THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2013.

PRESENT

The full list of Members present is to be inserted from the Votes and Proceedings. Members identified from the record of this Sitting:

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON (Speaker)
Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)
Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P.
Hon. R. D. JONES, J.P. (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)
Hon. F. J. STUART (Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)
Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE (Minister of Health)
Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE (Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Hon. S. A. LASHLEY (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD
Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS
Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning, Honourable Members, this House is now in session. Members, I have with me the minutes of our meeting held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

MINUTES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to move that those minutes be taken as read.

AN HON. MEMBER: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, under announcements, Members, let me take the opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the family of the late Glenroy Straughn, a former member of this Assembly whose memory we honour today - among them his wife, Ms. Ada Straughn, a former Senator, and their son David. Please accept our condolences at this difficult time. I also want to welcome some young people. We are always happy to have the youth among us. I think they are members of Camp Shalom from the Nazarene Church. We welcome you and their chaperone. We welcome you and we hope you find the experience enlightening.

PAPERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance the Duties, Taxes, and Other Payments Exemption Coast Guard Relocation Incorporated Order 2013. I am also commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Tourism and International Transport the Grantley Adams International Airport Incorporated Annual Report 2011. I am obliged.

CONGRATULATORY AND OBITUARY SPEECHES

THE LATE MR. GLENROY STRAUGHN

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, as you indicated in your introduction, today this House of Assembly will pay tribute

to another man, a former member of this great chamber. I speak, of course, of the late Mr. Glenroy Escort Strathmore Straughn. And I cannot help but reflect, as the Royal Family of England are searching for names, I am sure, for the newborn baby, they might be willing to consider either Escort Strathmore or indeed Sir Glenroy for such. Sir, our Glenroy Straughn, of course, was born the younger of two sons of Verona and Benjamin Straughn, and he was born at Westbury in St. Michael on February 12, 1927. And he would have grown up like any young boy in the city, which could include being close to the action, so to speak. And as it were, ten years after his birth, he would have experienced the very traumatic events of the 1937 period in Barbados - a very significant period, of course, when all the brutal dehumanising effects of slavery and struggling communities, black communities, exploded into what are referred to as the riots of 1937.

Glenroy was a ten-year-old boy at that time at Wesley Hall School and would have, according to the record, waited in secure confinement until his older brother came and rescued him. Indeed, sir, as we reflect on Glenroy Straughn's life, you are almost commanded that those events must have had an indelible effect on him, as all of his life was spent in the interests of working for the downtrodden, the alienated, or those most in need.

Of course, after completing his course of study at Wesley Hall, he went to that illustrious college on Crumpton Street, Harrison College, where he completed his secondary education and returned to Harrison College immediately after graduation, so to speak, as a teacher in that institution. But of course, that would not have contained a Glenroy Straughn of 19 or 20 years old. He was much too ambitious for that. And indeed, like so many other Barbadians at the time, he immediately set his sights on and ventured into the wider world in search, of course, of a better life for his family and for all those whom he encountered.

Glenroy went to Aruba, like so many other West Indians who would have gone to Panama, Cuba, Venezuela, Trinidad, and I believe to some extent Guyana too, in search of greater fortunes. And he worked there at the Aruba Oil Refinery for some time as a teacher, because he was actually engaged at the Lago Vocational School teaching the children of workers at the Lago School. In keeping, of course, with what became his lifelong work, he soon was immersed in organising the workers at the refinery. He became a Lago Employee Council member and he was elected chief bargaining spokesman of the Lago Employee Council, which represented some 8 000 refinery workers. So you can see where the career of Glenroy was going. Indeed, it is there he met other West Indian labour leaders like Geary and Hugh Blades of Grenada.

There is the old adage that behind every great man there is a wonderful woman - or you may want to put it differently, behind every great woman there is a wonderful man. But in this case, we are happy to relate that in 1955 he returned to Barbados and got married to his wife of more than 40 years, who is with us here today. His wife, Ada Judith Gullup at the time, now, of course, former Senator Ada Straughn. And that union produced three sons - the twins David and William, and, of course, Stephen.

Just a little bit on Mrs. Straughn herself, because as I indicated, she is a former Senator of this island. But Mrs. Straughn also led a very successful career as a teacher at the Alexander School in St. Peter. Of course, I am very familiar with that school, having lived all of my youthful life in Mile and a Quarter in St. Peter. And then, of course, the fact that except for one, all my sisters would have attended the Alexander School at some time or other during their education period. And indeed, to relate that my eldest sister, Jean, is, I believe, still a very good friend of former Senator Mrs. Ada Straughn. Mrs. Ada Straughn ended her career at her beloved Alexander School, of course, as principal of that school and is fondly remembered for the great contribution she made while working there.

Back to the life, sir, of her husband Glenroy. Of course, early indications are that as a family growing up on the West Coast, they would have enjoyed the wonderful beaches of the Barbados West Coast. And this would have coincided, of course, with a period when there was a fight or battle for ownership, quote unquote, of these beaches. Of course, it is a tradition, a long-standing tradition in Barbados - almost a policy position - where we do not entertain the concept of private beaches. And this is something which Glenroy and a number of other community leaders on the west coast, in the Speightstown area, and indeed from other areas of Barbados, immersed themselves in this battle, trying to persuade the landowners - who were largely European, especially British landowners who would have occupied the areas of the Sandy Lane coast, et cetera - that the concept of the private beach was not one which would go down well with Barbadians. As a matter of fact, they openly resisted. And this is to the credit of Mr. Straughn and of course all those who were associated with that struggle. And I think that the lasting, wonderful reality of that struggle is that it has been won - that battle has been won without the need to resort to any more than community muscle, so to speak, and persuasion, like the one which Mr. Glenroy Straughn would have been famous for, would usually have made it succeed in getting the point over.

Sir, Glenroy Straughn, if you are not fully convinced yet, was a politician too. In 1958, when the then Grantley Adams would have resigned his seat in this House of Assembly to go to the federal government as leader, Glenroy Straughn was elected to the House of Assembly

for the parish - now constituency - of St. Joseph. And indeed the list of those men and women with whom he sat in the House of Assembly makes very good reading. And I think that from the City of Bridgetown, we had Thomas Washington Miller and Mr. Ernest Deighton Mottley - I believe the grandfather of the member for St. Michael North East, in whose footsteps she still has to walk, sir. Thomas Orlando Bryan representing St. Michael; for Christ Church was Frederick Carlton Goddard and Edward Talma; I believe at the time, Aljeron Crawford and Daryl DaCosta-Giarno; St. Philip, Herbert Dowding and Freddie Miller; from St. George, Elsworth St. Alban Holder and Clifford Searles from St. James; Luther Thorne from St. John; Ronald Mack and Hugh Gordon; Hylvestra Cummings from St. Thomas; St. Peter was of course later Sir Frank Walcott; St. Lucy, Sir James Tudor; John Eustace there at Branca; St. Joseph, as I mentioned, Mr. Straughn, of course, and Lloyd Smith; and St. Andrew, I mentioned a lady, Mrs. Edna Ermytrude Bourne and John Wesley Carbin. So that is a parliamentary group on which, as parliamentarians, we need to reflect on the contributions of those days, and that Mr. Straughn was part of that enlightened grouping.

When Grantley Adams returned from the Federal Parliament in 1961, Mr. Straughn no longer contested that seat. He returned more to private life - I did not say non-political, but certainly not parliamentary political life. Whether he left the ranks of the Barbados Labour Party, I have no record, but certainly he was not associated directly with any political campaigns on behalf of the Labour Party that I am aware of after that. I believe that there are those - even members here today - who will be able to relate well his association with other political organisations of the day, which probably took on a more aggressive approach to the needs of the oppressed and the communities in Barbados. And we will, I am sure, during the tributes be able to chronicle many of these very important associations.

My last direct encounter with Mr. Straughn was as Minister of Transport and Works in the 2008–2013 period. Very early in my stewardship as Minister of Transport, I would have met Mr. Straughn again as a leader in the Road Safety Association of Barbados. By that time, he had begun to get older, as most of us will if we stick around, sir. But he was still able to make a significant contribution to the meetings that we held. And indeed, I am proud to relate - and I think in one of his tributes, Mrs. Shara Bennett-Innis from the Ministry of Transport was able to chronicle the significant contribution Mr. Straughn has made to road safety, along with many others - the important leadership that he brought to road safety in Barbados, to the point where we have now established, as a government in the Ministry of Transport, under the chairmanship of the Honourable Prime Minister, the Barbados National Road Safety Council, which is to provide leadership and guidance by way of road safety.

So I mentioned that to record the fact that Mr. Straughn's career in community work is an almost endless chapter in his life. Along with being involved in road safety, the association itself, he was involved in road safety committee schools programmes, and as I mentioned, obviously worked closely with the traffic department of the Ministry of Transport and Works. He was also a member of the Citizens Against Narcotics - again, an organisation working with our young people to try to instil in them those values which are so important, sir, if we are to continue to build the nation Barbados that we are so proud of. He was a member of the Caribbean Association of Therapists and Helpers - again, I think, indicating the minute detail with which his work had now become associated. In other words, he was interested in making sure that those important areas of comfort and of leadership that were required in our communities, no matter how trivially they may have been viewed by many, he was prepared to walk there, sir, and champion them.

The Barbados Cycle Union - he was a member of the Barbados Cycle Union. And indeed, I often say the heyday of the Barbados Cycle Union when we used to make our way to the National Stadium to watch - please forgive me if I do not remember - I think it was Kingsley Reece, the Barbadian star; Daniel Morillon, I think he was from France; and Patterson, he was from Holland. And these were, in those days, great cyclists. Those wonderful Friday evenings where, of course, we can never forget the amazing commentaries of Mr. Steven Michael Stout - I believe Michael was a writer himself. But these were the - I want to say with your permission, sir - the good old days, because we seem to be struggling now to even achieve that level of real entertainment, not even approaching the question of success in our sport. But I wish the association well. It has become more complex and the whole question of cycling has become more scientific, and indeed we are mindful of the fact that we need even to rethink - and I know the Minister of Sport is actively engaged in this endeavour - to build a new track for our cyclists to really be able to perform.

The National Youth Service - membership of that goes almost without question. And then the Green Room Players, again demonstrating the versatility of this man as he continued to etch the landscape of this country's development with his pure genius.

Mr. Straughn was also noted for his work with the Pan-African Movement of Barbados, either the Pan-African Commission or the Global Africans Conference, and he was elected an elder of the Global Africans Conference. And these again demonstrated the fact that he unsparingly devoted his life to ensuring that those members of our community who needed the greatest support would be able to access it. And that work continues today - unrelenting. And indeed he would have spearheaded initial

discussions on the issue of reparations and the fact that the slave trade really denied a level of development which would normally attain the kind of economic activity which was generated in the colonies of Britain, France and Spain in this entire region. And this is something which still occupies our African scholars and our African activists as we battle with the super nations to have some consideration being made for this very important contribution of black people as slaves in the world. And truth be told, we very often see glimpses of progress in this regard, but like so many things, there is always some retreat at the end of the day by these developed nations who benefited so much from the financial success of those nations, significantly because of the activity of free labour - something which we would not be able to contemplate in our world today. These are important works which must be continued and which we certainly are committed to ensuring that they do.

So, sir, I believe that in Glenroy Straughn, Barbados has lost a very great community contributor, a politician, a teacher. And his example, sir, is worth copying by so many of us today.

His quiet dignity about what he did is to be admired. And even in the aggressive days of the heights of the Black Power movement in Barbados, he still went about his business in an ordered way as he sought to address so many of these issues. And the example which he left, sir, is one which we as a nation can be proud of. And as we continue to reflect on the contributions of our parliamentarians, we continue to say with one voice that Barbados is well served - Barbados has been well served by the contributions of these great men and women. And today, sir, I want to, on behalf of my constituents, on behalf of my family - as I mentioned, especially my sister Jean, who is a personal friend of Mrs. Straughn - convey our condolences to the Straughn family and to wish them strength as they continue to delight in this great contribution of Glenroy Straughn, but at the same time grapple with the realities of grief at his passing. May he rest in peace. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sorry, yes, yes, yes. Mr. Speaker, sir, I rise to associate myself with the remarks just made by the Honourable Leader of the House. Mr. Speaker, sir, the late Glenroy Straughn and his wife - widow now - would have been part of the very - I think perhaps the best way to put it, sir, is that they have left an indelible impact on the minds of people from the parish of St. James and the constituency of St. James Central together. And I think that, sir, that is, as I said, an indelible impact. So it is therefore not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of my constituents as well, and the wider citizenry of St. James, the parish, that I would want to enter into the record our deepest condolences.

Mr. Speaker, Glenroy Straughn, on his return from Aruba, immediately immersed himself into the politics of this country. And in a real sense, that perhaps is what captures best his selflessness and his commitment to the nation of Barbados. It is correct to say that he was very strongly and passionately associated with the Barbados Labour Party. And the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is not now here, but I am sure if he were here today he would want to echo the sentiments of condolence on behalf of a man who took over the seat that was once held by Sir Grantley Adams.

It has to be said early in any discourse concerning Glenroy Straughn that he was a man of immeasurable principle. And I think that, along with his selflessness and commitment to country, those are some of the characteristics - if you could capture the characteristics of the individual - those are some of the characteristics that best represent him, and I think that will hold him in people's memories for time immemorial.

Glenroy Straughn stood on principle on issues which were before his time. And when we think of a Barbados in 2013 - indeed when I think of a Barbados when I was a youngster growing up, when I first started to formulate an interest and develop a keen sense of awareness of the social and political issues in the country - I was hearing, sir, about economic enfranchisement at a time when Glenroy Straughn was no longer politically active but was in his retiring years. Obviously, he is vastly my senior. But the reality is that way back when he would have been in this place, sir, he was standing on principle on that same issue which continues to bedevil this country even today.

And by extension, Mr. Speaker, sir, he was, as the Leader of Government Business has indicated, a Pan-Africanist ideologically. But let us go beyond the ideology of the man, sir. The measure of the man is that he stood for consciousness and awareness of the struggle of the black working class in Barbados and was taking positions of principle in keeping with that struggle on behalf of dispossessed, oppressed, repressed, and suppressed people in this country at a time when it was personally difficult, if not dangerous, for an ordinary working class man himself to be speaking the language of principle, but also coming across as language of defiance against what was then still a very entrenched - and might I say, Mr. Speaker, sir, deeply entrenched - white corporate ruling economic class in this country.

Beyond that, sir, he stood for the need for redistribution of resources and wealth in an equitable manner in Barbados. Again, another issue which bedevils this country. There is not a budget debate which is

anticipated or which has passed where we have not heard members in this place speak to the issue, sir, of the need for the equitable or more equitable distribution of wealth and access to resources and empowerment of individuals in Barbados.

And what I think stands out about Glenroy Straughn, and what I am sure members of his family would want to be underscored, is that he took these positions of principle, sir, in a manner which was also defiant of tokenism. He was prepared, sir, to reject token changes. He stood, sir, for meaningful and fundamental change.

Now I heard the Leader of Government Business speak to the association with the Labour Party and perhaps it is in that context that I sought to contextualise these opening remarks in the context of the principle of the individual and his commitment, sir, to meaningful and fundamental change. And perhaps what separates - or separated - Glenroy Straughn from many others in Barbados, because I genuinely believe, sir, that on both sides of the well of this House and ex-cathedral this place across Barbados, there are a lot of people who ideologically can associate themselves with the usefulness of economically empowering and enfranchising the people of this country. I don't think anyone can seriously and realistically knock down the argument that there is much good in the Pan-African movement. I don't think that there is any sane person in Barbados who cannot see the benefits, sir, to be derived from the equitable redistribution of wealth in this country. And if there was anything that perhaps separated Glenroy Straughn from the average, it was, sir, the sense of urgency that beat in his breast to bring about change.

