THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

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, Q.C. (Speaker)
Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C. (Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)
Hon. R. L. SEALY (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD
Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW
Hon. C. P. SINCKLER (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Mr. J. D. PAUL (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. S. A. LASHLEY (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)
Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE (Minister of Health) (Leader of the House)
Hon. R. D. JONES (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)
Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE (Minister of Environment and Drainage)
Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, Q.C. (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P.
Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P.
Mr. E. G. HINKSON
Hon. D. O'N. INNISS (Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)
Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS
Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Prayers were read.

PRAYERS

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning, honourable members. This House is now in session. I have with me the minutes of our meetings held on Monday, June 15, 2015 and Tuesday, June 23, 2015 respectively.

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

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

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

PAPERS

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir, I am commanded to lay the following papers: the Value Added Tax Refund, Caribbean Supply Barbados, Inc. Order 2015; the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption, Foster and Inks Cruise Services, Inc. Order 2015; the Occupational Pensions Benefit Provisional Registration Extension Order 2015; the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption, Barbados Rally Club Order 2015; and the Excise Tax Rate of Tax Order 2015.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation financial statements for December 31, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Speaker, I am further commanded to

lay the Barbados Fire Service Annual Report 2013. I am obliged.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: I am commanded to lay the Barbados Port, Inc. Annual Report for 2014 and also the financial statements for Barbados Port Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2014. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, honourable Minister.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir. Thank you very much. In December of 2013, following months of cordial negotiations, the Government of Barbados signed a foreign loan agreement with Credit Suisse International Bank LLC, Cayman Islands. This loan, which was arranged by Credit Suisse and syndicated among a series of other international financial investment institutions, was approved by the Parliament of Barbados on November 26, 2014 under section two of the Special Loans Act Cap 105. The loan was designed, among other things, to assist Barbados in meeting the financial requirements of its 2014–2015 deficit, as well as to shore up the international reserves at the Central Bank of Barbados. This was a critical part of Government's 19-month programme for the foreign exchange market stability, fiscal consolidation and reform, and a return to sustainable economic growth.

As the evidence and subsequent analyses from all independent sources would indicate, the Government has been achieving its objectives in this regard, though there is still some work to be done to turn the situation completely around. The strong support of the international partners and investors has been and continues to be critical and indeed welcomed. However, a recent and very unwarranted accusation by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party and the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has the potential to undermine the confidence of current and prospective investors in our country, damage the impeccable reputation of Barbados in the international financial markets and derail the hard fought gains which as a country we have made over many years.

Sir, I feel compelled to alert this chamber that on the night of Sunday, the June 28, 2015, the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, speaking at a public meeting organised and sponsored by the Barbados Labour Party, is reported to have said, among other things, and I quote: information is being hidden from you in this country. If the budget was called a month later, Sinckler would not report to you that the foreign reserves are in good condition because the Credit Suisse loan has to be paid on the 18th June and as of Friday June 19, 2015, it still was not paid and that is $88 million Barbados dollars. These words, sir, were subsequently reported in direct quotations in the Daily Nation of June 30, 2015.

The comment was in fact explicitly charging that the Government of Barbados had in fact defaulted on the payment for servicing the loan which was due to be made on the June 18, 2015 as provided in the loan contract. To date and to the best of my knowledge, the Leader of the Opposition has yet to deny or otherwise ask for the report to be retracted on the basis that her words were incorrectly captured. We are therefore left to conclude, unfortunately, that the reports of her speech and those specific utterances are indeed consistent with what she said. The statement sends abroad the impression to the world that on the June 18, 2015, Barbados did not meet its loan servicing commitments as required under the terms and conditions of the Credit Suisse loan, and further, that up to at least the 19th, a full day after the due date, no payments were made. But in plain language, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has in fact accused the Government of Barbados of defaulting on a major international commitment. This is something that has never happened in the history of Barbados.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to alert this House of the unfortunate reality that these very reckless and ill-considered statements have in fact caused a negative reaction amongst investors, not only in this particular loan, but in general. Indeed, in the days immediately following the statements and as recently as this week, officials at both the Central Bank of Barbados and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, including myself, have had to take calls querying the veracity of these statements. Consequently, sir, following a discussion among relevant officials, investors and other stakeholders, I have agreed to use this official ministerial statement to give the facts.

On the June 18, 2015, under the terms and conditions of the aforementioned loan contract with Credit Suisse, the Government of Barbados, in fulfilment of its obligations, made the payment as scheduled in the amount of Barbados $41.23 million, representing interest of $20.6 million and amortisation of $20.63 million to the various holders of the facility. It is therefore a horrible untruth that Barbados has defaulted on any of its debt obligations for this or any other loans. Indeed, sir, I can further alert the House and the country that on the June 29, 2015, Barbados met in full the principal and interest on the Barclays BZW loan, which were effectively due on the July 1, 2015. In support of my assertions regarding the Credit Suisse loan facility, I am attaching to this statement an official letter signed by the approved principals of Credit Suisse LLC confirming that Barbados has met all of its obligations to date and is current on all payments.

