expand, or to replicate the Board-Walks and other areas of the island. It is one of the reasons why I think that the previous Minister of the Environment was adamant that it should be part of the project.

More importantly, the one point that the Prime Minister raised that I would wish to enquire of him when he anticipates this issue would be resolved, is the whole question of the beach accretion, because we conceive that it is a complex legal issue, it is not a straightforward issue.

Mr. Speaker, in the new draft Constitution that would have been there, we would also have protected the right of access to beaches. Mr. Speaker, that in and of itself is not sufficient to deal with the issue of the accretion of property and we had not settled on it. I think there were a number of competing opinions and it may well be.

We have not traditionally gone for joint select committees, but I think this may be an area in which there is a benefit for how we treat to that issue because it does not only affect this generation, it would affect future generations in relation to how we treat to coastal areas and their preservation.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of land is a contentious issue. The issue of coastal land is even more contentious. How we treat to its accretion, where the patrimony should lie and who should benefit, particularly since really and truly the only entity that would ever really have the kind of capital base to do major infrastructural coastal works to the benefit to the country is the Government, so where does the balance lie between the Government's investment and the benefit to the people?

Mr. Speaker, because it is a complex legal area, as I have said, I think that there may be genuine benefits in having a joint select committee to look at some of these issues, because it is not going to be resolved in a hurry, given the limited resources of the Attorney-General's Chambers.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

Are there any other Honourable Members who wish to speak?

Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Thank you very much. I more than concede to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that the beach accretion legislation should go to a joint select committee of Parliament. I believe it is a good idea. Obviously, it has constitutional issues and it is a sufficiently important area of our national development that it could benefit from various contributions. I am not even sure that any one legal mind applied to it could come up with a solution. It would require a lot more than that and it would require in this Chamber defence of whatever joint position we come to.

Mr. Speaker, I would, therefore ask the Minister of Housing and Lands to have the Bill brought to Parliament in its current form so that it can go to the Joint Select Committee, even with the imperfections. There is only one issue in it that would be problematic, but we can have it brought as is and let it go to a joint select committee.

With those few words, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

House A45 Sequence 40

5.30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 2, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Land Development (Duty)(Amendment) Act, 2009.

ORDER NO. 9

RESOLUTION SEEKING CONCURRENCE OF THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE TO THE STUDENTS REVOLVING LOAN Fund (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, the matter before this Honourable House relates to amendments done to the Students Revolving Loan Fund, debated in this Honourable Chamber on Friday, August 7, 2009. On that occasion, the

Opposition, and more particularly the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, impugned the constitutionality of Section 16A.(1) of the Bill and urged on this Honourable House certain amendments to that Clause.

I did not, and I said then, accept that there was any basis on which the constitutionality of that Clause could have been impugned, but we acceded to the request of the Leader of the Opposition for the amendments which the Honourable Member urged. The amendments went to the Other Place and were amended.

Sir, as your Honour indicated to this Honourable Chamber this morning, there was a Message from the President of the Honourable Senate detailing the specifics of the amendment made in the Other Place.

Sir, the Resolution before the Honourable House now calls for the concurrence of this Honourable Chamber in the amendments made in the Other Place.

Mr. Speaker, when this matter came before this Honourable House on August 7, I had drawn attention to the fact that the National Insurance Act had contained provisions similar to the provisions being questioned in the Students Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill.

Sir, I did not reflect then that there were three other pieces of legislation that contained the same provisions:

1. the Income Tax Act, which had that provision inserted in 1983;
2. the Land Tax Act, which had that provision inserted in 2000; and
3. the Value Added Tax, which contained that provision since its enactment in 1976.