And I feel, Mr. Speaker, sir, that sometimes we need to pause and reflect - not only on this place but in other places - because politics did not begin in Barbados and it does not end in Barbados. Now we have to understand that whatever the pace at which the Labour Party was bringing about change back in the earlier years and the years of the Adams era, the Brathwaite-Adams era, there would have been a school of thought that eventually gave birth to the Democratic Labour Party, that pace had to be quickened. And I don't think there is any quarrel with that. Political parties change their outlooks, not necessarily only ideologically, but in the context of how they wish to emphasise the way in which they do certain types of business.

In 1863, on the first day of January, Abraham Lincoln signed an executive order in his capacity as President of the United States of America that freed the slaves, and that was a Republican president in 1863. About a hundred years later, sir, in 1964, it was a Democratic Party that was forming the government of the United States of America and having to do fierce battle with the Republican Party in order to institute, Mr. Speaker, a civil rights bill in the United States of America under the presidency of Lyndon Johnson - and to some extent Kennedy as well. Kennedy would have been the Attorney General that was empowered to bring constitutional actions on behalf of working class people, black people. And that fight was raised against a Republican Party that 100 years later was championing the emancipation of black people from slavery. So that, sir, I say that only to make the broader point that political parties and their perspectives do not remain fixed and constant.

And that perhaps is a useful thing, because there was implicit in the view of the Leader of Government Business the suggestion that perhaps there was some conservatism of the Labour Party of the day. And one would not want to reflect on that, sir, before also reflecting on the view that there may in fact be some conservatism on the other side today. But we feel, sir, that there is a necessity to transcend the mere ideology of the man. The ideology of the man set him apart, because as I said, in days when it was personally - I don't really want to say unsafe, but certainly you were not finding a lot of people from his socioeconomic circumstance prepared to stand up in defiance for the things Glenroy Straughn was prepared to stand up for.

But then, Mr. Speaker, sir, it is how he transcended that ideology in order to give a way of life - or to demonstrate a way of life - to Barbadians, so that he didn't just talk the talk, but as they say today, he walked the walk.

Now, Mr. Speaker, sir, you will recall that he would have been on the radio - I think the show would have been Gutter Perch - and as one of the earlier talk show hosts, he would have served to use the opportunity to kind of set the national focus and the national agenda on issues which he felt were sufficiently important, that cried out for the average Barbadian to also project their consciousness in that direction. And again, Mr. Speaker, sir, what were the issues that he chose to focus this country's awareness upon? There was a principled approach to the view that the preferential treatment given in this country to expatriates who came from the United Kingdom - as we would say, sir, they weren't buried here, but they came here, lived here, and were better treated than Barbadians born and bred here - that kind of approach to building a society was intolerable and unconscionable and had to be brought to an end.

He championed, sir, the question of building communities in solidarity with the people who were lesser well off in the community. And again, Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that the social experiment that was conducted in Bay Street in the community club - which subsequently came to an end, unfortunately so - was a social experiment in trying to make sure that we assisted, as a society and as a community, displaced young men who were facing a

number of social and economic challenges, and to try to set them once again on the right track.

Now, here we are, sir, in the seventies and eighties, speaking of an individual who is looking at then the earlier stages of a pattern of young men in Barbados slipping into deviance, of young men in Barbados becoming incapable of appropriately looking after themselves, their families, meeting social obligations, and trying to focus the country's attention on the need to build stronger communities - and indeed, sir, having created or been party to the creation of an institution in Bay Street which did that kind of work. And you see an individual, sir, therefore, who is in some ways before his time, because here we are in 2013, three decades later, bemoaning the same issues in Barbados as he would have been standing up for back then and trying to turn this country's attention to. That is why I say, Mr. Speaker, sir, that the ideology of the man has to be transcended and you have to look to see how he walked the walk.

It is impossible, sir, to represent the parish of St. James - indeed, sir, it is impossible to live in the parish of St. James - and not come into very close contact with one of the most fierce and stubborn social issues facing that part of this island. And that is, sir, the access to the coast and the beaches. In the company of people like Father Andrew Hatch, Glenroy Straughn was one to lend his voice very strongly and passionately to the question of beach access.

Now, I think he went beyond the average because many people were constraining themselves to the idea of windows to the sea. And there are young people present, sir, who may not know of a Barbados in which you were able to drive along the west coast and see the sea. We take it for granted now, but it is almost now impossible to think of a Barbados in which you drive - and not just the west coast, the south coast as well - you drive all along the coast of this country and you hardly ever see the sea because you are seeing buildings of all sorts, every type of accommodation, commercial and otherwise. But that was not always the case. And with the increase in building developments along the coast, especially the west coast, sir, came the decrease in access to the beaches. The birthright of the people of the country was therefore being taken from under their very noses. And that continues to be an issue on the west coast of Barbados. It is a stubborn and devilish issue. It has never, in my judgement, been taken very seriously by those at the top of the town planning department in this country. In fact, we have allowed a planning of the coastal aspects of Barbados to take place in such a manner that you cannot now pull back the horse because it has fled from the stable.

But where we are, Mr. Speaker, today is a destination that Glenroy Straughn was lending his voice - or raising his voice - against 30 and 40 years ago. He was standing on principle and speaking as a visionary to Barbados, saying that one day you will come to a point where access to the birthright, which is the beaches of the land, is going to be so constricted that you may not be able to get to the beaches at all. And if you drive along the west coast - or walk along, better walk along, it is a beautiful place - I remember the Honourable Member for Christ Church South spends a lot of his time in Christ Church and I would urge him not to come down there and canvass against Labour Party people, but to come down there, sir, and enjoy the hospitality of the west coast of Barbados. And in doing so, sir, he would realise the difficulty that you can walk for literally miles and then find only a pathway which is to allow the general public to gain access to the beaches of that coast. And that is not how Barbados should be.

The fight, Mr. Speaker, sir, against private beaches is one that the Leader of Government Business also spoke to. And let us be real - the Leader of Government Business, I think, was very charitable in the way in which he put it - that we do not believe in private beaches here. But there are places, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central would tell you, in the Caribbean, where Caribbean countries have taken the idea of a private beach and treated it as an ideal. And they hold it up to the world and say, look, come here, because we have a beach where you will not see any natives born and bred in this country. They cannot come out here - this is all for you, the tourists. And that is not how Barbados - that is not how we function and think as a society.

But Mr. Speaker, sir, there are those amongst us who still harbour that ambition. There are those amongst us, sir, who would still see us walk that walk. And it is to the Glenroy Straughns of Barbados that we must forever therefore be thankful for having raised a voice early and maintained that voice as long as he had life and breath in his body, that that was not the way that this country should be developed. But I go further, Mr. Speaker -

Speaker, sir, because I remember well when I first canvassed that constituency I now have the privilege of holding, on another serious issue of a social nature, is the issue of landlocked houses. You're locked away from the sea, on the seaside, and on the land side, you're locked away sometimes from your own house. To get to your house you have to cross neighbour's land. And when you and your neighbour have a little falling out, all of a sudden you're reminded of fences. And you're told don't cross here no more. As recently, Mr. Speaker, sir, I kid you not, as Wednesday last week I found myself in Payne's Bay to attend on such a matter. And the issue continues to be a burning one in Barbados. And again, when I began this journey of political representation, several older people in the community from Prospect down to Payne's Bay were

used as a point of reference, Glenroy Straughn. And I will tell you when Mr. Straughn was out here, these are the things that he used to be concerned about. I hope that if you want to get a vote that you'll be able to make sure that you give the same kind of representation to these issues as Mr. Straughn would have. That is, and I listened to them, sir. So that these are some of the real serious social issues that not only bedevil the constituencies in St. James, Mr. Speaker, but also bedevil wider Barbados. And it would do us well as a people to reflect on the life and the contribution of persons like Glenroy Straughn so that we could draw, Mr. Speaker, some essence of how we may distil a better society.

Now, I want to say briefly, sir, a few words about his contribution as an educator. Because we're going to hear a lot about him as a politician, and you're going to hear a lot about him as a community activist. But he was one of those very cherished people in this country, sir, who shaped young minds and nurtured young hearts and souls, gave direction. He taught at Combermere School, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is correct to say he also taught at Lodge School. I do not have a complete list of all the schools that he would have taught at, but I do know that like his widow, he - and this is a family, sir, that is again a very useful thing for Barbadians to do, is to look at the value and the utility of the contribution made by the family. It is rare, sir, to find a husband and wife who both serve in the legislature. We have that privilege in the Honourable Member for St. John now, but it is very rare to find it. It is also rare, Mr. Speaker, sir, to find a husband and wife who both have given so many years to teaching our young people and shaping and giving them direction. Glenroy Straughn and his widow have done that service to this country.

And beyond the education role that he played, sir, is also his role as an advocate for road safety and road traffic awareness and basic decency when using the highways and byways of the country. And all the things he talked about, sir, were not necessarily issues that required seatbelt legislation or legislation against the use of alcohol while driving and so on, but sometimes, sir, he was making interventions in the name of common sense and civility, as all Barbadians should emulate and support. I came down the road this morning, sir, and I listened to - I will not advertise the radio station - but a police sergeant making a plea that I have associated myself with in this chamber, in the other place, when I was writing a column in the newspaper. And that is, sir, that we still after decades, after decades and successive administrations, have not come to the point yet where we have created legislation so that people who are disabled are not disenfranchised by the able-bodied who take a car and park it in a car park space set aside for the disabled and decide that they are going to go and do business in a building, and the poor disabled person has to walk all across the car park with a cane or on crutches or be rolled in a wheelchair because the able-bodied amongst us are either too uncaring or too indifferent. That's a simple question of civility but unfortunately we now have to legislate it and the legislation must eventually come.

But the point is, Mr. Speaker, sir, that on all those matters and more relating to the use of the roads of Barbados, Glenroy Straughn was prepared to lend his voice up front. You've heard, Mr. Speaker, from the Leader of Government Business about his contribution in sports and towards drama. We have therefore an entire package of a man - a man who showed his mettle in the clean arena of political combat. A man who showed his mettle, sir, as a servant of the people outside of political combat but in building communities. A man who showed his mettle, Mr. Speaker, sir, in the area of sports development, in the area of educational development, in the area, sir, of our cultural development. That is the measure of the quintessential Barbadian. He was a gift, Mr. Speaker, in my judgment, to the people of Barbados. He is one of the patriarchs of the St. James community. He will sorely be missed. His contribution has been deeply respected and will never be forgotten.

And I, Mr. Speaker, will want to lend my own words of condolence in association with those already uttered by the Leader of Government Business to David and William and Stephen, and his widow Ada, and to ask that God's grace be with them in this time of bereavement and difficulty. To William and David and Stephen, let me say that I understand your pain in a very personal way, because it was only a few months ago that this chamber was good enough to engage in a similar exercise on behalf of my own mother. And there is nothing that prepares you for the loss of a parent. It is the most crippling experience that you can face, and it is the most difficult thing to get over. But I urge you to be strong in the knowledge that across Barbados, all who heard about or came into contact with Glenroy Straughn would have felt that their lives had been improved, if not their thought processes challenged, by a useful citizen who served his purpose in his time on this soil in the best way that a man could be expected to do. I'm obliged, Mr. Speaker. Every obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to join in the tributes this morning to the memory of the late Glenroy Straughn, and I certainly would like to endorse the comments previously made by the two other speakers in giving credit to the work of this very outstanding Barbadian. But I want to focus my very brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, certainly as Minister of Culture, particularly in relation to the contribution made by Glenroy Straughn in the area of black enfranchisement and pan-Africanism in Barbados and to capture his contribution

within the wider context of an emerging Barbadian society in which he would have

entered and certainly the contribution that he would have made. Mr. Glenroy Straughn, as you heard, Mr. Speaker, would have been born in 1927 and he would have been forced by his entry into life to experience much of the oppression and the political upheavals associated with that early time. In fact, the post-traumatic syndrome now known as the consequences of enslavement would have been very much present impacting primarily on the majority black population of Barbados. In fact, just three years prior to that date, the year 1924, we would have had the right excellent Charles Duncan O'Neal, Clendon Wilkine, and others who would have started a historical movement in the form of the Democratic League. We would have had, of course, the impact of Garveyism, strongly supported, of course, by a number of the stalwarts of that early day. And within that context, we would have had significant contributions by these early freedom fighters and Pan-Africanists in Barbados.

It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that the Glenroy Straughn that we are honouring today would have been a product of a society still emerging from many of the issues which would have been fought against and to some extent issues that we still are fighting against today. Indeed as a black child of age 10 he would have known of the hardships which many of us in terms of our parents or grandparents and even some of us as children would have been exposed to at that time. In fact, he was not very far removed from the very famous 1937 revolution in Barbados, which fuelled the intellectual grounding and energy upon which the Pan-African movement was formed in Barbados, and which would have been shored up to a large extent by the arrival in Barbados of the right excellent Clement Osborne Payne and the agitation which would have been used very effectively to create, in my view, a new Barbados which we are experiencing today.

And we would have had, Mr. Speaker, Glenroy Straughn being impacted on in a number of ways by some of our literary icons, some of them such as George Lamming, Camou Brahimi, whom in their writings captured some of the traumatic experiences and the living conditions of the 95 per cent black impoverished masses who would have been oppressed at that time. This is the context in which Glenroy Straughn would have then moved into adulthood in his 30s, where in fact we were impacted on by the radical Pan-African community becoming a global force in the decades of the 60s and the liberation struggles that would have ensued and in fact would have captured the imagination of countries beyond the Caribbean, including North America. And of course we had the development at that time and the touring influence of Kwame and Crummell's Black Star: Ghana.

It is also no secret, Mr. Speaker, that Glenroy's worldview, his sense of justice and his concern for the dignity of human life and human living would have been forging a Barbados that was at that time very hostile to freedom and the well-being of blacks emerging and taking their rightful places in society. And I think that many of his interventions, both in terms of his role as a social activist and the kind of organisations that he would have been involved in, were informed by a large measure of his wider purpose as someone who was interested in the overall well-being of Barbadians. It is understandable, Mr. Speaker, that he would have then embraced the Marginalised People's Progressive Movement, otherwise known as the PPM, with its overwhelming Pan-African influence. And he was also associated and also would have joined with persons such as Leroy Haywood, who would have been very instrumental, of course, in focusing on the evils of racism in Barbados.

By the decades of the 70s and the 80s and 90s, Mr. Speaker, Glenroy Straughn would have certainly witnessed the fruits of the work of the Pan-African Movement in Barbados. And this would have been manifested by a number of things. The radical writers, poets, musicians and actors who were known as the Black Knight; the youth rural and urban of Barbados, otherwise known as Yoruba; the South African Liberation Committee; the Rastafarian Movement in Barbados; the Bussa Foundation; the Marcus Garvey Committee; the Clement Payne Movement; the Pan-African Movement of Barbados; and of course, the Commission for Pan-African Affairs. He would have made significant intellectual and activist contributions to all of the above organisations and through the years particularly utilising his role as a diplomat and a passionate humanitarian. He fought on behalf of the welfare of people, particularly the poor. He was revered, Mr. Speaker, but a very humble Barbadian. By all intents and purposes Barbadians would have been impacted on by his teaching, and you would have heard his significant contribution as a teacher, his involvement in worker organisations. He was concerned about illicit drug use, reduction in Barbados, drug counselling, and of course one of the most important contributions he would have made would be to the issue of road safety in Barbados.