Mr. Speaker, sir, given the very volatile conditions in the international financial markets, occasioned as they are by the much publicised credit default events in Greece, Puerto Rico and to a lesser extent in some countries in our region, these very reckless and unnecessary statements by

the Leader of the Opposition could not be more untimely, dangerous and irresponsible. Across all administrations in Barbados, irrespective of political persuasion, we have all successfully ensured that as a country we meet all of our debt commitments on time and in full. It is an enviable record and one which we must work to maintain. To this extent, it is incumbent on all of us, those in this chamber and those outside, to act and speak responsibly at all times in these matters lest we do irreparable damage to the economy of Barbados and to our good name. A word to the wise is enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Leader of the House.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. CLERK: Order No. 16, sir. In the name of the Honourable Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, to move the passing of a resolution that the Parliament of Barbados reminds Barbadians of the victory over injustice that was wrought through the 1937 disturbances; embraces the lessons learned from the struggle of the 1937 disturbances; encourages Barbadians to fully appreciate the importance and meaning of July 26, the day of national significance and all it symbolises; and reaffirms its commitment to the higher ideals of good governance and social justice for all, as a lasting legacy from the 1937 disturbances.

ORDER NO. 16 – RESOLUTION – THE 1937 DISTURBANCES AND JULY 26, THE DAY OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister of Culture and Sports, Youth and Sports.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is certainly my honour, Mr. Speaker, to pilot this very important resolution through this Parliament and in so doing to commend the Cabinet of Barbados under the leadership of the Right Honourable Prime Minister for having the foresight to agree that this resolution should be brought to this Chamber, particularly at a time, Mr. Speaker, when Barbados continues to confront economic challenges and to confront all of the attendant issues arising therefrom. So that, Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet on July 15 agreed with the recommendation that a resolution pertaining to the day of national significance - July 26 - should be debated in Parliament and that debate should obtain today.

Mr. Speaker, in so doing this mature step by the Cabinet of Barbados underscores the fact that government is indeed a continuum. Because while it was on June 24, 1997 in this very House of Assembly that under the previous administration, led by the then Honourable Member for St. Peter, the government, by means of an equally mature ministerial statement read by the then Prime Minister, declared inter alia that as of that year, July 26, 1997 shall be a day of national significance and shall be so celebrated every year.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that today is equally an historic occasion because there has never been an occasion before this that the Parliament has had an opportunity to debate the significance of July 26 and indeed to use the opportunity to reflect on the true significance of this watershed in the history of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, in that ministerial statement to which I referred, the government of the day also advocated two other critical decisions, both of which have not been implemented. And I wish for the purposes of this debate to refer to those decisions which were enunciated by the then Prime Minister of Barbados - one being the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter - one being that the government should erect a public commemoration to those persons who lost their lives on the July 26, 1937. And of course the statement specifically lists the names of those who lost their lives. And of course the second one was that there should be a submission to the Governor General - that is definitely the Governor General - that those persons who were convicted during the disturbances should be pardoned under section 78 of the Constitution of Barbados.

And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that these two decisions, albeit taken by a previous administration, are worthy of consideration. And I believe that certainly this government will look at these particular decisions with a view to ensuring that they could be appropriately implemented.

This debate, Mr. Speaker, takes place, I believe, for a number of reasons. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is important for this Parliament, speaking with one voice, to reiterate the importance of the 1937 disturbances and to declare for all time that such an event represents a watershed in the socioeconomic history of Barbados. I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is important for this debate to pay tribute to those persons who would have been involved and in particular those persons who would have given of their lives, sacrificed their lives for the cause of social

justice. We also, Mr. Speaker, have an opportunity in this debate to reaffirm the government's commitment, but also the commitment of the Parliament of Barbados to the ideals of good governance, to the ideals of social justice for all Barbadians. And of course, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the legacy of the 1937 disturbances lives on in the collective consciousness of all Barbadians.

These, Mr. Speaker, represent tourisms not only as they existed in 1937, but they represent the collective achievements of Barbados as a nation. And you will recall, Mr. Speaker, that every year we celebrate across Barbados the season of emancipation. And it is noteworthy that the season of emancipation represents not only a reflection of the freedom of enslaved Africans who were torn from their homeland and brought to Barbados, but we always recognise that the very enjoyable Cropover season, the Cropover festival, takes place within the season of emancipation. And of course, the Ministry that I have the privilege of leading is instrumental in ensuring that these activities are celebrated with the necessary pomp and certainly with the necessary significance that we believe that they should have.

The season this year was heralded in by the convening of a free concert on National Heroes Day in Independence Square. And of course this year, as in the previous year, the Cropover concert, which should be held on the 24th July, will be used as a means of reflecting on the importance of July 26, the national day of significance. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the event - the so-called royal event - this year happens to fall on the 26th July, and we are also going to be taking a particular part of that event and paying tribute to the importance of July 26 and of course to the fallen heroes of that particular occasion.