Mr. Speaker, the insertion of that provision in those four pieces of legislation was done, in every case, by the Barbados Labour Party. Therefore, if the provisions are unconstitutional, they are unconstitutional, not because of anything done by This Side, but because of the legal wisdom emanating from Honourable Members on the Other Side.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support any argument that they are unconstitutional. I am just saying in the event that they are, these provisions originated with the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, it would mean, therefore, that we would now have to proceed with amendments to the Income Tax Act, the National Insurance and Social Security Act, the Land Tax Act, and the Value Added Tax, to bring them within the four walls of the Constitution of Barbados. I do not think it is necessary because, as I said, I do not think that the provisions are unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, The Honourable the Senate made certain amendments to the wording urged on this Honourable Chamber by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. Those amendments are before this Honourable Chamber and this Resolution calls for the concurrence of this Honourable Chamber in the amendments made by the Honourable The Senate, to the Students Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable and learned Attorney-General has spoken long, and has expressed much doubt over the view proffered by me, as to the constitutionality when this Bill was before us before the summer recess. Sir, having said that, I take comfort that in spite of all that the Honourable Attorney-General has said, he has concurred with the amendments of the Honourable Senate, which reflect the amendments here, other than to make a stylistic change.

Mr. Speaker, I would err on the side of caution and if it is that there are other pieces of legislation that repeat the same error, then I would suggest that those be brought here in an omnibus Bill correcting the same and, therefore, ensuring that there is not additional work for the courts, since it was not only my view, it was also the view of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, while it is the stated position of the Honourable Attorney-General, the Honourable Member is to be judged on this occasion, not by his words, but by his actions which have allowed this amendment to stand.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

5.40 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: . . .

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: I do not think that anything was said to merit a response from me. I think that I have said all that I wanted to say on this Bill. What will happen in future, of course, I will not allow the frivolous and vexatious intervention to influence anything the Government has to do in the future.

I have allowed footprints to be stamped down the path of frivolity on this occasion, but that would not happen again.

I beg to move the passage of this Resolution.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I want to thank all Honourable Members for their useful contributions today on the resumption of our Sitting after the summer recess.

I want to beg that this Honourable House be adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

H45 5.42 p.m. Sequence 42

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2. Is the Minister aware that the entire area above and North of Gordon Greenidge School including the area known as Bakers Wood is exceptionally dark after 5.00 p.m. and exceptionally dark in the morning occasioned by a cluster of trees rendering the area dark and dangerous? You would have heard about the hit and run incident where a man was hit and run down and the person who struck him ran away and somebody pursued him. That was in the news recently.
3. If the Minister is aware, will the Minister state what steps have been taken, if any, his Government intends to take to remedy this problem?

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BYER-SUCKOO, Dr. the Hon. E. R. (St. George South)

CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)

EASTMOND, Mr. R. C. (St. James North)

FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)

LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St. Michael South East)

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MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)

PAUL, Mr. J. D. (St. Michael West Central)

PAYNE, Mr. G. W. (St. Andrew)

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THOMPSON, Hon. D. J. H. (St. John)

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TOOD, Hon. P. M. T.

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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. Announcements, Senate message. The Senate's message refers to the 'Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Loan Act, 2009' and to 'the Honourable The Honourable House', and part of the message is set as a procedural line. Printed as in the source.