And that encapsulates, Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the telling virtues of Mr. Straughn in that his worldview, though formed and shaped by the society in which he was born, took off into a very multi-focus agenda where he sought to look at some of the very critical issues facing Barbados at the time. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that the late Glenroy Straughn will in fact be officially recognised by the Commission for Pan-African Affairs. In fact, he would join the illustrious list of Pan-Africanists who made a significant contribution to our national development but who have passed on. And those who have been honoured already by the Commission - they were last honoured in 2010 at the Oche Emeke Award

Ceremony and who are now remembered as honoured ancestors. Those persons already honoured include persons such as Dr. Richard Alsop, Mr. Vern Bess, Mr. Timothy Callender, Mr. Anthony Cheeseman, Mr. John Cummerbatch, Mr. Leroy Hayward, Mr. Gordon, Ricky Babu Paris, Dr. Akeel Tafarai, Mr. Earl Warner, and Kez Zakarias. Mr. Straughn now joins this distinguished honour. I believe the Commission is planning a ceremony to be held this year in which Mr. Straughn will be recognised and join this list of Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, by honouring Mr. Glenroy Straughn as an Honoured Ancestor, the Commission is committed to taking forward a number of key programmes which of course would have been influenced by the contribution of Glenroy Straughn. We are aware, for example, that as our Barbadians of repute move on and as we pay tribute to them, it is certainly my view that perhaps the most lasting tribute that should be paid would be to how we honour their contribution by the works that we continue. And I'm very proud to say that within the context of the work of the Commission for Pan-African Affairs, one of those very profound and certainly significant programmes which the Commission has embarked upon is to focus on the whole question of identity. But they would have also put in place a programme within our schools where our children are reminded of their ancestry, their identity. And I speak, Mr. Speaker, of the Mabulizi programme, which has been launched in our schools for some time now. And that programme helps to shape the minds and the thinking of our black, particularly black Barbadian children, who we believe have to be reminded of their identity within the context of our colonial past. And that programme, the Mabelline Programme, the SuHeli for Ambassador, currently has 61 educators in over 50 nursery, primary and secondary schools, committed, of course, to continuing the vision which I and others would have espoused in terms of the Glenroy Straughn vision.

But he was also, Mr. Speaker, concerned with black empowerment and, to a large extent, the Democratic Labour Party, having been formed, has also been rooted in the whole question of black empowerment and wealth generation by the broad masses of Barbadians. It is and continues to be, Mr. Speaker, a continuing focus and concern and is wrapped up in perhaps all of the policies and initiatives of the Democratic Labour Party espoused from time to time. The whole question of developing Barbadians and creating a feeling of empowerment and ownership among Barbadians. One of the programmes which we have embarked upon as well, Mr. Speaker, is the Social Identity Renewal and Integrated Upliftment Strategy, otherwise known as the Serious Programme. While the Maboulouzi Programme is school-based, this particular programme will be community-based. When it is fully operationalised, the Serious Programme, which should be housed in the Old Spirit Bond, will work primarily with young people and communities from the North and the South and in urban Barbados to establish several empowerment projects and programmes. And also, Mr. Speaker, to establish businesses as well, because we believe that as we speak of historical trends and developments, one of the things we have to do is to empower our Barbadians, black in particular, empower them by the ownership of businesses.

This Serious Programme, Mr. Speaker, will capitalise on historic Bridgetown and its garrison as a World Heritage property, while emphasising the intangible heritage of the enslaved population of Barbados. The Commission has already partnered with the National HIV/AIDS Commission, the National Culture Foundation, the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Pine's Creative Workshop, and several other governmental and non-governmental entities to make this project a reality. And as part of this effort, the Commission is looking at making the home of King JaJa, which is opposite a Lara Court, a museum and tourist attraction about the little known but amazing story of this African king.

This programme, Mr. Speaker, is what I refer to as a very practical approach by this government to not only honour the memory of persons such as Glenroy Straughn, but by means of practical programmes designed to inculcate within the minds of black Barbadians in particular the importance of empowerment, the importance, Mr. Speaker, of reflecting on our proud African past, the importance of upholding the proud traditions of Pan-Africanism, and the importance still in our view of the impact of the African experience within the context of the current issues and challenges which we face. That programme, Mr. Speaker, that I referred to will do even more. It will develop innovative products and services and point to the great potential for immediate trade with Africa and the African diaspora. Some of the services which we wish and hope to produce include computer services, including the use of programming to create products and to create not only a consumer-driven society, but a society that will be producing and creating innovative products for export. This is what we mean by empowerment. This is the kind of spirit that Glenroy Straughn would have evoked in Barbados.

The way forward influenced by our past, influenced by persons such as Glenroy Straughn whose memories ought not to be seen as transient, something that happened but not translated into practical activity by those of us who remain. And in giving and paying tribute to Glenroy Straughn, Mr. Speaker, we by extension pay tribute to many of those who would have gone before him, many of those who would have experienced hardship but did not

allow themselves to be encapsulated and rendered a lesser human being by their hardships. They would have taken up the battle, they would have joined the troops on the ground and they would have by their actions paved a road upon which Barbados is being built now.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that as we focus on persons such as Glenroy Straughn, that his energy, his vitality, his determination to overcome the issues of his day ought to be translated and brought forward to us as we too are facing challenges of our present-day reality. He was never, in my view, based on my interaction with him, a person who complained overly. But he was very focused on action and driven by focused programmes. And I feel that as we are faced with challenging economic times, as we are faced with dealing with the issues of today, when we remember the contributions of persons such as Glenroy Straughn, we have to forget the complaining mentality. We have to forget observing only. We have to forget placing blame. But we have to understand that this Barbados has got to be given over by us to the next generation in a manner that bequeaths to them a legacy of forthrightness, a legacy of action, and a legacy upon which we would have built upon the memory and the contribution of persons such as Glenroy Straughn.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and in particular the mandate given to the Commission for Pan-African Affairs, is really what this is about. It is about inculcating values within our people upon which they can feel proud. It is about understanding the legacy of our past and using that to shape our present and our future. We have, Mr. Speaker, a proud legacy as predominantly black Barbadians, and we have to use that legacy to help to inspire us to do good things and to do great work.

Mr. Straughn also stood against racism. Oftentimes in Barbados we don't want to talk about racism. But the Commission itself is continuing its work to develop a surveillance programme and a surveillance system to monitor racial discrimination in Barbados in order to promote an atmosphere of ongoing peaceful race relations in Barbados. And this is not an isolated action. It is in accordance with the obligations we have within the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The model, of course, will be completed and deployed this year. And again, the dream of Glenroy Straughn of fighting racism to a level where the fight is institutionalised and systematic continues to be a concern for us.

Reparations, Mr. Speaker. This year, my ministry, with the groundwork prepared by the Commission, established a task force on reparations. And I'm certain that this is something that Glenroy Straughn would have been very pleased to learn about - that in the year 2013 we have established a task force on reparations to deal with the whole question of the historic impacts of slavery on current day Barbados.

The result of establishing such a task force by the Cabinet of Barbados has been swift across the region and beyond. Only recently, the Caricom heads of government at the meeting in Trinidad decided to establish a Caribbean reparations commission supported by committees to be formed in each member state and to be chaired by Barbados. This is a fundamental decision pioneered up to the level of the heads of government, but which speaks to dealing with the damage done by the brutal slave trade and slavery. And of course, much has happened in relation to that conference. The University of West Indies have now been charged with setting up a research unit to study, quantify and strengthen the case for reparations. These are areas which the late Glenroy Straughn would have been concerned about. And I am proud to be associated with a government that has not only talked about it, but has taken specific measures and measures which of course have now been endorsed by the Caricom Heads of Government Conference and measures which we are determined to pursue.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish in underscoring certainly my admiration for the work of Glenroy Straughn. I wish that this moment will be used as a moment of reflection on his work and the work of many other Pan-Africanists who would have contributed so immensely to Barbados. I hope it conjures up in all Barbadians a sense of ownership of the continuing struggle of creating a much more enlightened society, one in which Barbadians remain proud as owners of wealth and owners of the destiny of our country. I wish to convey sincere condolences to the family of Glenroy Straughn, in particular his widow, his children, and those friends and colleagues in his battle along the way who would have shared his joys, shared his agony, shared his quest for an immersion Barbados that can stand on its own in a hostile world, shared his dreams for the development of black Barbadians, shared his energy and vitality. And I wish to assure that Glenroy Straughn's energy, his ideas, his ideals, and his memory will indeed live on in our hearts, in our minds, in our institutions, in the way we live and in the way that we treat one another. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member from St. Michael North East. Thank you very much.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it has often been said through the years that a man should try to become not a man of success, but a man of value. And I think that warning and adage perhaps best helps us to understand the life of Glenroy Straughn. His was not a desire to be the most successful or richest man, but a man who would seek to alter the circumstances of his neighbours, his friends, his family, his countrymen, those

in the region. And through the advocacy of ideas, the ability to organise, and a pure heart, that he would change the circumstances for the better of those around him.

I cannot tell you the first occasion on which I met the gentleman, other than to say that I have probably known him all my life. And indeed, my grandmother and mother reminded me that during his period of time in Aruba, he would have lived with them while he worked in Aruba. I believe the Leader of Government Business spoke of his works there, not just in teaching but in organising, and a case of future events casting their shadows for what was to come upon his return to Barbados.

In a funny way, sir, in spite of where I stand today, I can also appreciate that representational politics could not contain Glenroy Straughn, because representational politics demands also a discipline in the context of our part of the world, of the party. And there are some people who simply cannot be contained by organisations, but whose ideas and whose passion must be allowed to run free. I know this wherever I speak because I have an uncle who is the same way and whose commitment to ideas and to people cannot be contained by any structure, any perimeter. And that was the sense that I had always from interacting with Glenroy Straughn.

I understood carefully that there are many ways to contribute to your society and to your people. And what we do in here is simply but one, but not the only one. And others will choose other avenues that give them that greater level of intimacy and support and freedom of thought because they act as individuals very often and do not have to carry the whole or to find a common ground for many people to stand upon.

I admired Glenroy Straughn because he was always, always, always prepared to fight for the causes which he felt strongly about. You know, it was Abraham Lincoln, sir, who said that he who - meaning the person - has a right to criticise once he has a heart to help. And Barbadians have a funny way of putting it, because we recognise that we will accept the commentary of others and the criticism of others so long as they are prepared to help make a difference, so long as they are prepared to walk the walk and not only talk the talk. And Glenroy Straughn was one of those men who was prepared not just to talk the talk in terms of advocacy, but also to walk the walk. And that is why I started by saying that for me, his determination that he should be a man of value and a man whose contribution can now be praised by all, was clearly not his objective, but the consequence of his behaviour and his actions.

I have also, however, to recognise that when he did choose to enter electoral politics, he took the very brave step of standing in the shoes and following the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, as a Member of Parliament for the Parish of St. Joseph, a position that became vacant once Sir Grantley went to the Federal Parliament as Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation. And Glenroy served in this honourable chamber for three years from 1958 to 1961, giving him the opportunity of at least knowing what the other side was like and therefore allowing him to speak with authority when he spoke to power over the course of the rest of his life in fighting for the causes for which he believed. So he did not speak from a perspective of not knowing what happens in here or how the process of governance works, but he knew. But he chose equally not to continue with party politics, but to continue with the passions that inspired him in terms of being first and foremost, I would want to suggest, a teacher, and then secondly, an advocate and community activist, walking the walk and talking the talk equally as he went on.

Others have spoken with greater specificity as to his contributions in terms of the fight for public access to beaches, the road safety work, but above all, it was his sense of understanding who we are as people and his work as a Pan-Africanist that resonated the most with me. I recall the first public event that I did as a minister of the Government of Barbados was the 100th anniversary dinner of Alexandra School at the Hilton Hotel, the old Hilton Hotel before it was knocked down. His wife, Mrs. Straughn, may not remember, but I sat next to Glenroy on that occasion. And it was the first time that I was in a formal capacity attending that dinner. And Glenroy spent the night advising me that I would do well always to remain faithful to the cause that caused all of us to be here. He was one who was not big on the partisan and felt that it was more important for me to remain faithful to what it was I wanted to achieve in the Ministry of Education rather than to focus on the other things that could be easily discounted in terms of partisan politics.

But in that context he felt strongly that the only way as a people we could overcome the consequences of centuries of exploitation, whether it be in the form of slavery or colonialism, was if we were prepared to educate our people and that

they operated from a position of knowledge and being informed rather than just simply going along life as if there was no past that brought them to this stage. And he and many others within the Pan-African Movement made that mark in such a way that we felt then as a government that it was critical to have an institution, namely the Pan-African Commission, that became focused on trying to right the wrongs that inevitably came about as a result of the establishment of Barbados as a modern society from the 17th century onwards that was rooted in the experiment of racism in the Western world. That everything there was about how this society became ordered from the 17th century was rooted for the first three and a half centuries on

the premise of the superiority of one race and the inferiority of another race. And that while we have been able to change and to reverse the legislative aspects of discrimination, the consequences of institutionalised racism continue to live with us. And it is not a case of trying to reverse that, but it is a case of trying to have people understand the beauty, pride and dignity of each of us as individuals, black, white, Asian or whatever. And that having said that, that there was an imbalance in power that was a consequence of our early settlement that needs to be bridged. And the Pan-African Commission, I hope, will continue to work assiduously on the recognition that black pride does not mean black racism.

And Glenroy Straughn was one of those who advocated that early on. He was one of the 10 or 12 people who would have engaged in discussion with the Ministry of Culture that I then held and with the then Prime Minister of Barbados, to make the case. And a member for St. Michael East can speak more about these matters as a soldier in the vineyard with him on the matter of Pan-African Affairs. Just as the member for St. James Central spoke as his member of Parliament. But the establishment of that commission is critical to the success of Barbados as a country in terms of helping us to raise identity as a central part of the development process. And I feel very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot improve productivity in this country without fundamentally dealing first with identity issues. In a very real sense, some may argue that was the message of the Right Excellent Errol Barrow in his mirror image speech as well. That identity is central to all that we do. Because if we look in the mirror and we love ourselves, if we understand who we are, we are then in a position to give the best of ourselves.

And that is all I understood Glenroy's mission in life to be - making us better people, working with individuals, young people, older people, community-based activists to make us better people. And you know, sir, they who work as he did have the luxury of carrying us to the possible. Speaking of those things that could be and should be and ought to be, but cannot necessarily be immediately so because of the strictures of our governance system or because of the need to carry along the rest of our population, they are the ones who stand out front and help point the direction for the future. And they are in the vanguard, sir, and there are those who would want to criticise some of them as being eccentric. I never see them as being eccentric, sir. I see them as the people who help point the direction of the future. And the rest of us who have chosen to work more in the context of the structures of governance that require concrete action either through the executive or the legislature, have to be able to translate what may be possible to what now should not just be probable, but what can become reality for our people.

And I therefore want to salute the likes of Glenroy Straughn and others who risk public criticism because they fight for causes that are for all, but because they stand with few when they fight these causes, and they have the courage of their convictions to stand tall because they understand, as Einstein said, that only a life lived for others is a life worth living. Only a life lived for others is a life worth living. And in that context, while there are those who may want to salute and pay homage to those who have served formally in this Parliament, would we be here paying tribute to Glenroy if he was not a member of Parliament for three years? And the truth is that those three years really pale in comparison to the contribution that he made to the country of Barbados and to the people of Barbados. And it ought to cause us to pause to determine what really do we value and what really should we value as a people and to send the signals out. We talk glibly very often of the unsung heroes of this country, but how do we really and truly recognise them? And how does this Parliament equally interface with them? And would we be otherwise here, as I said, had he not served as the Member of Parliament for St. Joseph for three years? We have to find a way, sir, of highlighting in this nation the things that matter and the things that ought to be valued.

Teaching is to me one of the noblest professions that there is. Because without teachers there can be no future. Without teachers there can be no shaping of a society. Without teachers we cannot appropriately centre ourselves in the direction and within the development paradigm that we would wish to go. Similarly, sir, there can be no divide on the fact that family is equally critical. And only last week I spoke as we give time to paying tribute to the late Sir Richard Haynes on this issue of family and yet again, the importance of family has come out in all who have spoken in this debate so far. But I believe that it was the member for St. James Central, the leader of opposition business in the House, who would have pointed out that the issue of family was central to the man and was perhaps responsible for much of what he was able to achieve. The leader of government business pointed out the important role that his wife, his now widow, would have played in respect of Glenroy's life and circumstances. And the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that I really do believe, as I said last week, that having the support and anchor of a family that loves you, that nurtures you, helps you to do those things that would otherwise be difficult, particularly if they require courage.