And I want to use this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to encourage and to invite Barbadians to be a part of these activities and to join with the government and certainly with the Parliament of Barbados in acknowledging that, of course, within the wider dynamic of the season of emancipation, we want to ensure not only this year but in succeeding years, that the Cropover season takes on more than just a carnival, that it embraces the very importance of the national day of significance.

In addition to all of the aspects which will inform the emancipation of the slaves which occurred, of course, many years ago, this year, Mr. Speaker, is also of particular importance because it commences the United Nations designated decade for persons of African descent, and that period will run from the year 2015 to the year 2024. And of course, on August the 17th of this year, the occasion through the auspices of the Commission for Pan African Affairs, we will use the occasion of Marcus Garvey's birthday and we will mount the O'Shea Emika awards. We will also recognise, of course, on that occasion those pan-Africanists who have contributed to our national development. And of course at that ceremony the Ministry will also launch the National Strategic Plan for the decade of people of African descent.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, this strategy will include the setting of goals and objectives and of course to outline the activities for the next decade to be implemented by government, the pan-African civil society, and of course to continue the process of healing and development which commenced in 1937. So we envision, Mr. Speaker, that this decade will be of utmost significance. And indeed we are very determined as government working along with our civil sector partners to ensure that the decade is appropriately marked and recognised.

But Mr. Speaker, as we launch into this debate and look back at the 1937 disturbances, I believe there is need to continue to repeat the important developments that culminated with the 1937 rebellion. And we have to do this, Mr. Speaker, because reinforcement is extremely important. I believe that we owe it as a solemn duty, Mr. Speaker, particularly to those who laid down their lives in order that our current generation can be a part of the modern transformation of our country. We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude and certainly for us to experience democracy in full bloom within the context of a modern constitution would not have been possible except for the occurrences that would have been part of the realities of 1937.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is because of those developments that Barbadians can now boast of having the protection of some very important fundamental rights which are enshrined at the highest level of the Constitution of Barbados. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is these rights that continue to ensure a number of very important freedoms. The freedom, of course, Mr. Speaker, to speak on matters which affect us from time to time. The freedom of association, Mr. Speaker, the freedom to be able to practise one's religion and of course, I can continue to repeat all of those freedoms, Mr. Speaker, which are guaranteed in the Constitution of Barbados and which of course the government continues to respect and to uphold.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, as we look within the context of why it is important to remember the developments of 1937, we have to remember that those developments cannot be considered in isolation. And as we grapple, Mr. Speaker, with some of the very trying economic challenges of our time, we have to do so within the context of the full embodiment of the total development of our society. We have to do so, Mr. Speaker, within the full embodiment of the need for there to be not only appropriate dialogue across our various sectors, but for there to be mutual respect among our various institutions, among us as parliamentarians. Because I believe we have

to set the example in terms of how we proceed even as we grapple with difficult economic matters.

Mr. Speaker, historians in Barbados,

in seeking to place within a context the 1937 riots and the deprivations that would have afflicted our ancestors, often speak of that period, 1838 to 1938, as the hundred years of neglect. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is at that particular juncture in our history that after emancipation many of the required developmental policies and initiatives were never put in place. Indeed, following emancipation in 1938, rather than the white planter elite engaging in a full democratization in a full developmental paradigm in relation to Barbadians. What we witnessed, at least what people at the time would have witnessed, was a movement towards the further shackling of persons who were freed, so to speak, from the plantation. There was, in fact, nothing done at that time except to consolidate the power of the white elite at the time. In fact, resources that were critical for the development of Barbadian society at that time, post 1838, were, in fact, denied. And there was a refocus on new forms of bondage. There was labour discrimination, Mr. Speaker, and, of course, the policies which reflected the times had to do more with social control, discrimination, and depriving former enslaved peoples of the need to be part of a just society. So that what happened, Mr. Speaker, was that the institution of slavery was, in fact, replaced with a domination of a new type without any perceived freedoms. And certainly the expectations of emancipation were not realised at that time.

What would have happened, Mr. Speaker? Because part of the reason why this resolution is before the House is that we have to engage in a period of reflection. It is important, Mr. Speaker, that not only our young people, but in fact, I believe many of our adults spend the time to research what occurred in 1937. And, in fact, that period, that hundred year period from 1838 to 1938 ought to be, to my mind, part of a study, a concise study to be able to extrapolate what were the developmental flaws which, to my mind, Mr. Speaker, continue to be part of some of the struggles that we are dealing with today. Some of the structural dynamics that impacted then are still some of the issues that we are dealing with.