Q3. First Reading of Bills. The 'Final Appropriation (2008/2009) Bill, 2009' is listed among the five Bills read a first time, and the 'Final Appropriation Bill 2008-2009' is then moved and read a first time again; notice had been given of a 'Final Appropriation Bill, 2009'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Oral Replies, Question 3. The Prime Minister's reply states that 'the records of four temporary or acting public officers were checked and it was estimated that 2 300 of these officers were eligible'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 8, Committee. The Committee on the International Financial Services (Validation) Bill is recorded with 'Mr. S. A. ALLEYNE in the Chair'; elsewhere in the Sitting the Chairman of Committees is Mr. S. A. Lashley. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Orders Nos. 7 and 2, third readings. The Bills are cited on third reading as the 'Financial Institution (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Act, 2009' and the 'Land Development (Duty)(Amendment) Act, 2009', against the headings 'FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND VALIDATION) BILL, 2009' and 'LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009'. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 9, take-slip 5.40 p.m.. After the take-slip a speech heading for Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley carries only '. . .', and the Speaker then calls 'the Honourable Member for St. Michael South' to reply. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Congratulatory Speeches. One of Hon. P. M. T. Todd's speech headings reads 'Hon. P. M. T. TODD'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th October, 2009, after the summer recess, with the Speaker, His Honour M. A. Carrington, in the Chair, and the Minutes of Friday, 7th August, 2009 were confirmed. The Speaker read a message from the Senate reporting that the Student Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009 had passed there on 12th August, 2009 with an amendment to clause 16A(1), and announced Auditor General's special audits of the National Housing Corporation and the Barbados Road Network Infrastructure Improvement Project. The Prime Minister laid sixteen papers, among them the Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 and several Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Orders, and the Attorney-General laid reports of the Registration Department. Five Bills, including the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2009, were read a first time.

In a Ministerial Statement the Prime Minister, Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, laid a Green Paper on 'The Comprehensive Review of Immigration Policy' for public consultation, recalling the amnesty for undocumented CARICOM nationals from 1st June, 2009 and pointing to the 2000 Constitution Amendment under which a person 'ordinarily resident' for 10 years could claim citizenship, a provision he said could be read to include persons living in Barbados illegally.

Congratulatory speeches followed for His Excellency Ambassador Ryan Brathwaite of St. Andrew, who on 20th August, 2009 won the world 100 metres hurdles title in 13.14 seconds. Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo, Minister of Sports, led and described the support planned for athletes; Mr. H. F. Lashley, Mr. G. W. Payne, who was twice cautioned by the Speaker on relevance, Hon. P. M. T. Todd, Miss C. Y. Forde, Mr. R. C. Eastmond, Hon. S. D. Blackett, Hon. F. J. Stuart, Mr. J. D. Paul, Mr. G. A. Clarke, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, and the Speaker himself added their tributes. At Question Time the Prime Minister replied that of an estimated 2 300 officers eligible for appointment under the Public Service Act, 1 180 had been appointed by 28th July, 2008, with all to be completed by 31st December, 2009, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce answered Mr. Eastmond's questions on roads and drainage, including a roundabout at Trents/Orange Hill.

Mr. Boyce, Minister of Transport and Works, moved the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2009, taken together with the Road Traffic (Validation) Bill, 2009, to give legal

effect to the increased fees and rates announced in the 2008 Budgetary Proposals, which under the provisional collection of taxes legislation should have ceased after four months, and to validate their collection. Mr. G. A. Clarke criticised the Government over road works, the school bus service and the licensing of licence plate producers, and Mr. Boyce rose on a point of order. Both Bills passed, the first with two amendments to clauses 8 and 9 in Committee.

The Prime Minister then moved the Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Provisions and Validation) Bill, 2009 and the International Financial Services (Validation) Bill, 2009 together, to give effect to and validate licence fees due from 1st January, 2009, such as \$250 000 for a local main branch and \$1 000 for each ATM away from branches. Mr. D. D. Marshall restated the Opposition's position on the international business sector; the Prime Minister replied, and both Bills passed. On the Land

Development Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2009, which extends the outer limit of a development duty area beyond 10 years so that Government can recover part of the cost of works such as the South Coast Boardwalk, Miss Mottley supported the principle and proposed a joint select committee on beach accretion, which the Prime Minister accepted; the Bill passed.

Finally the Attorney-General, Hon. F. J. Stuart, moved the Resolution seeking the House's concurrence in the Senate's amendment to the Students Revolving Loan Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009, noting that similar provisions in the Income Tax, Land Tax and Value Added Tax legislation had been inserted by the Barbados Labour Party; Miss Mottley suggested an omnibus Bill if other Acts repeated the error. The Resolution was agreed to, and on the motion of Mr. Boyce the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 20th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.