And I believe that Glenroy Straughn's family can take comfort in the fact that he could only be who he was and do what he did because of the support and love and nurturing that they would have provided to him. And I want therefore to use this opportunity not just to salute him, but to salute his family for that support and by their own love and sacrifice too, because they had to give of him to the rest of the society. By them doing so, Barbados has

been the more fortunate for his contribution to the lives and work of the people of this country.

I want, therefore, on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, first and foremost, to thank you for allowing him, for allowing him to be able to serve this country, to serve this party as a member of this Parliament, but above all else to let him be who he was. Because no man can be happy while trying to play a role - no man or woman can be happy while trying to play a role that is not theirs to play. And Glenroy ultimately lived life as he wanted to live, made the contributions that he wanted to make and understood that his greatest gift would be in changing the perspective and minds and behaviour of individuals. Barbadians have a great saying that I quote all the time - all Barbadians - one blow kill old cow. One person at a time, one person at a time. Unfortunately, we are not large. And if there are sufficient numbers of us who take that approach of trying to alter the lives of another person, one at a time, I believe that this country will continue to be a great country. But we do so not because we have good legislators alone. We do so because we have good people who are prepared to accept the responsibility of teaching, nurturing and loving the rest of us in this community.

I wish his family, sir, on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, warm memories. It has been some time since his passing. I expect, however, as I said, that memories will allow your love to live for him. I expect, however, that there will still be some pain because you can't touch him. But I trust and pray that the memories will inevitably win out over the pain because the memories will reflect the love that you had for him as opposed to the pain that you feel from not being able to touch him. He was a good man, but above all else, he was a good Barbadian. I am obliged to you. I am obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join my voice to those who have spoken thus far in tribute and in memory to our brother, Comrade Friend, family man, Barbadian, human being, Pan-Africanist, etc. etc. etc. I would have met Glenroy Straughn in the seventies in this country and that, Mr. Speaker, does not necessarily give a date to my age. Suffice to say that at that time I was relatively young. The grey had not yet started to penetrate any part of my being.

Of course, in the seventies, one had a head of hair quite large - a lot of hair surrounding your head - and it was the time of young men feeling proud, raising their fists, shouting in the air and wearing a large afro as it was called. The pick, either purchased of plastic or made from the spoke of the bicycle wheel and sharpened in fashion and put together, and both hands being active as you picked your hair and fluffed it out as a mark of how revolutionary you were, how conscious you were of being black. We were all caught up. I, as a relatively young man, following the example of so many others who were trying to find a purpose after having gone through long centuries of a negative impact on the mind and on the person and on the purpose for which, as all human beings, we were placed upon this earth and in this spiritual space.

But Glenroy Straughn, who would have been middle-aged, I would say then, who would have made his mark and even then continued to make his mark as an educator in Barbados - he taught in both the public sector and in the private sector. In fact, it has been mentioned by some, he had a stint at Combermere, the Lodge School, but also at important private institutions such as the Christ Church High School, Lynch's Secondary and St. Anthony's. St. Anthony's, I believe, is referred to in those days as Gault School, which used to be located just a stone's throw away, as you swing through a country road, in a small facility there just right, heading north to the National Housing Corporation's building, and eventually moved from that part of Barbados to a location in St. John. I believe that is where it went, to a location in St. John.

And these three schools - maybe that is why they had his presence at them at some time - made indelible contributions to the education of Barbadians over time. The Christ Church High School, which was located right where you now have the very, very resplendent, architecturally pleasant facility owned now by the Christ Church Parish Church. And those who have not gone there recently will see the outstanding edifice which now adorns that facility. That is where Christ Church High School used to be. Lynch's Secondary School - not an outstanding educational institution in Barbados, but suffice to say, sometimes we try to search as to why an individual became the individual that he eventually became.

Glenroy Straughn, having been born in Westbury Road - which people extend to call the city, all of that being part of that movement away from the central core of Bridgetown and drifting in that direction - being born in Westbury Road would have had a natural inclination to go to a few schools that would have been located around the period of his birth, around 1927. You would have had St. Mary's, you would have had Westbury, you would have had Wesley Hall. Interestingly enough, he ended up at Wesley Hall, because out of those schools dotted around that part of St. Michael, that part of Westbury, Wesley Hall carried an extremely pronounced name and had developed an interesting character as an educational institution in Barbados.

I mean, suffice to say, Augustus Rawle Parkinson, who I believe was among the first principals of the school, who established the school with a particular world view, a

particular framework - a man who came in contact with Booker T. Washington, having journeyed to the United States of America - established many of the same precepts and concepts and understandings as to what a school should be. And into that space ventured the young Glenroy Straughn. Schools do not necessarily lose their character or their culture after the passing of an extremely powerful and dominant leader. Yes, they struggle, because others try to place their particular mark on those institutions. But Wesley Hall, with the passage of Augustus Rawle Parkinson and the coming into place of others, would have still had that bedrock, that foundation, to impact on the lives of young men. And I believe that Wesley Hall impacted on young Glenroy Straughn.

So too with his community - areas of neglect that he stood and watched all around him, right into the heart of St. Michael - and somewhat helped to fashion a world view, a perspective that moved with him over time, right over the period of his existence, right over the period of his involvement and his interaction. He, around 1937, maybe about just 10 years old, trickling into his 11th year before he would have gone off to Harrison College, would have seen the flames in Bridgetown, would have seen persons running the streets to avoid the clash of the baton, persons trying to escape from the conflagration of the period, having to ask the question: why? What is this about? Why is this happening?

And he would have heard some of the speeches, or heard them repeated to him over men and women in his community speaking of them and the impact. Young people are highly conscious. They spend time - even though not speaking - assimilating much of what is in their environment, both in the environment in which they interact, in which they have their being, and from their contact with others as they venture out of their own immediate environment. And so I believe that Glenroy Straughn was so impacted.

Now I cannot speak with any great authority - maybe his wife of, I believe, 58 years - that is a long time, older than I am - that they were together. Well, if only. If only those who venture into such love and harmony could remain together for half a century and more. 50 plus eight. That is a long time. Many men and women have passed on in their natural life before attaining the age of 58. But they stood together for such a long time.

An educator in her own right, his wife, and an educator himself in his own right, Glenroy would have impacted the lives of young people - technical vocational qualifications, some Spanish, some social studies and history. The true fundamentals of living, particularly those which speak to the history of a people and the understanding of a people: where they came from, where they should be going, the paths that they should choose, and in between there, the connecting journeys along those particular paths - all were part of the circle of Glenroy Straughn.

Now, I do not know if Glenroy Straughn can be pigeonholed in any way, because he manifested particular and peculiar characteristics that went beyond partisan politics, that went beyond particular ideologies. It was interesting that in 1958 he aligned himself with the Barbados Labour Party of that particular period and served for three years in the House of Assembly of Barbados. Because when you examine the man - even though the Barbados Labour Party would have had its origins as a labour party in the grassroots, in the belly of the labour movement - the party became almost something else, as though it was taken over by mainline conservative forces. And not by any stretch of the imagination would one consider Glenroy Straughn as a mainline conservative. That is not the Glenroy Straughn that, even back in the seventies and up to about five or six years ago, would call me Young Jones.

Of course, I do not know if he was looking at me with the same eyes, because, you know, the distance between age still remains. So if he was 60 and I was 35, I was young - or 20 or 19, as when we first encountered each other. So the distance remains, so I guess I was always Young Jones even as I aged, as the hair disappeared and there was no longer the afro to pick with the afro pick. So I was still Young Jones to him.

He was interesting. I do not know that you could say that he was rigid or rabidly partisan. I never got that coming out of Glenroy. I never felt it. I never encountered it. Even as he walked with his leather slippers, always with paper folded and wrapped around his hands. And sometimes I wondered what it was he had on those pages - he was always scribbling or writing something, always scribbling or writing something somewhere. A pencil or a cheap pen. I never saw him with these Montblancs that cost thousands of dollars. I saw him with a stick thing, some little pen or pencil, that he would always scribble with. Or he was sitting in a lecture somewhere, pull out a small piece of notebook and write something, or turn around - and if you were sitting behind him, give you a reflection of what he thought the lecturer should have been saying. And that peculiar tonal voice that he had. I smile, because Glenroy Straughn was in so many ways an amazing human being.

There was a time in my life when I was heavily involved in the youth movement of Barbados as the president of the Barbados Youth Council, as it was called then. And Glenroy Straughn gave selflessly to the Barbados Youth Council in those days - of his time, whenever you called, Glenroy Straughn was there. If you were walking the streets and you were thinking of

somebody you wanted to do something, and then you saw Glenroy Straughn, the spark went off in your mind. And we never called him Mr. Straughn. For some reason we always used to call him Glenroy. So: Glenroy, can you do something for me? It is today, Friday, you know, and the meeting is Saturday. All right, no problem, we will find your place. And he was there. That is how it was. He was there, he turned up. You did not give him any formal letter because you did not have any formal letter written. You just needed somebody, and this spark went off in your mind.

head at the instant and you spoke to him and you give him time and location. You didn't even care if he had a previous engagement because it looked as though he didn't. And if he did, he fitted those engagements in. He had this love for young people and to talk to and talking to people. He also had this view that people should give back to their nation, particularly the young people who were benefiting greatly from the provisions of free education and for the provisions of whatever this country was offering. And I know he was adamant and he wrote quite prolifically on the establishment of a national youth service for Barbados. I believe if I go through some of the brown paper - or paper which became browned as a result of time - I will still find one or two treatises of his on the establishment of a national youth service in Barbados. It never came about in the way that he wanted it, wanted to structure it. It never came to fruition because there was always some resistance to it being a totally compulsory national youth service. But he gave his views, he spoke to his views in whatever fora was present. And he didn't hesitate to be firm in his own views.

He was a man respected by many young people. He held my respect and that's not easily gained. But Glenroy Straughn held my respect over time and over years. And whenever I saw him, even in his declining years with his wife, we were still able to converse and we were still able to reflect on the things that still needed to be done, the things that he did in a very selfless way. You know, he was almost a patriarch for the youth of Barbados. I remembered even in the early 1990s when this country was going through some dark days, and we asked his opinion on what we should do as we established the summer programme, which is summer camps. Following the model established by the Trans-Northern Youth Group, he had a voice, he had a word to say on what could be some of those things which could have been utilised to make those early camps interesting. And I believe he spoke then at sessions of several of them that were dotted across Barbados.

Glenroy was - if you want to create a label, because it is not easy - I said it couldn't be pigeonholed. Correct, yes, he was a Pan-Africanist. He believed that there should have been greater cooperation and collaboration between people of African ancestry here in the Americas, of which the Caribbean is part, and those scattered across the world, but principally with Africa that sent his sons and daughters, albeit by coercive techniques and tactics, across the world - to share with them, because he felt that we had so much to give back to Africa and they still had so much to give, to teach us as a people. And long may those who stand still in the trenches fighting for that connection, for that reconnection - Africa for Africans at home and abroad - continue that journey and make that connection that Glenroy so much sought. Sometimes it is not he who begins the journey, as flesh may fall by the wayside because that is the nature of flesh. But those who take the baton or the mantle up and carry it further than those who started with it would be a testimony to the work and contribution of persons such as Glenroy Straughn.

I remembered smiling because after some while I didn't see him driving. Way back, way back when men were changing their vehicles, Glenroy had an old-looking something. I don't know what name it was, but it was an old-looking something I thought couldn't drive. But yet he did get there. But after a while he didn't drive anymore because I believe that old something - I don't know if he ever brought anything else. He had an old something. It was amazing. He was never carried away by the ostentation of these grandiose structures. No SUV with a reverse camera and a beep horn when you reverse. He was truly an interesting character, really. But a man who ignited hope in people. Passionate as he was, bright as he was, committed - sometimes almost a bit zealous in his desire to see transformation of people. And when he spoke to you with his hands, it was quite interesting. And all of that still resonates in my mind even now.

I know that his family loved him, but that is clear. 58 years or more. Lord have mercy. I tried. I didn't even get halfway there. It takes great determination and commitment and understanding beyond understanding - that is what it takes - to stay together so long and to do things in common and to share views and values and ideas and to raise precocious boys, three as there are and were then. And to keep that family intact and to give it whole so that those boys would become men and have their own lives to live. And a wife who still, after many, many years in the field of education, continues to be strong and continues to be faithful to her own commitments.

We need more people like Glenroy in our world - not only in our Barbados, but in our world. Men who give even when they felt pain. Men who understood that a country is not built by words or posturing, but built by hard work and commitment by all those persons within that country. Men who would wake at dawn and go and work for others and give without hands held out begging. There was never - I have never, in that period of time working as a youth worker in Barbados and working with Glenroy Straughn - never heard Glenroy ask for a stipend, never asked for an

honorarium, never asked for anything. In fact, sometimes he had so many commitments that Glenroy rolled out of lunch - he had to hustle to another engagement, bypassed the lunch and went to that other engagement. That was a form of sacrifice that you cannot find in many today, if any.

He was recognised by the Council itself and he was held up with some praise some years after. May he continue to reside in the comforting arms of the Lord, because he satisfied the work of the Lord working among the Lord's people here on Earth. May his family continue to get strength as a result of the strength he possessed and those whom he touched. May his soul continue to rest in peace. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended for lunch until 2.00 p.m. this afternoon.

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, this sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken we were on obituary and with that we shall continue.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to add to the tribute in honour of the life and contribution of an outstanding Barbadian, the late Glenroy Straughn. Indeed, he was one of the proud Barbadians who lived by the motto, Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. And I considered his actions that I have followed over the years to indicate that he was sincerely a patriotic Barbadian. I believe, sir, that his contribution to the growth and development of Barbados, and indeed the people of Barbados, is one worthy of emulation by many more of our people who boast of the free education they get, but sometimes when you see their actions, you really want to question whether they went to school at all. But Mr. Straughn's contribution was sound. It was thorough, and it reached out to those people who were mostly in need. We all know, sir, that he would have grown up in that era where the struggles for most Barbadians, especially poor Barbadians, Black Barbadians were tremendous struggles socially, culturally and politically. And he sought to be able to come into public life to make a difference in the lives of the people in and around him. So for me, and what I recognised about him over the years, indicate that he wanted to be the voice and to fight for the common man and the good of the common man. And I thought that was a tremendous feat. Even in those times, he faced tremendous criticisms, not only from the plantocracy, but indeed from many others, sometimes even from his own. Because, you know, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, when we try to be able to get in a position to give public service, live public lives, many of our own critics seem to think we should stay home and why try to make the effort, but Mr. Straughn was not deterred by those negative comments. He ensured that he fought and that his quest was to help with the enfranchisement of Barbadians. And I thought that from what I have read about his contribution that he would have been able to achieve much of it.

For the man I remember, sir, he was a stately person, stately composure. He was humble with a lot of the things that he did. And of course, one could see and determine that his efforts were sincere. And I think that is really what is most profound about the man Glenroy Straughn, whom I know, love and respected for the efforts that he made to help to build this wonderful country of ours. And so I described him as a man of pleasant demeanour, sharp intellect as we all know, great devotion to duty, to family and to country. And I think that speaks aptly of the man who raised a family, who hand-held people, I can say rubbed shoulders with people to make a tremendous difference. And there are few professions, Mr. Speaker, where people can get that opportunity to really literally touch lives and turn them around. And Mr. Straughn had that privilege when he became a teacher and subsequently a welfare officer. And I learned that he was the welfare officer for six northern parishes. And of course, being a welfare officer, it entailed visiting homes and communities, doing whatever inspection and evaluation would have been necessary, and ensuring that the services reached those who mostly needed it. And I believe that from the achievements that he would have made in his job - not talking monetary achievements now, but achievements in reaching people and touching them and turning their lives around - I believe, sir, that helped to propel him up that avenue of seeking political office. And so, having touched those lives, having seen the plight of workers, he became more deeply involved in trying to reach a position where he could help them in even more tangible ways.