In the year 2015, I came across, Mr. Speaker, a very interesting bit of research in relation to capturing at the time some of the observations of some of the key persons. And this one came from Reverend W. A. Beckles, who was a witness and a reviewer of the events that would have precipitated the 1937 riots. And indeed, part of what he captured was the media coverage and the evidence and the reports which were used to tell the story of the 1937 disturbances. This particular witness, Mr. Speaker, in recalling the events that would have impacted Barbados at the time, concluded, and I quote, that Barbados still sits on a volcano which may or may not erupt at any future time. End of quote. At the time that he wrote this particular discourse, Mr. Speaker, he spoke of the bewildering, multitudinous prescriptions for the island spaceship. And, of course, he was using a metaphor to refer to Barbados.

So it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that in July 1937, the day of national significance, Barbados was faced with a crisis, and in facing that crisis many things would have occurred. And I refer to crisis, Mr. Speaker, because both literally and figuratively, what occurred in 1937 represented a turning point in the affairs of Barbados. It is at that point true reflection and through a purposeful engagement of what was required for Barbadian society to progress, that there had to be a frontal attack and consideration of how the new Barbados ought to proceed. And therefore it represented a point at which the enslaved population, who were emancipated but did not taste real freedom, had to be engaged in a socioeconomic and cultural transformation of Barbadian society.

For us, in reflecting on 1937, Mr. Speaker, we recognise that it commenced a period of healing. And in this debate, as we reflect on the 1937 disturbances, Mr. Speaker, I believe that those disturbances ought to remind us that indeed, as in 1937, which, as I said, represented a period of a process of healing would have started, I believe we are still along the journey of identifying and healing our social relations. We are still along a journey, Mr. Speaker, of promoting equality. We are still along a journey, Mr. Speaker, of developing our economy, constructing a positive culture. We are still along a journey, Mr. Speaker, of maturing our politics. And of course, the day would have to come, Mr. Speaker, when of course our political discourses are elevated beyond the partisan approaches that we often see, particularly when we have large national issues at stake. Particularly when we have large national issues at stake, Mr. Speaker, to my mind, Mr. Speaker, we are still engaged in the process of learning how to be guardians of our natural environment. We are still engaged in the process of how we will develop not only our cities, our rural areas, and to a large extent, the debate that surrounds reparations, Mr. Speaker, are founded in the reality that as we grapple with deficits, as we grapple with the need to engage in economic reform, many of the deep structural scars are buried within the period after emancipation when much of the developmental initiatives that were required for Barbados to proceed were never ever put in place.

And the reparations debate brings this particular reality into the fore of national discourse and ought not to be trivialised because I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this particular issue has a base and has a grounding in what was not done in the post emancipation period. And we went through a period of 100 years, Mr. Speaker, before the 1937 riots that brought international attention for the first

time to the realities of people who were supposedly freed but who were thrown into a society that did not have any regard for liberties or for the development of persons, property, or even the society itself.

So, in fact, Mr. Speaker, what I think this debate brings to the fore in this parliament is that even given the unenviable tasks as we do have in seeking to reshape the Barbados economy within a relatively short space of time, because I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that when you look at other societies, we sometimes look at the far eastern civilisations and we marvel at the length of time in which they have taken to reach a certain point of development. We look at certain parts of Europe, for example, and if you do the analysis and even the numbers, and you compare the period of time that those societies have had to get to the point of their current development, when we compare that to the very brief post emancipation period within the reality of Barbados and indeed within the reality of other Caribbean states, we recognise that indeed, we are indeed very young democracies, and we have been involved in a period of reshaping our economic, political and social destinies largely without the input of significant resources. Indeed, when you analyse even in terms of the whole movement of capital into the Caribbean, one can come to the conclusion that return of developmental capital does not in any way tally with the amount of resources extracted from these Caribbean nations as a result of the imposition of slavery. It still, therefore, remains a matter to be addressed within the context of the reparations initiative.

So, Mr. Speaker, this resolution presents an opportunity for Barbados to reflect and to refocus and to re-engage and indeed to discuss how we are going to restructure our economic systems. But, Mr. Speaker, this resolution brings home the reality that, as we are required to do that reflection, that alone requires the adoption of new systems, new strategies for communicating our agenda. And when I say we, I mean our parliament, our society, our private sector, our unions, all of us must come to the table with a renewed vision, a renewed approach that specifies that we have to have a different look at where we are and how we will get there. That, Mr. Speaker, requires a national consensus, and we speak and hear in this parliament repeatedly of how we will purposefully build national consensus. We have to be able to do that because we have to build a base upon which we will tackle the realities of globalisation.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we are forced to make our systems and practices even more relevant to the dramatic changes that have occurred in international trade, driven largely by the WTO and other major international institutions. And therefore, this reality, Mr. Speaker, has brought home to us a new challenge, a challenge where we have seen dramatic shifts in the sources of production. We have seen the emergence of a new world financial order, Mr. Speaker, and we have seen the emergence of requirements of essentially a borderless society across the globe, in fact, within the Caribbean region alone, the need to move towards a single market and economy. And of course, the adoption of approaches based on regionalised systems have largely been propelled by means of what has happened in the international global arena. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, the discussion which has ensued in relation to why it is necessary to recapture the significance of the 1937 riots and what informed those disturbances must be part of the continuing agenda and dialogue, even as we seek to grapple with modern challenges and systems that we have to face.