Mr. Straughn was a social worker, as I said, and of course he engaged in numerous activities, policies, programmes and organisations that geared him towards enlightening and empowering those persons who mostly needed, particularly the masses. Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1958, Mr. Straughn sought to fill the void left by Sir Grantley Adams at that time, who was the representative for St. Joseph, and we all know that those would have been big shoes for him to step into. And for his short period as the Member of Parliament for St. Joseph, I understand that

he was able to still make some strides. Unfortunately, his stay there was very brief. He stayed there until 1961, and I know that there were some challenges as well. He had run for the Barbados Labour Party. There seemed to be quite some disenchantment on his part, but he never ever joined another political party. He then ran as an independent either two or three times later. For sure, I know he ran in 1981, and I think subsequently in 1968 in the city, 1983, excuse me, in the by-election in St. Peter as an independent. So he was a man of a very strong will and wanted to ensure that whatever he did, he wasn't going to wait for anybody to give him any handouts or anything. He just wanted to make sure that he served the people of Barbados in the best way possible.

Now we would have heard much, sir, today about his role in being involved in activities and organisations. And indeed I was very happy to learn of his involvement within Green Room Theatre. So this man was a man who was all-encompassing in what he had to do. He was an intellectual, he was into the acting, and he was an activist where his role in the Citizens Against Narcotics would have been a very significant one, especially in the times when the use of illicit drugs was not as - or trading in it was nowhere near what we experience today. But of course, that is where the seed was planted in his organisation, where he sought to encourage persons to live an upright life and to avoid polluting the systems with any narcotics. As well as with the Road Safety Association, it would be a wonderful thing if more Barbadians can learn a bit more about how he advocated for safe travel on the streets, not only in the driving aspect of it, but indeed for pedestrians and others. And I think that the role of this man is tremendous and a profound way in which he did what he had to do. I remember him well, sir, as a talk show host and his eloquence. He was a fantastic orator. Again, many of us can learn a lot from him in how we present ourselves and how we should take up some of the biases. Those of us who are in positions of leadership and indeed those who are in the talk show programmes and so, and be as fair in one's deliberations as Mr. Straughn would have been.

I think overall, sir, his aims were to promote body, soul, and mind through the cultural expressions that he promoted, the social engagement, and more importantly, through the role that he played in volunteerism, in volunteering his services to help to build a safe, sound Barbados. I say in essence, Mr. Speaker, sir, that Mr. Glenroy Straughn was a man of a rare breed. He was of a rare breed who set a track record to be properly recorded in the annals of our history. And I believe it should be properly recorded. And I know that there are facilities in this country for when honours are to be bestowed upon Barbadians that sometimes they are done posthumously. And just in case I am not aware that he would have been in any way recognised in the past, and I speak under correction, but I would want to add my voice to ask that the late Glenroy Straughn be recognised posthumously in the National Honours for the outstanding contribution he would have made as a Barbadian who sought to be engaged in a number of organisations and programmes that helped with the changing or the turning around of the lives of Barbadians. In essence, he was a trendsetter. Because for one man to be engaged in all these different organisations and playing an outstanding role in making a difference, for me, it calls for more recognition at the highest level in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I also want, as I close, to indicate that it really calls for a powerful woman to lend support behind a man of the calibre and the character of Mr. Glenroy Straughn, and so his wonderful wife, Mrs. Ada Straughn, his widow, she would have been able to encourage, sometimes perhaps to even discourage, because the opportunities that he would have taken to become a candidate, both in the by-election and in general elections, and as an independent, would have called for a lot of support. It would have called for funding. It would have called for a number of other aspects of understanding. And therefore, I think she, as a working woman, as a mother, and as a community worker would have been able to be the backbone of a lot of what he would have done and perhaps to tremendous sacrifice. And therefore I want to commend her for her strength of character and the support that she would have given in helping her husband to achieve some of the goals, whether he was successful at the polls or not, he was successful in making a difference in the lives of many others. And I think there is nothing that can beat the role that one plays in turning around the lives of individuals, families, community groups, more so than giving them money or giving them a house or food. It makes a tremendous difference when they can get an opportunity or a path through which they can climb. And therefore I want to commend Mrs. Straughn highly for her patience, the tolerance, the support that she would have offered to be able to help him for so many decades to be able to be in the vanguard of helping to push Barbados forward.

I also want to congratulate his sons who would have been assisting. They might have suffered as well because in politics we, the politicians, do have families who get some very harsh criticisms and sometimes they can't reach us the politicians, they reach our families and sometimes our children are told some very awful things as well and I am sure that those young men would have been given some challenges, perhaps some threats as well. But they would have been strong and having a mother of the character of Mrs. Straughn, she would have been able to help them to find ways or design ways through which they could overlook or ignore some of what challenges might have developed as a result of him getting involved in the public life that he did. And so I want to ask that God will continue to strengthen the family, the Straughn family, and to help

them to remember that their father, their husband, their uncle, their grandfather would have gone the extra mile to be able to ensure that he made a difference not only in their lives, but the rest of Barbados. And so I wish to extend deepest condolences on my family's behalf. I can speak on behalf of the people of St. Thomas and indeed of myself for a man whom I always respected, admired, and recognised because of his humility, because of his forthrightness, and because of his public service to this little country Barbados. And I am sure that his contribution has made a difference in the lives of all of us in this country. I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, let me say to my immortal brother, Glenroy - Glenroy, I love you. And I really say those words from the depths of my heart. I think Glenroy would have been happy today. As a matter of fact, in his time, if the things he heard today about himself, people had indicated that kind of love and respect for him in his lifetime, he would have been a happy man. For me, this man - great things are said about this man since his death than during the period when he was alive. Glenroy, because of his significant nature of the contribution which he made, it is so unfortunate that people could not fully understand him and demonstrate that respect and admiration for his contribution during those tough times, especially from around the 1960s and there on. But such is the high and lows of public life, which is probably reflected more in how his life went in 1958, after coming back here at the peak of popularity as a trade unionist, a tireless fighter against Dutch colonialism and oppression. When the Dutch people were plundering and exploiting the resources in the oil fields in Aruba, and Glenroy was there as a tough Barbadian in the forefront of the struggle trying to resolve the contradictions in the system and the suppression of the importance of labour in the Western world.

Glenroy came back and obviously played a meaningful role, but the Barbadian public also had a view of this man before he arrived. He could not walk in the footsteps of the Moses of the time. Grand Ayatollah was fighting against the plantocracy. And whatever competitive politics might cause us to say about our opponents, objective assessment of the contribution of those opponents would have indicated to us that in 1958 it could not be easy for a black man who wanted to ascend into the halls of parliament, who had to fight against some of the most extreme racists of the day, who now call people like myself and others racists in this country. Those were the worst type of racists that mankind could ever come in contact with. And Glenroy - the people of St. Joseph found favour with Glenroy then. Not because he was tall, dark and handsome, not because he had any sex appeal. They fell in love with Glenroy because he was expressing views relevant to the social and political and economic concerns of the time. And the people felt this was the man for the hour.

That would be short-lived because, as indicated before, Moses went off to the Federation as the first Prime Minister of the West Indian Federation. But by 1961, Glenroy, as the representative of the Barbados Labour Party, was out of parliament, and Glenroy then went off on a journey as an independent candidate, never at any time shifting from his philosophical moorings. Glenroy would have entered parliament at a time when, in the core of the Barbados Labour Party, the clue of the Barbados Labour Party was pro-labour at the time. And Glenroy never moved off that pro-labour trajectory at any time in his political life. To neatly describe him - sometimes, as a worker's representative and philosophically grounding - Glenroy was a Marxist theoretician. Glenroy was also a great admirer of the United Negro Improvement Association, which was led by the distinguished and remarkable Marcus Mosiah Garvey. In that early half of the 20th century, Glenroy was able to work with those two different strands of philosophical thought and again fuse those two radical views together and applied himself to Barbadian politics.

And he was pushed. And I am a little surprised because he is at this stage orbited as significant. But after the defeat, after coming out of power in 1958, Glenroy was on the periphery for a considerable time. Because most of the people in the Barbadian establishment could not understand how this brown-skinned mulatto type man with a sound education had so much to offer, can forego material and monetary accumulation by distancing himself, creating that cleavage between him and the working class in the society, sacrificing - that they could not understand. How could the man who in that era taught at the established academic, the most established secondary academic institutions in Barbados - that when you wear the label of the school tie, you wear everything that man supposed to be if he wants to symbolise greatness in this society. Even if you did not pass second form, as long as you went into these institutions, you had the blessings of Jesus Christ. Glenroy taught there. He taught at Combermere. But nobody remembered Glenroy.

When Glenroy entered politics under the People's Progressive Movement at the end of the 1960s, Glenroy endured massive defeats and public humiliation as a consequence of all different types of propaganda from both sides of the day. And the man was on the move. He remained Glenroy strong, holding strong to what he believed in. Now, there are not many - there are not many Glenroys alive. And that is what makes society guilty of such a great loss.

When I met Glenroy, at the time I knew nothing about his outstanding career as a trade unionist in Aruba, as a politician. Glenroy was at the Daphne Hackett Theatre playing a significant role and that is how I remember him - as General Pétion, the outstanding revolutionary of the 1791 revolution. And he played that role and internalised the character of the man in such a way that he looked as though he was the general himself. And I remember having a discussion with him, and he gave me a book on a number of black poets because it was the period of the black renaissance in the Caribbean and North America, with people like Leroy Jones, Baraka Jones, Roger Mais, and some of the distinguished authors and poets of the period. And he engaged me in a long conversation. At that time, he still had his interests not just in public affairs, but in Barbadian politics.

And he faced - look, by 1960, I think he ran in 1968 in the City of Bridgetown and got less than 100 votes. He ran in St. Peter - a fierce humiliation. At that time, he was in the lineup of people like Calvin Allen, Leroy John, Connell and a whole set of brothers. And they were washed out in that election. Bobby Clarke in that election. They went further. They established - some of them established a close relationship with Cheddi Jagan in Guyana at the time. Cheddi Jagan had made a significant contribution to the establishing of a bookshop in Pinford Street called the Black Star. And I do not really believe that it is fitting on this occasion to speak on how the Black Star was destroyed based on what Leroy told me in the presence of Glenroy. And I would not speak about that because to be truthful, I do not want to taint the contribution of the man's worth in that regard.

But he tried in many ways not to impose the ideology that he supported on people, but he tried in many ways to show Barbadians of a working class nature that there was another way and that the models which we had inherited through Westminster was not the only path. And there was a man doing all this and coming up against the strength of the forces - the colonial forces, both black and white of the day - they kept pushing him on the rims of the social and political existence of Barbados. So I want people to be really honest with how this man was treated.

Well, I can understand the strength of a wife standing by his side and children standing by his side. You must ask some questions about the latent aspects of the man's life. If you tell me that he wore slippers and he had a cheap pen in his pocket and he drove an old car at the time because he was not ostentatious and did not want to flaunt himself in the public eye, you have to dig a little deeper and find out what it is about this man - with that kind of education, that kind of conviction, that commitment to transformation of the lives of people - and he was prepared to live by these basic and simple things in life. Not speaking about him in any pejorative or derogatory manner based on how he looked or how he dressed, how tall he was - all those things. I am saying that these things symbolically represent something about the character of a man. He was not there to rob the state or to be a carpetbagger, rubbing shoulders with corporate Barbados and those in the plantocracy and hoping that you get a stipend every week or every month. Politicians of today rub shoulders with corporate Barbados in order to get a little honorarium.

and then turn around and do something contrary to what the general public expect them to do. The man Glenroy was not prepared to do that. He worked as a trade unionist, he worked as a, but he also worked as a social worker. He was so frustrated with the system that he said that he will work outside of the political arena to do all that he can do. But prior to all of that, he became the chairman of the transport board at a time when the public transport system was in great crisis. And he used to ride from, I think, Gills Road, what we call Greenfield, to Robert Street. That's where he lived, you know. He rode a bicycle. Look at the environment that he lived in and preserved his dignity and respect inside the environment. He rode to the transport board. I almost took up the role as an executive chairman, because he actually, at one time I thought he was living there. And he worked then to transform the transport board. And while we were hearing about a lot of rumbles inside the institution, when he went there, those rumbles subsided. He worked there with such progressive thinkers then as Mitch Codington, David Comissiong, and persons who I believe hold an unswerving commitment to trying to make life better for people.

Now I say all that because when you are talking about these things, you don't have to say anything negative about any specific institution. You need to speak the truth about the lives of these people. They have done something. They have done something that in my view, they're so unfortunate, and I know how painful it is because I walk with them. I know how painful it is because these people, they're sacrificing their lives. And in many cases, they're not even like me, a product of the wretched of the earth. These are men in some cases, who would be classifying Barbadians as middle class. What would make a man who has the right socialisation, the right legitimacy, legitimacy based on the institution from which he's crowned, the right family ties, tempted by Grantley Adams dollars - I will sacrifice taking those political handouts at the highest level because he wants to make a contribution to transform the lives of people.

I have had the privilege of standing beside strong men in Paramaribo in Suriname and see the entire Pan-Africanist family from Africa, North America, Europe, and the Caribbean, and Fiji and Mauritius actually endorsing the proposal that Strachan be seen as the elder in the Pan-Africanist movement. I really believe that if he was here,

he would have expected me to say his commitment was well respected. The unfortunate thing in life is that these men go on the regional and international stage and loom large. Come back home to your own people. I don't know if it is the damage of the educational system which instils all the colonial values in you. I don't know if it's because of the kind of design to stratify people in this society or what, but what makes a man very respected outside of Barbados and who made probably major contributions to Barbadians - and Barbadians do not see these contributions - but as soon as the man deceases, you hear he was the greatest star on earth. Something is wrong.

I think that opportunities like this ought to make us reflect. I am not going to say - if it is my view, if it is my genuine view - I am not going to say anybody, regardless of which church, school, party they belong to, I am not going to give them a blanket definition that is negative if I consider that they made a positive contribution. If I feel that, sir, that you're talking foolishness, I can say so. And if I feel you do something that is not right, I am going to say so. And if I feel like not supporting it, I am not going to support it. I personally believe that I am falling within the framework of the tenets that would have influenced the thinking of Glenroy Straughn.

Glenroy Straughn also was a member in the latter days of not only the People's Progressive Movement with Bobby Clarke and all the others, but he eventually became a member of the Clement Payne family, the institution led by David Comissiong, which was named after the outstanding hero Clement Osborne Payne. We will be celebrating by the 26th of July the contribution of all these great men at Golden Square and by the statue of the outstanding General Bussa. That should say something to you. Glenroy visited every emancipation day - Glenroy was there. If the group was five, Glenroy was there. If it was 55, Glenroy was there. So it says something as a journey that most of us would identify with the end of the 1950s. And we saw that journey through the 1960s, as I said, the period of the great Renaissance in those days. We say that because we had great thinkers, lots of material coming up from writers - C.L.R. James, we had George Beckford, we had a whole set of writers coming on the scene. We had Stokely Carmichael, later Kwame Ture, you had Rap Brown, you had the Solidarity Brothers, you had Angela Davis, you had a whole set of thinkers coming out of that era, but also the ideas that were circulating in society at that time came from the thinking of Karl Marx and Lenin. Those people had tremendous influence on Glenroy.