And Mr. Speaker, we in this debate cannot only be speaking about the need to transform the mindset of our young people. Oftentimes, of course, we say that we have to remind our young people of their history. We have to remind our young people of why it is that 1937 and the disturbances are so critical. How can we make this particular development relevant to all reality? Does it have any relevance to us in 2015? Are these issues germane to how we can build a modern Barbados? Are they germane to what is happening even now in Barbados, as we have issues pertaining to union and industrial developments, where there is a level of friction in society, as we are poised to even further concretise policies and programmes designed to tackle problems not totally of our making as a country, but problems largely imported by means of the dynamics in which we have operated over the past few centuries.

So I believe, Mr. Speaker, that not only must we be speaking about how we could sensitise our young people, but clearly it is my view, Mr. Speaker, that there is now a huge need and requirement to sensitise our mature segments of the population. We have as a collective in parliament, Mr. Speaker, to seize this opportunity and to use all the avenues, some of which, Mr. Speaker, we take for granted, because the champions of the 1937 riots did not have at their disposal the kind of systems of communication, the kind of systems of planning and strategising that we have at our disposal today. And therefore, it tells me, Mr. Speaker, it tells me that we ought to be better positioned to be able to deal with issues of crisis as they always would occur. I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that you can find any society that does not have from time to time to deal with crisis. In fact, I only recently, Mr. Speaker, returned from a trip to the UK and looking at some of the developments across Europe. Some of the same issues that we are seeking to grapple with are issues that the government of the United Kingdom is having to put before the population. They are considering whether they can continue to finance, for example, their healthcare systems in the way that they have in the past. They are considering whether they are able to maintain the levels of employment within their public service as they

have had in the past. So these, Mr. Speaker, are systemic issues of a global nature. And I believe that it calls for us as a mature parliament to redouble our efforts to educate not only our young people but our mature population about the importance of our history. And indeed, the 1937 riots represent, as I said, a watershed within the context of the history of Barbados.

But what I want to put before the parliament, Mr. Speaker, and to bring it home within the reality of what we do within our role in parliament. We, the new generation of politicians and parliamentarians, we, Mr. Speaker, being the descendants of African slaves as we are, who adorn this chamber. What will be our role? What will be our role in taking the lessons of the 1937 disturbances and helping our country to face the issues that we face today? I think that is the question that we have to ask ourselves. We, Mr. Speaker, in my view, cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot forget the lessons of July 26 when in fact, our heroes would have had to face the challenges that they have had to face. Because, Mr. Speaker, I believe that history has shown us that if ever we forget the lessons of the 1937 disturbances, I believe we lose sight of the ideals and the progressive thoughts of the champions of the past that help to mould and accelerate the pace of national development and prosperity.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that as we contemplate this resolution, we have to agree as a parliament that every boy, every girl, every man and every woman in Barbados need to be exposed time and time again to the significance of the July 26 disturbances. And we have to refresh that because, Mr. Speaker, within the context of our quest for enhanced economic development and overall social progress. Unless we do that, Mr. Speaker, there is a real fear that those ideals will not be accomplished. These lessons remain vital points of entry as we proceed to manage some of the issues that we face today.

Mr. Speaker, the 1930s were not ideal moments for our ancestors. In fact, they were some of the most harsh moments for them. It was a period, Mr. Speaker, of great racial and class oppression in Barbados. We can never contemplate in the year 2015 what our great grandfathers and great grandmothers had to endure within a very hostile environment to be able to even propel or even think of how they could propel or enhance the development of Barbados at that time. Mr. Speaker, little progress had been made in the socioeconomic development of the masses since the abolition of slavery.

And in accordance with the findings of the Moyne Commission, workers did not even enjoy a livable wage at that time. That were the circumstances which confronted Barbados in the 1930s. Indeed, the systems that ought to have been in place to manage the kind of disconnect that impacted on the society were not present. They were not present as they are today. And that would, Mr. Speaker, would have propelled the 1937 disturbances which, as we know, existed entirely among the working class. The working class population rebelled against a system of oppression that did not have within it the kind of safeguards that we have in our system today. And of course, we had the development which saw the deportation of Clement Payne, the man who became the champion of the working class and who spoke fearlessly on their behalf. Once, of course, he was deported, then, of course, the masses took to the streets and of course, the rest is history in terms of those particular disturbances.

For many Barbadians, Mr. Speaker, I believe the designation of July 26 as a national day of significance is extremely noteworthy. It tells the story, Mr. Speaker, of the struggles of all forefathers, the struggle to create a just society, a society in which, of course, you could have inclusivity. You could have the building of a national narrative, Mr. Speaker, that may otherwise be lost within the context of the social development of Barbados at the time. Of course, we have to. In any debate, any debate, Mr. Speaker, that reflects on 1937, we have to give commendation to persons such as journalists. Reginald Prayer Point, a Barbadian who was living in New York at the time and who through his efforts he would have advocated that July the 26th ought to be appropriately recognized. And we have to commend him for his efforts and his struggles to get the parliament of the day to fittingly recognize July 26.

And of course, as part of the continuum, we would have had the National Culture Foundation in 1986 instituting the Fort concert as part of the Cropover celebrations to memorialize the activities of 1937 and of course, some of the events as we mark the 50th anniversary of independence next year, quite a bit of the story that would have informed that part of Barbados will be fittingly orchestrated to mark the 50th anniversary, not of independence, the 50th anniversary of the disturbances. In the course we had, the monument was erected near the Barbados Golf Club by Mr. Lloyd Wilson and of course we had the Golden Square Memorial Park, which was created and used by the Clement Payne movement that is seen to be one of the more fitting tributes which was paid to Clement Payne. And indeed, I want to take the opportunity to commend those persons who have been part of that particular development.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves in what contextual framework that we would need to place the 1937 disturbances within the global reality. Of course, these disturbances may be categorized as not of the magnitude in terms of the size of these disturbances as you would have had in some parts of the world. But for us, Mr. Speaker, what we believe, and certainly the developments prior to 1937, show clearly that indeed within the context

of modern Barbados, that the developments of 1937 were significantly impactful and would have helped significantly in shaping the modern Barbados.

The long term consequences, Mr. Speaker, of the events of July 26, 1937 were far reaching. The British Royal Commission of Inquiry, which was headed by Lord Moyne, was appointed in 1938 to investigate the disturbances and of course, the unrest across the British West Indies. And one of the things that Lord Moyne would have indicated in his report, that Barbadians were part and parcel and caught up in a situation which much of the social deprivations were part of the reality that they had.

So, Mr. Speaker, the building on the foundation in the aftermath of the 1937 disturbances is really a real reminder to what progress we have made as a country. We had the Trade Disputes Act of June 12, 1939, and we also had the Trade Union Act of August 1940. And of course, that together created the legislative framework that could allow for trade unions to operate lawfully in Barbados. We also had, as a result of the consequences of the 1937 riots, we had the formation of the Barbados Workers Union in 1941. We had the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1943. We had the extension, Mr. Speaker, of the franchise through the Representation of the People's Act in 1943. We had adult suffrage introduced in April of 1950. And of course, Mr. Speaker, we had the rise of the Barbados Labour Party to be followed by the rise of the Democratic Labour Party.

We also had free health care. We had free education introduced in 1962. And we also had, of course, independence of 1966. We had the University of the West Indies, Mr. Speaker, and at this level, of course, we know that students have been asked to pay 20 per cent of their tuition fees, but this still remains, Mr. Speaker, one of the least demanding in the world because the government still pays the economic costs of all students attending University of the West Indies. We also had, Mr. Speaker, the school meals programme, the Barbados Community College was established, and of course, the vocational training board was established. In all of this, Mr. Speaker, there is a direct connection to the disturbances of 1937, the role of Barbadians, the significant role that they played in all of this, Mr. Speaker, must not be underscored.

And when we are talking about the role that Barbadians played, I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is important to not only recognize the important role, yes, played by our leaders, our respective leaders, many of them who would have led respective governments, and some that come to mind, some that come to mind readily, Mr. Speaker. And I'm sure when the members of the officers speak, they will speak of the names that they recall. And I will call some of those names. I will call some of those names in the debate. But the point I want to make is that many of our unsung heroes, those persons who would not have had any title, they were not called premier or prime minister, but they were the persons upon whose blood, sweat and tears we rest on today because of the contribution that they made to development of Barbados. And in fact, one of the policy initiatives that I recently announced was the

agreement of the cabinet that we will put in place a fitting monument to pay homage to our unsung heroes, those Barbadian men and women, mothers and fathers, whom we propose to honour shortly as our unsung heroes. It is said, Mr. Speaker, that any situation where persons are faced with tragedy and challenges often require courageous men and women to come to the fore to provide a framework for solution. And we have some of the names that we need to call. We had people like Clennel Wickham, we had Charles Duncan O'Neill, who used the positions of influence to fight the cause of the working class. And they were followed by Clement Payne, a Trinidadian, of Barbadian parentage, in the fight of labour reform and in the formation of trade unions. In fact, it was Payne's charismatic appeal that motivated the workers and who took his words very seriously. And these words ought to be repeated each time we have these debates, those words being agitate but don't violate.