Not to mention some of the Caribbean thinkers as well, because he was an avid reader and that is responsible for the kind of intellect that he had. He also respected Frantz Fanon and some of those thinkers of the time and C.L.R. James, because James was very much active in the campaigns and very supportive of Barbados' role in the campaign in the West Indian Federation. And Straughn also ran as a candidate. He was beaten by Miss Dash in the 1950s. Miss Florence Dash. Yes. In 1958, the records indicate that Straughn was also a victim of the people's response in the 1950s. And look how life is. Based on her background - I don't know much about her characteristics - but based on her background, these progressive thinkers were pushed to the side and she became the federal representative at that time in our history.

So that's why I say that the politics of Barbados - and we have seen it through the history of great men, people who are great leaders and great contributors to the development of Barbados - we had a strange history of highs and lows. I saw, sir, I know that another member spoke about his programme. So I believe that I can also say this. I saw Dr. [Inaudible.] in his time being a colossus in urban politics, but then went to St. John and could not get past 50 votes. And I saw the same thing happen to Glenroy. So it is a strange history that we probably need to examine. Is the institution more important than the individual? Is there a fixed ideology existing within the institutions of Barbadian politics? I don't believe so. I believe the multi-class combination of persons representing different class interests - and you just have to listen and watch and you know who represents what and who. And Glenroy was not prepared for that. He felt that I believe in something and I am fighting to see the required changes that will contribute to something that I want to see. It is a worldview that he lived and died committed to.

Sir, I probably can speak about Glenroy in a very personal way, but I think other persons made great contributions. But I just always ask myself, I hope if there was a way to see the hearts of men and to read the content and to read the sincerity, it would have been good for us to see. But I don't know. I will hope that the words we hear today are genuine expressions of the respect and the contribution that Brother Straughn, Comrade Straughn, has made to the development of Barbados - and development itself is not defined here as building some buildings, some roads and houses and things like that. This is contributing to, probably contributing even more so to the intangible things that are meaningful to life. Education - helping to shape both the formal and informal educational process of Barbados. As an engineer, the work that he has done - one member spoke of his work that he did as a youth advocate. So I would not touch on that.

I just want to say to his family, I know it would have been a tough job to even endure a man who held strong to specific values and a specific ideology. But I believe that the family, by extension, because of the goodwill and the spirit that we expect from a family of that quality, I believe that they too have made a significant contribution by being able to embrace and still endure the kind of man, because Glenroy was very stubborn if he wanted to be. I just want

to say in final conclusion, long live the spirit of Glenroy. May he rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just a few words in keeping with the tradition of this Honourable House to pay tribute to Honourable Members who have sat in this House and who have been called to higher service or to pay tribute to the relatives of current members of this House. Much has been said about the late Glenroy Straughn, who sat in this House from 1958 until 1961, as a Member of Parliament for the constituency of St. Joseph, his opportunity arising as a result of the federal elections that summoned the then Member of Parliament for St. Joseph - the then senior Member of Parliament for St. Joseph, Mr. Grantley Adams as he then was - to Port of Spain to be Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation.

It has been noted that although he sat in the House between 1958 and 1961, he did not run in the 1961 general election in St. Joseph or anywhere else. He was replaced by the party by a Mr. W. R. Coward who ran very well in that election to retain the seat for the Barbados Labour Party. There is a vast amount of anecdotalage around why he did not run in the '61 election. It is never an easy thing, so they say, to be endorsed by a political leader, because that is the surest indication that the diaries will be drawn for you by those who thought that they should be endorsed. And apparently his life was made sinfully miserable by those who felt that the endorsement he was given by Grantley Adams signalled things to come. That is not intended to discourage the Honourable Member for St. James Central - not intended to discourage the Honourable Member at all.

But it is true that the late Glenroy Straughn made a significant contribution to the public life of Barbados. Public life, of course, is not limited to service in Parliament. There are many people in the public life of Barbados who have never aspired to sitting in this House and who never will sit in this House, but that does not in any way diminish the quality of the contribution that they make to Barbados.

I came into contact with Glenroy Straughn first in the year 1967, when still a schoolboy at the Boys' Foundation School. He came there to teach - Mr. Ronnie Hughes, now the late Ronnie Hughes, who taught history at Foundation in those days, was indisposed and Straughn was recruited to replace him while he was on sick leave. In those days, of course, students never got very close to teachers, so I really cannot claim that I got to know him very well in those days, because there was a necessary distance between him as teacher and I as student. And of course he only spent one term there, so that was not enough time to get to know him too intimately.

But I was next to meet him in the parish of St. Philip in the year 1970 - to be precise, on the premises of Princess Margaret Secondary School - where he had come to talk to a youth club to which I had belonged. He had come to talk at a time when Barbados was in a state of political ferment. Now the year 1970, let it be recalled, was a year of ferment across the entire Caribbean. Those were the days when the Black Power movement was at its zenith, and there was something heretical about associating yourself with the Black Power rhetoric of that day.

Of course, two years before that, the foundations had been laid for that virus to spread across the Caribbean. Walter Rodney, that distinguished Guyanese historian, had got a teaching job at Mona, University Campus of the West Indies in Jamaica, teaching history. And he, in addition to teaching history on campus, would go out into Jamaican villages and talk to people about history - more particularly about African history. The Prime Minister of Jamaica of the day was Mr. Hugh Shearer, a Labour leader who had succeeded to the leadership of the Jamaica Labour Party after the sudden death of the then Prime Minister, Mr. Donald Sangster.

And as though that were not enough, Walter Rodney decided that he was going to introduce a course at Mona in African history. This course was supposed to start around October 1968, at the start of the new academic term. But he made the mistake, did Rodney, of leaving Jamaica to go somewhere and was not allowed re-entry into Jamaica. And that led to a lot of protests, not only at the Mona Campus, but also on the streets of Jamaica. It also led to protests in Trinidad and Tobago. And of course there were protests here at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies as well. In fact, then Prime Minister Barrow had to engage a number of angry students of the Cave Hill Campus in a radio debate on Black Power. Of course he crushed all of them, but things had got that feverish that that kind of debate had to take place.

So there was a state of ferment, and by 1970 names like Stokely Carmichael - as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East just said - were becoming part of the intellectual staple of young students across the Caribbean. In fact, Stokely Carmichael's attempt to enter Barbados around that time was conditioned on the fact that he would be kept under house arrest, because 1970, let it be recalled also, was the year in which things got so bad in Trinidad and Tobago that the then Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, had to declare a state of emergency. And the record will show, I think, that Eric Williams did not leave Trinidad and Tobago from 1970 until his death in office around 1980. 1970 came very close to a coup in Trinidad and Tobago, and Williams took no chances after that. Whenever overseas engagements had to take place, he sent somebody else, but he stayed home, as it were, to watch the show.

So in the context of 1970, Straughn came up to St. Philip only to find that an appropriate number of policemen were on the compound, that the school was in darkness, and that the club could not have access to the classrooms, because we were not supposed to be listening to any of that Black Power talk. Nothing daunted, of course, he had the talk on the corridors of the school. We all encircled him and he had the talk on the corridors of the school with the police in earshot. I recall that night when the police said to him that he could not go into classrooms and there would be no light, but that he was free to talk to us on the corridor - that he got very angry and he said: "Don't tell me that I am free to do anything. I expect to be free. Nobody doles out freedom to me. I am a free man. I expect to be free." And of course he talked to us that night about things African, about the fate of the black man and so on and so on. But that was a very difficult period, not only here in Barbados but all across the Caribbean.

In fact, as a result of those Black Power events and the state of ferment in the region, practically every English-speaking Caribbean country - including Barbados; I remember the night when Errol Barrow announced that he was going to do it in the Independence Square - practically every English-speaking Caribbean country passed an act called the Public Order Act, limiting - or rather, setting - the time beyond which you could not hold a public meeting outside of election time. And that Act has remained law from then until now. Of course at that time the then opposition - Grantley Adams was back in the House, Tom Adams, St. John - they were all fiercely against it. But once they got into office, they understood its value and never touched it. But Eric Williams passed one; one was passed in Antigua; right across the region, Public Order Acts were passed, ensuring that outside of election season, public meetings did not go past 11 o'clock.

So Glenroy Straughn was of that school of thought. As I said, he did not contest the 1961 general election even though he had run in the 1958 by-election in St. Joseph. But not having run in that election, of course, when Mr. Louis Lynch died suddenly after the 1966 election around 1968, he did contest the by-election here in the City - I think he got up with 33 votes. But that was to be expected, because by that time the two major parties in Barbados had seriously crystallised and all others were seen as poachers on their sacred preserves. He would again contest a by-election - the first by-election in St. Peter around 1984, I think - and of course performed similarly unspectacularly in that by-election as well.

But as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East correctly stated, he had associated himself with a very progressive political movement at the time called the People's Progressive Movement - the PPM - which boasted brilliant personalities like Calvin Allen at the time, people like now the Honourable John Connell, people like Leroy Hereford who was a very well-known history teacher at the Lodge School. Straughn was there as well, and a few other such persons pushed, because of progressivism in Barbados, through the People's Progressive Movement. I am a little disappointed myself that historians of Barbados have not spent any time evaluating the contribution made by the People's Progressive Movement to political thought in Barbados at that time.

Now, it was the Black Star newspaper of the People's Progressive Movement in the 1960s - around 1968 and so on - that used to call almost weekly for the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in South Africa. He had been imprisoned in 1964 after the notorious Rivonia trial. And four years later, the PPM here in Barbados was calling for his release. Now, when Nelson Mandela in fact got released, some very decent people with their consciences properly laundered emerged from their hiding places to claim him. But when it was not popular to associate with Mandela, when it was thought that the African National Congress was a terrorist organisation, and people like Straughn and Calvin Allen and Connell and all of them were calling for Mandela's release, they were seen as national threats. But as history unfolded and as time evolved, it became popular - the closer we got to 1990 when Mandela was released - for our people to associate themselves with the Mandela call.

It was the black power newspaper that used to rail week by week against apartheid in South Africa, when it was not fashionable to do any of that here in polite circles in Barbados. That is why I have to agree for a change with my good friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. Some of the real heroes of Barbados have been banished, have been known to be banished to the sidelines simply because they were ahead of their time. I mean, I know when somebody like John Connell was talking about the environment here in Barbados, where nobody else was talking about it - the preservation of the environment, all the environmental issues that we now push and push so evangelically. John Connell was talking about it in the 60s and the early 70s. But that is the way things go. I do not believe that you can hold it against a society. I mean, I know I have heard my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, and his views about people expressing progressive views and not being received by the society. The truth is that a society has to be ready for what you have to offer. It has to be intellectually ready. As one great writer has said, you can make your watch say what time you want it to say, but that does not change the time. If you want your watch to say eight o'clock, it can say it, but that does not mean that it is not 10 past three. And, you know, progressive minds have always had that problem. Because they can see light and see it very clearly, they become very impatient with persons who can still only see mist, can only see a little darkness. But eventually the time of an idea

comes and that idea is released then with all the fervour it merits and deserves.

So Glenroy Straughn is not to be ignored in the public life of Barbados. He was a man, a renaissance man, because all knowledge was his province. He read widely, he had varied interests. I reflected on his passion only this morning, in the wee hours of the morning, for road safety here in Barbados, when I got an email from a close friend in the judiciary in Trinidad and Tobago reminding me that a good friend of ours who was acting as Chief Justice at the time was, very early in the morning, rendered paralysed in a motor accident where four or five young people, all of whom died, were on their way home from a party. And in various stages of inebriation, he was paralysed. And of course, with the passage of time, lost his life. I speak of Justice of Appeal Wendell Kangaloo, who sat in law school with me, who was a first class honours graduate here in law, but who eventually succumbed to the injuries which he sustained in that accident at the time when he was acting as Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago.

So I was reflecting on Straughn in the wee hours of the morning when I got that email, I think around 12:40 this morning, reminding me of his interment today. And his commitment to safety on our roads was always to be commended. It is a narrative that does not still, because there is still too much irresponsibility and recklessness and impatience on our roads. And I think that he will long be remembered for his commitment to that.

So Mr. Speaker, I think that Glenroy Straughn lived in very difficult times. He spent some of his earlier years in Aruba, as has been observed. My father, my late father, spent his early years in Aruba too and then in Curaçao. That is where opportunities existed at that time. Straughn went there and of course distinguished himself before coming back to Barbados and immersing himself in his public life. So whether it was in politics or whether it was in matters related to road safety, whether it was matters related to education - he taught at some of our leading educational institutions and touched and enlightened minds in many spheres of academic endeavour. Glenroy Straughn has contributed significantly to what Barbados is today. He did not always get the kind of recognition that he deserved. But I do not think that he was ever in search of recognition. He was always more interested in giving history a nudge, in pushing history forward. And therefore we remember him today with profound gratitude and of course pray for the unceasing refreshment of his soul in paradise.

So to his wife, Ada, who I have known for many years - she and I were contemporaries, not in a chronological sense, but contemporaries in an educational sense. We were in the university together between 1971, I believe, and 1975, where we were both doing our first degrees. And she herself has made a significant contribution to education in Barbados, finishing off her career, capping her career I believe, by becoming the principal of the Alexandra School. And she was a source of unceasing sustenance to her husband in all of his endeavours.

A lot of the rights that we take for granted - and the Honourable Member for St. James Central was careful enough this morning to make the point that he was not just interested in preserving windows to the sea when he talked about our beaches and so on - he felt that, as Gabby was to sing many years later, the beach belonged to we, and that there should be no obstacles or inhibitions to the use of our beaches by Barbadians. There is much we have to thank him for and of course it is in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased to associate myself with all that has been said about him and to lend my voice to the resolution before the House. I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, well let me of course associate myself with the comments from both sides of the House. We all wish the family our condolences and wish them well in the future. And of course the usual resolution will be prepared and forwarded. Let us now stand as usual and observe a minute's silence with respect to his passing.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of the day's sitting.

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

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a point of privilege. There were some matters before the House and you made a particular ruling in relation to those matters. Subsequent to that ruling, in a publication of Wednesday, July the 17th, certain comments were carried which spoke to the nature of your fairness, transparency, impartiality, et cetera. Now it is known that the Speaker always functions in a manner which is impartial and fair and takes into consideration all of the various variables in the House so that he is able to rule in a manner befitting such an office. This publication, in two to three segments of it, speaks to his honour being unfair, being partial, not being transparent, being strongly on the chair, et cetera - partial, and becoming overbearing. Mr. Speaker, this newspaper - Wednesday, July 17, 2013, the Midweek Nation, page 4A - an article written by one Barry Allen. Statements were allegedly made, Mr. Speaker, by the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition and by the Member

for St. James Central, Mr. Kerrie Symmonds, the Honourable Member for St. James Central. I believe, sir, that based on what I have presented to the House, that this matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges for its consideration. I so move.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Very well. Honourable Members, this has come to my attention. I have had some calls and so on about it, and I must say I was surprised when I read this story. And I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is not in her seat. Because you see, when things like this happen, they cause you to stand up and take note. And I read the article myself, and a cursory glance at the article, for instance, would suggest that I, as Speaker, was engaged in some plot to conspire with the Government to create a circus of distraction from the people's real problems in this country. And later on, the opposition - 'We feel very strongly that the Chair' - brackets - 'Carrington was being unfair towards the Leader of the Opposition. We felt the lack of impartiality had become overbearing and we could not in good conscience remain in the Chamber.' Those were words attributed to the Member for St. James Central. Other comments are attributed to the Leader of the Opposition. Now, neither of the two members have, as far as I know, disclaimed uttering the words, and that is even cause for greater concern from my view.

The other concern I agree with you is with respect to the publication, because of course we know that we are guided by the Parliamentary Immunities and Privileges Act, Cap. nine of the Laws of Barbados. This restricts the publication of certain statements like these. But of more concern is that I can read here that Martley on her feet and Carrington in his chair were involved in a near four-minute exchange that ended with the Speaker saying, 'Are you questioning my ruling?' It is amazing that the author did not take time to point out that that is not supposed to happen. You are not supposed to be on your feet arguing with the Speaker when the Speaker is speaking. So if the article has been properly researched and so on, then the member would have been off her feet and allowed the Speaker to rule as is his prerogative.

And I must say, you know, that I am told a lot about how long certain members like to point out - 'Look, I have been here for some 20 years' and so on. Now, I have been here for five years or around that time. And I have also had the benefit of, I think it was C. Aurelia Smith, the headmaster then at Lawrence, who said that it is not necessarily the hours you put in, but what you put into the hours. And I have put into the five years that I have been in this chair an effort to learn the rules, to familiarise myself with them, and to rule impartially, and I will continue to do that. When I come and I take this chair, I see neither friend nor foe. I see members who have been endorsed by the populace of this country, representing at this level. And I bring with me that opportunity. I bring with me the Standing Orders by which we are governed and by which we try to do things. I bring with me the assistance of the Clerks at the Table, and I bring with me my obviously limited intellect with which the Almighty has blessed me, but I also bring with me the blessings of the same Almighty and the desire to do justice to the role of Speaker.

Now, I do not care too much what you think of Michael Carrington, Attorney at Law. I care not what you think, not even what you think of Michael Carrington, the husband of Sandra. My care is what you think about Michael Carrington when he sits in this chair and how you feel I dispense my duties. And when the time, if the time should come when I feel that I cannot do it with impartiality, I will resign. Of course it is open to members - and members who have been in here for 20 odd years or whatever should know - it is also open to them to question the ruling of the Speaker in a particular way, understanding Order number 39. It is also open to members to remove the Speaker from the chair. But it is not open to members - and I take strong objection to members not only behaving in the way that they would have done last time, but then having the gumption, as they say, as we say - a nice Barbadian word - of going to a press and then accusing me of partiality and being unfair. When if you look at the tape, if you go back to the record, you will see that the rulings were fair. Not once, not once did the member who complained of partiality rise on her feet and properly object that the comments of which she complained should have been struck from the record. And what I ruled then was that since the member had just jumped up and delivered herself of certain remarks, those remarks should be struck from the record.

Look, it does not concern me whether an audit is done of the Barbados Labour Party's finances, not the Democratic Labour Party's finances - not when I sit in this chair. It does not concern me. And there is nothing inherently wrong in a member saying that in the House, but it has to be done within the rules and with the usual decency, decorum and dignity with which this House is supposed to conduct its affairs, and that is what I stand for. So I will continue to make my rulings irrespective of who objects and so on, and I will do the best of my ability.

I have had, since being in the chair, two separate Prime Ministers, two separate Leaders of the Opposition, and we have even had two separate Leaders of the House. And it is only one of those persons who has seen it fit to challenge my authority and my rulings in that area. But that is fine. I have blessed you from the time I took this chair the first time and I did it again this time - that I will do my rulings, I will carry out my job without fear or favour, and you better believe that is the case. I ruled against the former, the late, the Honourable David Thompson when he was in his, well, I called it his prime ministerial splendour,

and he made the submission and I ruled, and his position was very well, Mr. Speaker. And I very well expect that should it come to that, the present Prime Minister will react similarly.

So all I am saying is I have my job to do, I will do it. I am disappointed in the conduct of the members. I am also disappointed in the article as it is. And yes, I agree with you, Honourable Member, that a preliminary case has been made out. I thank you for raising it. And yes, it will be submitted to the Committee of Privileges in due course. I thank you.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. CLERK: All Honourable Members, in the name of the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of the Civil Service, to move the second reading of the Defence Amendment Bill 2013.

ORDER NO. 1 – DEFENCE AMENDMENT BILL, 2013

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move the second reading of a bill to amend the Defence Act Chapter 159 of the Laws of Barbados. The Defence Act of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, was passed in the year 1979. And under that piece of legislation, a Defence Force was established. A Defence Force had been talked about in Barbados long before 1979, but it came to reality around 1979 with the passage of the Defence Act and the establishment of the force. And over time, the legislation has had to be amended for this or that reason, as happens to most pieces of legislation, as you see how they are working and as they see the extent to which they are achieving the objectives which they are supposed to achieve, it is thought necessary from time to time to amend the legislation so that its results or the achievement of its results is rendered more efficacious.

But by and large over the years since the Defence Act has passed, Barbados' Defence Force has been a model institution, dare I say. We have benefited as the Defence Force from an exemplary quality of leadership over the years and the Force's programmes have made an appropriately positive impact on the lives of the persons at whom those programmes were aimed. The Defence Force has a sports programme, for example, that has over the years, ever since its introduction, been producing very positive results. We've seen the Defence Force at work in circumstances of national emergency when the resources of the force have been used to supplement the resources of, for example, our Department of Emergency Management. The Defence Force is quite active during a season like this, the hurricane season, when we can call on it to use its resources to make sure that the lives of Barbadians are not put at undue risk. So generally speaking, we have a force of which we can all feel proud.

We have benefited from very good leadership in the force over the years. I can think of people like Colonel Leonard Banfield, who I think led the force at the time of its establishment. I can think of Brigadier Lewis, Rudolph Lewis, who led the force in his time. I can think of Colonel Dayton Minard, who also rendered especially good service to the force. And of course, the present Chief of Staff is easily one of the best Chiefs of Staff the force would have seen. So we have been able to hold our heads high in relation to the functioning of the force and the standards it has set in Barbados.

I have been very proud to see the force on parade, for example, around the time of Independence, as I'm sure your honour will want to agree. The standards put on display on those occasions make us all feel very proud to be Barbadians and to have a Defence Force such as that which we have. Of course, as we have had law and order challenges, we have had to put in place with the concurrence of His Excellency the Governor General arrangements for the Defence Force to render assistance to the Royal Barbados Police Force, of course, in terms of the conduct of joint patrols and that kind of thing. But that is done within the perimeters of professional decency and, of course, careful watch is kept over how those joint patrols are carried out. And for as long as they have been carried out, nothing but the highest standards have been pursued on those occasions.

But no matter how careful draftsmen are in the preparation of any piece of legislation, there will come the time when the actual functioning of the legislation finds itself in conflict with existing reality. All lawyers who ever read First Year Law will remember the famous case Shaw and the DPP. When it was thought that the Sexual Offences Act had covered every possible eventuality, it was intended to proscribe - Charles Shaw put a precedent to service's ingenuity in circumventing the provisions of the Act, forcing the court to take resort to its residual powers in order to protect the society from his excesses. So all lawyers are familiar, and of course all legislators are familiar with the fact that from time to time legislation can be weighed in the balances and found wanting because there's some hot immediacy or some serious reality that is not captured adequately or captured at all.

One of the problems from which the present Defence Act has been suffering is that over time, over the last few years, a few soldiers have come into collision with the laws of Barbados, have had to be charged for offences before the courts. And since the Act did not contemplate that particular eventuality, the Chief of Staff and other people at the force have had to try to put some kind of rule of thumb in place to deal with issues of that kind. As recently as the

year 2006, that kind of eventuality surfaced and the guidance of the Defence Board had to be sought to deal with the problem.

Now, in the general public service that is not a problem. It is generally known. The general orders in the public service make it clear that where occurrences like that happen, that an officer can be interdicted and can be put on half pay and kept on half pay until such time as his case is resolved. If the case is not resolved in his favour, then there are other steps that may have to be taken. If the case is resolved in his favour, it may be found appropriate in certain circumstances to reinstate the officer and to reimburse him all of the monies found due and owing to him, monies of which he would have been deprived when he was on half pay. But no such provision has been made for such procedures under the Defence Act. And that is what this amendment is intended to deal with. This amendment was being called for since 2006. It didn't happen and the Government, because of the intensifying of these challenges, has determined that this is what we have to do at this time.

So what does the amendment attempt to do? The amendment makes provision for the establishment of a disciplinary committee. A disciplinary committee composed of five persons: a serving officer of the force not below the rank of major; a retired officer not below the rank of major; an attorney at law; a Padre appointed on the advice of the Chaplain of the force; and of course a recording secretary. And when issues arise such as the kind of issue I just identified, where a soldier or an officer is charged with a civil offence, this committee is required to make recommendations to the Defence Board so that the Defence Board can take the appropriate action.

Not all offences with which an officer is charged will be of the same gravity. So the legislation, the amendment, makes clear that the offence with which the soldier or officer is charged must be of a nature, quality and kind that would tarnish the reputation of the force, or that poses a threat to national security, or that requires in the public interest that officer or soldier as the case may be ceases to perform his duties in the Barbados Defence Force. So it's not just any trivial or any frivolous offence. It is offences that attract the attention of those three criteria. And in those circumstances, a recommendation is made to the Defence Force Board by the committee after due consultation.

Of course, in those circumstances, the Board, in any event, has the right to suspend officers, and the legislation is basically saying that if suspension is recommended, that suspension should be on half pay as happens in the public service. And of course, if the matters are resolved in favour of the soldier or officer, then as happens in the general public service, the officer or soldier is reimbursed what salaries are outstanding to him or her as the case may be. But if sanctions have to be imposed by the Board, the sanctions imposed must be sanctions that come within the ambit of the legislation, the Defence Act. The regulations made under the Act are Chapter six or Chapter nine of the Queen's Regulations.

So the amendments contemplated here today, Mr. Speaker, do not seek to do anything extraordinary. What the amendments contemplated seek to do is to bring soldiers and officers of the force in line - in terms of how indiscipline and how misbehaviour is handled - in line with the general public service. And of course the object of all of this is to make sure that the very high standards for which the Defence Force is so well known are not at any time compromised. And that's very important because if you have so distinguished an organisation as the Barbados Defence Force whose standards are compromised, then there is no knowing where the consequences of that compromise can end, and therefore it is thought that every effort should be made to protect the standards of the force.

Generally speaking, I do not think that the force has had a terribly difficult time in the quality of persons it has been able to recruit over the years. In fact, it has been able to recruit some outstanding men and women for military service in Barbados. But with the best will in the world, recruitment is never perfect. We all know that in all institutions you can have less than desirable types slip past you, no matter how foolproof you think your methods of recruitment are. And when such persons fall foul of the law, it is important that there are procedures in place so that they do not feel hard done by. That is why there is a kind of semblance of rules of natural justice. I hate to put it that way because that expression is so badly abused in Barbados nowadays that I hesitate to use it. If you stub your toe nowadays, somebody says you need the rules of natural justice. If you forget to drink a glass of water, the rules of natural justice - that phrase and the words legitimate expectation are now the hobby horses of those who understand least about the law. So I try to steer very clear from their use. But I use it on this occasion.

Because under the amendment the Defence Board has to notify the officer or soldier, as the case may be, of its decision within seven working days of making the decision. And the officer or soldier, as the case may be, is given 14 working days after receipt of the notice to reply to the notice and to make objections in respect of the notice in writing to the Defence Board through the Chief of Staff. So there's no attempt here to railroad its way in its dealings with matters of this kind. Officers and soldiers have to be given a fair chance to put their side of the story so that if the Defence Board is going to exercise a discretion - a discretion which it has under the legislation - that discretion is properly exercised, taking into account all those things that need to be taken into account and not

taking into account things that ought not to be taken into account. In other words, according to what I believe lawyers know as the Wednesbury principles, Wednesbury reasonableness, because there's nothing called an absolute discretion. I believe that issue was settled years ago by the House of Lords, and in that case, Padfield and the Minister of Agriculture. But there's nothing called any absolute discretion. All discretions have to be exercised reasonably, and therefore, in order for discretions to be exercised reasonably, those persons vested with the authority to exercise these discretions have to take into account all those things they need to take into account and must not take into account things that they ought not to take into account.

So that in brief, Mr. Speaker, is what the amendment is about. The chairman of the disciplinary committee will always be the serving military officer. And the deputy chairman, the retired military officer, and a member of the committee other than a serving military officer shall hold office for three years. But of course, a serving military officer can be reappointed at the expiry of his term. And of course, any member of the disciplinary committee is entitled to resign from the committee if he or she thinks that is a course he or she wants to pursue.

So that in brief, Mr. Speaker, covers what I think the amendment is about. I should have said, of course, that disciplinary action under the amendment includes, but of course is not limited to, a reprimand in writing, suspension of future increments, suspension from the Barbados Defence Force. And not unreasonable having regard to what happens under the general orders that govern public officers in the country. So with those words, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this bill be read a second time. Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for the City. Thank you.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Mr. Speaker, I think that this must be an odd occasion in which a junior Member of Parliament actually has the opportunity to speak after a Prime Minister having introduced a bill or resolution. And so I intend to savour this moment. But let me say very quickly, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, that my desire to speak at the moment has nothing to do with any vaulting ambition which you may want to say that I might have. And it's merely to highlight the rarity, the rarity of the occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Has spoken on this matter and I have made reference to his ambition to take charge or to create a coup. If you offend the things, sir. Very well, Honourable Member. I am -

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: an applicant. You know what I want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure really to lead the opposition debate on the Defence Amendment Bill, 2013, a bill which seeks to amend the Defence Act, Cap. 159, to make provision for the taking of disciplinary action against servicemen and women of the Barbados Defence Force, officers and enlisted personnel, who are charged with civil offences and also the establishment of the Disciplinary Committee of the Barbados Defence Force.

I would be dishonest if I didn't say that when this bill was first circulated, that I had a degree of apprehension and some reservations about the bill. Apprehension because it is really going against the norm and it is creating something that had never existed before. And my reservations had to do with the fact that I honestly felt that the Defence Act and the Manual of Military Law, now known as the Manual of Service Law, made adequate provisions for dealing with disciplinary matters pertaining to servicemen and servicewomen.

Indeed, throughout the span of my military career, serving as a commanding officer and also as a subordinate commander, I would have dealt with many situations for which the Defence Act and the Manual provided the necessary guidance and the necessary direction. And so for me, it is against that background that I am saying that I did have some reservations.

The Military Code of Justice, Military Law, in many instances gives awards that are even harsher than those that might be granted by Magistrates' Courts. And it was not uncommon in my time for Magistrates' Courts sometimes to pass certain cases onto the Defence Force so that the Defence Force could deal with the soldiers under the Defence Act. And this was the kind of confidence that was held for the military code of discipline and indeed the military code of justice.

But I was taken aback because I could not really conceive of the idea or the need to establish a disciplinary committee within the Barbados Defence Force, and this is something that I would have associated with our sister services - police, prison and the fire service - and I'm not saying so in any derogatory way. I say that because the Barbados Defence Force has been and continues to be the bastion of discipline in this country. And so initially I really could not see the need for a disciplinary committee within the disciplinary organisation of the Barbados Defence Force.

And I believe that the nature of this amendment is perhaps unprecedented within Caribbean countries where military forces exist and also the United Kingdom, whose armed forces have influenced those in the Anglophone Caribbean. The upholding of discipline has always been

and must continue to be the responsibility of the Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force, along with his commanding officers and subordinate commanders.

But we are living in different times and changing times. And as has been said before, sometimes laws created 30 to 40 years ago may not necessarily adequately address new and emerging situations. And I believe this is the situation that confronts us at this point in time.

So notwithstanding all that I have said, soldiers and officers charged with criminal offences in civil courts, though nothing new, represent some uncharted territory, the navigation of which, I believe, has negatively impacted on the code of discipline within the Barbados Defence Force. Undoubtedly and certainly, regrettably, there has been a noticeable increase in the incidence of cases of criminal charges being brought against officers and soldiers in civil courts. And I think that this situation is exacerbated by the inordinately long periods of time that it takes for these matters to be resolved in civil courts.

And I believe also that this might have been one of the reasons which drove the command of the Barbados Defence Force and the Defence Board to bring this amendment to the Defence Act to this Honourable Chamber in the way that it is being articulated in this bill.