Of course, the deportation of Payne would have led to our response, which would have then seen the rebellion in 1937. The immediate outcome of which, Mr. Speaker, was 14 persons dead, 47 persons wounded and 500 arrests and of course, millions of dollars in damage. We also had men such as Albert Grant, Mortimer [Inaudible.]. We had Israel Lovell, Don Lee Allen. Many of these men were given years of imprisonment, were sentenced to years of imprisonment for the role that they played in the 1937 riots. That's why I support, Mr. Speaker, the decision which was made by the former government, which I believe should be activated, to issue a pardon to those persons who were sentenced to jail. We had, for example, Fitz Archibald Chase, who was sentenced to nine months in jail for saying, tonight will be a funny day. Fitz Archibald Chase was sentenced to nine months for simply saying tonight will be a funny day.

This debate, Mr. Speaker, should not be seen as simply a reflection of our past. We have, Mr. Speaker, to face the reality that this debate is taking place in less than ideal industrial climate in Barbados. We have several developments that have ensued which would have seen reactions from trade unions, reactions from the opposition, reactions from Barbadians. But we have to place within the context, Mr. Speaker, and to underscore how we wish to proceed in the managing of our affairs, whether their affairs be industrial conflicts, whether there be areas that we need to improve and therefore what we do need. Mr. Speaker, we need of course, to be engaged in reinforcement. We need, of course, as the sons and daughters of Clennel

Wickham, Albert Grant, Israel Lovell, Charles Duncan O'Neill, Winter Crawford Grant, the Adams and Barrow, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are in a better position in 2015. We are better positioned as the new generation of politicians, as the new generation of trade union leaders, as the new generation of civic society leaders. We have got to be better positioned, we are indeed better educated to be able to grapple in a sensible manner and to resolve industrial disputes. I think, Mr. Speaker, that this can be a reality. Of course, if all sides follow the rules and engage in purposeful development.

And in all of this, Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt that the Democratic Labour Party government has and will continue to protect the rights and freedoms of workers. The history, the clear history of the Democratic Labour Party speaks for itself. Mr. Speaker, if there's any doubt about the resolve of a Democratic Labour Party to protect the rights and freedoms of workers, then there is need for me to recap some of that history in terms of the role that the Democratic Labour Party played in transforming the workers movement in Barbados and providing the kind of support that they now enjoy. We did that, Mr. Speaker, when we amended the Trade Union Act in 1964 to allow for peaceful picketing - that was done under the Democratic Labour Party government. In addition, Mr. Speaker, those amendments to the Trade Union Act in 1964 allowed the public sector workers to join unions for the very first time in Barbados. That is the record of a Democratic Labour Party government.

And Mr. Speaker, these amendments gave a phenomenal amount of strength to the labour movement and prepared it for the massive gains made for workers between the years 1961 and 1976 and Mr. Speaker, these are important developments because it is important to recapture the record of the Democratic Labour government in all of this. But in 1964, Mr. Speaker, in 1964, those amendments were secured by the Democratic Labour movement after a long and frustrating struggle, a long and frustrating struggle, Mr. Speaker, to gain the amendment amidst the stout resistance of the Barbados Labour Party of the day. In fact, the Barbados Labour Party did not want those changes to the Trade Union Act to allow for trade unions to picket. And they resisted those changes. They resisted those changes. As a matter of fact, left to the Barbados Labour Party, in fact, Mr. Speaker, left to the Barbados Labour Party in 1964 and even up to now, trade unions will not have the right to picket in Barbados. But we amended, Mr. Speaker, in 1964, the Trade Union Act to allow for peaceful picketing and we also did so again. We did so again, Mr. Speaker, when we amended the Trade Union Act in 1971 and in 1974 respectively. In 1971 and in 1974 respectively.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member. What is the point of order?

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Misleading the House. I know that he went to school, sir, and that he must know better. He read history. The Barbados Labour Party, Mr. Speaker, sir, did not at any stage, and it is not part of any record to be found in the Hansard of this House, take a position against the right to picket on the part of trade unions, sir. It is illogical in the extreme that a party, sir, that would have begun with the formation, sir, of a peasants association and then be associated with the creation of the Barbados Workers Union itself and the first two general secretaries thereof, Mr. Speaker, would end up in that extremely ridiculous state of affairs.

Mr. SPEAKER: I'm not in a position to rule on that, but you can expound on it when you have your chance. No, Mr. Speaker, sir, no point of order from our member. Please continue.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the - I agree with the Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that it is totally illogical on a point -

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: – of order, sir. Mr. Speaker, sir, the Honourable Member, by saying that he agrees with the Chair, sir, is suggesting that the Chair or him is not in a position, sir, to comment upon the substance of what I have put before the House, sir. Mr. Speaker, with respect, the Chair is in a position. Honourable Member of -

Mr. SPEAKER: This house. In this house. Mr. Speaker, please take your seat. No point of order found. Thank you.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am simply stating as a matter of fact. I am simply saying, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, that the Democratic Labour Party government in 1964 amended the Trade Union Act after many years of struggle by the trade union movement to get those changes effected by the Barbados Labour Party and that those amendments were effected by the Democratic Labour Party. I also said, Mr. Speaker, that the public workers by those amendments were allowed to be members of trade unions for the first time and that there was stout resistance, stout resistance by the Barbados Labour Party to those changes. The Democratic Labour Party - Mr. Speaker - again in 1971 and 1974 made some substantial amendments to the Trade Union Act to give protection, Mr. Speaker, to trade union officers and members of the workplace from being victimised, from being victimised for being members of unions. We also provided protection, Mr. Speaker, to trade unionists from certain actions when pursuing industrial action.