But servicemen and women in this country, unlike public servants, unlike anyone else, apart from being subject to civil law, are also subject to military law, to the Defence Act. And I'm sure that members of this Honourable Chamber are aware that the Defence Act provides a solution, I think, to some of the problems that may be confronting the judiciary at this time in relation to the trial of some of these cases.

And I think that one of the things that should be actively considered, Mr. Speaker, is the trial of some of these offences by court martial. And I think especially in matters where national security, or the internal security of the Barbados Defence Force, might be compromised, I think that some consideration should be given to trying cases by court martial. And this is nothing new in Barbados, or indeed in Commonwealth Caribbean countries with military forces.

I myself have served on at least two court martials during my service as an officer in the Barbados Defence Force, the last one of which I was indeed the President. And I remember distinctly that the eminent civilian lawyers who participated in those court martials were very surprised and had great admiration for the Barbados Defence Force for the professional manner in which those courts were convened and held, so that this option is one that I believe could be pursued.

And that is not to say that the Defence Force can continuously convene courts martial, because that obviously would impede the ability of the Defence Force to practise, to train, and to execute its primary roles and functions. And so one would have to be cautious in this regard. But I believe in selected offences or cases where national security or Defence Force internal security may be compromised, that one should consider going the route of court martials.

Now, we cannot dispute the fact that there have been a number of cases involving officers and soldiers of the Defence Force charged with criminal offences that have created and continue to create significant challenges for the command of the Barbados Defence Force. These challenges manifest themselves particularly when cases have been adjourned for years, and where those who have been charged have not been remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. In such instances, persons may be sent on grant leave, but they continue to receive their pay since the Defence Act and the Manual of Military or Service Law remain silent when it comes to some of these issues. In other words, there is no direction.

And so this creates some difficulty within the Defence Force, and in several instances it has been left up to the discretion of the Chief of Staff as to how these matters are dealt with. I believe that the proposed amendment to the Defence Act would remove these discretionary powers and also the areas of ambiguity that exist and would provide more transparent policies, more transparent procedures for the Defence Force and ultimately the Defence Board to be able to deal with issues like the ones that we are discussing at this point in time. I believe the Defence Board will be more informed as to decisions that have to be taken in dealing with these situations.

And so in this regard, the opposition has no difficulty in supporting this bill. And I have reached the point where my reservations and any apprehensions have gone through the window. And I also see no issues at the moment in supporting this bill. I think it is a bill that will redound to the benefit of the officers and the men in the Barbados Defence Force.

The three criteria as indicated by the Honourable Prime Minister - that is, tarnishing the reputation of the Force, posing a threat to national security, et cetera - I think are very, very sound. However, I would suggest that in keeping with the tone of the Defence Act, where offences tend to be spelt out and itemised, I believe that this amendment should also go a step further in terms of itemising those offences which the amendment is intended to deal with. That is one suggestion that I would certainly make at this time.

I like the composition of the disciplinary committee. I'm happy indeed that there is a member of the chaplaincy team on that committee and certainly a retired officer, because we have a large pool and a growing pool of retired officers and enlisted personnel who have a wealth of experience and a wealth of knowledge. And I believe that the Defence Force at every available opportunity ought to tap into that pool of retired persons, and so I'm happy to see that a member of the retired officers' mess, if you like, will be part of that team.

When I look at the fact that the board shall notify, according to the amendment, the officer or soldier of its decision within seven working days of that decision, and that the officer or soldier who is affected shall be given 14 working days after the receipt of that notice to reply to the notice and to make objections in respect of the notice; when I see that the officer or soldier who is suspended, if it comes to that, in accordance with sections 33D and 33E, once they have been found not guilty, have the possibility of having their salaries reinstated - it suggests to me, Mr. Speaker, that the rights and privileges of soldiers under the Defence Act will be safeguarded and will not be impinged in any way with this new amendment. And so we on this side have no objections to the amendment in that regard as well.

I want to say also, Mr. Speaker - and this is for those Honourable Members of this Chamber and also for those many people who may be following this debate online or on the radio - that the fact that we are debating this bill, that we are seeking amendment to the Defence Act in terms of making the Defence Force stronger from a disciplinary point of view, this should not be taken in any way for anybody to suggest or to even think that there are disciplinary problems within the Barbados Defence Force.

The Defence Force remains, and I know will continue to be, a highly disciplined organisation and a national institution of high levels of professionalism. But like the society from which the soldiers are drawn, the Barbados Defence Force being a microcosm of this wider Barbadian society, from time to time there will be people who go against the norm, against the grain, against the training, against everything that they know they are not supposed to do. And so the Defence Force would have to take the necessary actions in order to safeguard the integrity of the whole.

And in that regard, I want to say that the Force really has been at the vanguard of maintaining discipline and order in this country, not being afraid to take harsh decisions

when necessary. In particular, I refer to the Force's zero tolerance policy on the use of illegal drugs, where the Force has gone even as far as to have random testing done for even officers as well as those at the bottom, and where the Force has been strong enough to take the necessary action to deal with situations of that nature. I refer, for example, also to the fact that the Force allows for polygraph tests to be done randomly for people working in certain key areas within the Defence Force, and this for me represents a force that is strong, a force that is confident and leadership that is not afraid to do what is necessary for the good of the Force and for the good of the country.

The Barbados Defence Force must be congratulated for all that it has been able to achieve in its 30-something years of existence, for the level of leadership that it has and has always had, and certainly for being able to produce an officer who could sit and now stand and address this Honourable Chamber. That is to the credit of the Barbados Defence Force.

And so we salute the Defence Force, we support this bill, and we would like to assure the Defence Force of the continued support of the opposition. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I rise to wind up the debate and I'm indebted really to the Honourable Member for the City for one of the maturest speeches I've heard in this House. I really think that some of his colleagues could learn a lot from his wisdom and from his restraint. He doesn't stand up in this House and talk for talk's sake. Whenever he has made a speech in this House, it has made sense and it is not the kind of carping criticism, the kind of cavilling at minutiae, the kind of nitpicking, but speeches born of substance. And today was no exception.

It must pain him sometimes to sit and listen to some of his colleagues and the extent to which they can't see a big picture. They have swept so many small things into their field of vision that the larger issues are crowded out. So I really am indebted to him for a mature speech. And he hasn't left much for me to say. I think that the Defence Force can feel proud that such a man has benefited from its discipline and its insight and that he could defend it as stoutly as he did here today.

I have heard his suggestions and of course as the Defence Board over which I preside meets from time to time we will internalise, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what he has suggested, because we are in a situation where there is always scope for continuing improvement in matters of this kind and issues of national security and the reputation of military organisations such as the Defence Force are not things to treat flippantly.

So I really want to say thanks to the Honourable Member for the suggestions made, for his understanding of the legislation, and for the analysis which he has done of it. He has left nothing much for me to have to respond to. I think, as he himself has admitted, his doubts have been dispelled and his fears and anxieties are laid to rest. So with those words, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this bill be read a second time.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and the Bill was read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that your Honour do now leave the chair and this House resolve itself into committee for further consideration of this Bill.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. J. D. PAUL, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 - 3, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Defence Amendment Act, 2013.

Mr. CLERK: Order number two, in the name of the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, to move the second reading of the Crown Proceedings Amendment Bill, 2013.

ORDER NO. 2 – CROWN PROCEEDINGS AMENDMENT BILL, 2013

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an amendment to the Crown Proceedings Act that had its genesis in certain amendments that we did to the Family Law Act a few weeks ago, where we looked at the whole issue of maintenance in particular under the Family Law Act. And one of the issues that has been present for quite some time has been the fact that persons would go to court, in particular to the High Court, and have maintenance orders granted, and found that those maintenance orders could not be enforced in terms of garnishment of salaries of public officers. And for quite some time it has been argued by members of the legal profession and by others who are impacted by such proceedings that we needed to address this issue. And so this bill, this amendment, seeks to remove that anomaly - that is, that public officers' wages could not be garnished. And as I said, the genesis has been with respect to matrimonial matters in particular. This is what this amendment seeks to accomplish. I don't believe that I need to occupy this Parliament's time with any further analysis of this bill. With those words, I move that this bill be read a second time.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and the Bill was read a second time.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the chair and this House resolve itself into committee for further consideration of this bill.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. J. D. PAUL, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is now in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. F. J. STUART, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Crown Proceedings Amendment Act, 2013.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, with respect to the matter raised by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, it is of course the norm to give the members directly involved the chance to be heard if they wish to be. We will do that now. It was also noted that the matter was not put to a vote, which would have to be done. So we committed to accommodate that. I don't know if either member wishes to be heard at this time. Very well. With respect to the matter which was raised, it was not put to the vote, and the motion was that it be submitted to the Committee of Privileges if a preliminary case was found.

The question was put and a division was called for.

Mr. CLERK: Mr. Speaker, the results of the division: nine honourable members voted in favour of the motion; 10 honourable members voted against.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. The motion has not been carried, so the matter will not be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of government business for the day. I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, the 13th of August, at 4 o'clock in the p.m.

The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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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 correcting and preparing this report. Members are named as in the 2013–2018 Parliament.

Q1. *Front matter.* The source does not record the PRESENT list or the officiant at Prayers. The Members listed are those identified from the record; the time of meeting, 10.00 a.m., is as stated in the source. Please supply from the Votes and Proceedings.

Q2. *Throughout.* The bracketed time-checks in the source are out of sequence (for example '[12.30 a.m.]', '[1.00 a.m.]' and '[2.00 a.m.]' in both the morning and the afternoon) and have been omitted.

Q3. *Throughout.* Seconders are not identified in the source; where the words 'I beg to second' appear they are printed under AN HON. MEMBER. Please confirm.

Q4. *Obituary speeches.* The source renders the name of the late Member variously as 'Strong', 'Straughan', 'Saunders', 'Glenroy Royston', 'Lenroy' and 'Glen Roy'; all are printed as Straughn, the spelling used throughout most of the record, and 'Conrad Straughan' is printed 'Comrade Straughn'. His middle names are given only once, as 'Escort Strathmore', and are left as recorded. Please confirm the spelling of his full name.

Q5. *Obituary speeches, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce.* The source runs the Leader of the House's tribute on from his laying of Papers. The captions record Mr. SPEAKER's call of the Member for Christ Church South and the Clerk's call of the congratulatory and obituary speeches between them, and these have been restored. Please confirm.

Q6. *Obituary speeches, Hon. S. A. Lashley.* Headed 'HON. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY' in the source. Mr. SPEAKER called the Member for Christ Church West Central, the speaker refers to his Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Commission for Pan-African Affairs, and the captions name Hon. Stephen A. Lashley; printed under Hon. S. A. LASHLEY. Please confirm.

Q7. *Obituary speeches, Mr. T. A. Prescod.* The source places 'Thank you, Mr. Speaker' under Mr. SPEAKER and begins Mr. Prescod's speech 'Yes, you are a member for us in St. Michael East'; these are printed as Mr. SPEAKER's call of the Member for St. Michael East. Mr. SPEAKER's call of the Prime Minister ('Well, blessed. Yes, Your Honour') is printed 'Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.' Please confirm.

Q8. *Suspension of Standing Orders.* The source reads 'Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44' (captions '6-16-18-20-42-5-43 and 44'). Printed as the usual list, Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44.

Q9. *Matter of Privilege.* Hon. R. D. Jones raised the matter under the heading of Government Business in the source; it is printed under its own heading before the Orders. The vote on the motion was taken later in the Sitting and is printed under a second Matter of Privilege heading. The source records the Clerk's result, nine in favour and 10 against, but not the names of the Members voting. Please supply the division list from the Votes and Proceedings.

Q10. *Order No. 1.* The Clerk's reading of the Defence Amendment Bill, 2013 gives no Order number; the number is inferred from the Clerk's later call of 'Order number two'. Please confirm from the Order Paper.

Q11. *Order No. 1, Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic.* The exchange with Hon. D. St.E. Kellman at the start of the speech is garbled in the source ('Has spoken on this matter and I have made reference to his ambition to take charge or to create a coup ... Very well, Honourable Member. I am –' followed by 'an applicant. You know what I want'). It is printed as recorded. Please check against the recording.

Q12. *Order No. 2.* The Clerk read the 'Criminal Proceedings Amendment Bill 2013', but the Attorney-General moved an amendment to the Crown Proceedings Act to allow the garnishment of public officers' salaries; printed as the Crown Proceedings Amendment Bill, 2013. Please confirm the title from the Order Paper.

Q13. *Committee.* Mr. CHAIRMAN is not named in the source; the Chairman of Committees, Mr. J. D. Paul, is presumed for both Bills. The Committee stages are condensed to the Official Report formulae; both Bills passed through Committee without amendment.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, with Mr. SPEAKER presiding. The Minutes of July 16, 2013 were confirmed on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. Mr. SPEAKER acknowledged the presence of the family of the late Glenroy Straughn, a former Member, including his widow, former Senator Ada Straughn. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce laid the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption (Coast

Guard Relocation Incorporated) Order 2013 on behalf of the Minister of Finance and the Grantley Adams International Airport Incorporated Annual Report 2011 on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and International Transport.

The House paid tribute to Mr. Straughn. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce traced his life from his birth at Westbury, St. Michael, on February 12, 1927, through Wesley Hall School, Harrison College and his years in Aruba, to his election for St. Joseph in 1958 when Grantley Adams resigned his seat to lead the Federal Government, and spoke of his work with the Road Safety Association of Barbados, the Barbados Cycle Union, the Green Room Players and the Pan-African movement. Mr. K. D. Symmonds spoke of his principle, his advocacy of redistribution and his fight for public access to beaches in St. James. Hon. S. A. Lashley, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, said the Commission for Pan-African Affairs would honour Mr. Straughn as an Honoured Ancestor and spoke of the task force on reparations and the decision of CARICOM Heads of Government to establish a Caribbean reparations commission chaired by Barbados. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley described him as a man of value rather than success and, on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party, thanked his family. Hon. R. D. Jones spoke of his work as an educator and his support for the youth movement. The House was suspended for lunch until 2.00 p.m.

After the resumption Miss C. Y. Forde and Mr. T. A. Prescod continued the tributes, Mr. Prescod recalling Mr. Straughn's work as a trade unionist in Aruba and his membership of the People's Progressive Movement. The Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, recalled meeting him in 1967, when Mr. Straughn taught for a term at the Boys' Foundation School, and in 1970 at Princess Margaret Secondary School during the Black Power ferment, and noted that the Black Star newspaper of the People's Progressive Movement had called for the release of Nelson Mandela. Mr. SPEAKER associated himself with the tributes and said the usual resolution would be forwarded to the family.

Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended. Hon. R. D. Jones raised a matter of privilege concerning an article in the Midweek Nation of July 17, 2013 which attributed to the Leader of the Opposition and to Mr. K. D. Symmonds statements questioning the Speaker's impartiality, and moved that it be referred to the Committee of Privileges. Mr. SPEAKER said he was disappointed in the conduct of the Members and in the article and that a preliminary case had been made out. When the motion was put to the vote later in the Sitting, the division was nine in favour and 10 against, and the matter was not referred to the Committee.

Under Order No. 1 the Prime Minister moved the second reading of the Defence Amendment Bill, 2013, which amends the Defence Act, Cap. 159, of 1979 to establish a five-member disciplinary committee to advise the Defence Board on soldiers and officers charged with civil offences, with notice of the Board's decision within seven working days and 14 working days for a reply. Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic, leading for the Opposition, said his initial reservations had been dispelled, suggested that some offences might be tried by court martial, and supported the Bill. The Bill passed through Committee without amendment and was read a third time and passed. Under Order No. 2 Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, Attorney-General, moved the second reading of the Crown Proceedings Amendment Bill, 2013, which arose from amendments to the Family Law Act and allows maintenance orders to be enforced by garnishment of public officers' salaries; it passed through all its stages. On the motion of Hon. R. D. Jones the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 4.00 p.m.