So that, Mr. Speaker, I say this within the context of the realities of the developments which ensued after 1937 and the fact that the Democratic Labour Party purposefully, purposefully engaged in proactive legislative re-

engineering through the amendments of the Trade Union Act to give effect and to fashion, to fashion what has largely been a very focused development of the trade union movement in Barbados. The record is there, Mr. Speaker. We did so again when in 1968 we passed in Parliament the Sugar Workers Minimum Wage and Employment Guarantees Act to provide sugar workers with a guaranteed minimum work week of five days and a minimum wage in the off season. By that single act, Mr. Speaker, workers were for the first time able to get loans from the housing authority and indeed obtain the wherewithal to construct many of the houses that currently exist in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, in again recounting the record of the Democratic Labour Party government, we did so again, Mr. Speaker, with the National Insurance Scheme which came into effect in 1967, providing a number of benefits, all of which survive, all of which survive to this day, including, for example, sickness benefit, disability benefit, pension benefits, among so many others. Sir, we did so again in 1971 when we moved this Parliament to herald in the Severance Payments Act. We moved this Parliament, Mr. Speaker, to enact the Severance Payments Act. And we recall - those of us who are aware of our history - that act became necessary at a time when we had across Barbados a number of fires. We had a spate of fires. We had, for example, the Fogarty fire and the Cave Shepherd fire where many Barbadians found themselves out of work and without a livelihood. We protected them through the Severance Payments Act.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in 1976 we passed into law the revolutionary Employment of Women Maternity Act, protecting women, Mr. Speaker, from being dismissed from the workplace solely on the basis that they were pregnant. In fact, the act, Mr. Speaker, provided maternity leave for up to three months in the first instance without a worker having to lose any benefits or privileges. This is the record of the Democratic Labour Party government. This is the proud record. We have to understand which political institution in Barbados did more in relation to the transformation and giving workers the rights that they have today.

And in recent times, Mr. Speaker, because I heard someone from the other side asking about coming current - in recent times, Mr. Speaker, we have held fast. We have held fast to acting in the best interests of workers by not only increasing the minimum wage, but we enacted the Employment Rights Act in 2012 which confers, Mr. Speaker, new employment rights on workers. And we also operationalised the Safety and Health at Work Act in January of 2013. All of this, Mr. Speaker, all of this, Mr. Speaker, we will do again as we lead in the transformation and the restructuring of the Barbados economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a solid base upon which we can reaffirm the government's commitment to the ideals of social justice and good governance, all principles which were in the vanguard of the 1937 rebellion by our ancestors. But while we commit, Mr. Speaker, ourselves to recalling the causes and the lessons of July 26, I believe we must sustain the positive ideas, the work and the institutions that emerged from that period. We have to fill in the gap, Mr. Speaker, in the programming required for our future prosperity. This, Mr. Speaker, is the hard evidence of where we have got to go in relation to moving Barbados forward. Policies, Mr. Speaker, aimed at transforming and changing the environment of Barbados to greater levels of prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, we are paying special attention to supporting and promoting new ideas and new institutions in Barbados as I speak. In fact, what we have done in relation to this evolution is that we have formulated significant strategies aimed at creating remedies towards removing underdevelopment, removing inequality and removing injustice from Barbados. We have developed meaningful policies and strategies designed to create remedies towards removing underdevelopment, removing inequality and removing injustice in Barbados. And I think, Mr. Speaker, we have to reflect on some of the current policies and programmes of the government that give certainly tangible evidence of the proactive policies that help to take forward the agenda of the 1937 disturbances. And I believe any government that would not have put in place policies and programmes to take that agenda forward would have actually betrayed the heroes of 1937. And I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that I can stand proudly as a member of this government and look at concerted effort, actual policies and programmes that have been used to take forward the agenda triggered by what occurred in 1937. And I expect, Mr. Speaker, that other members of this side will add their voice to many of those programmes.

But I refer - before I refer to some of the programmes in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth - I refer to one programme which I am sure the Honourable Minister for Social Care and Community Empowerment and Community Development will look at, and I refer to the transformative IC Bridge project. That programme, Mr. Speaker, has been a breath of fresh air in transforming some of the areas of poverty across Barbados. The programme, Mr. Speaker, was introduced in 2012 by this government. It was recognised, Mr. Speaker, that although Barbados, in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, did not have prevailing abject poverty, that there were pockets of poverty that were unacceptable. And therefore we went about a programme to tackle that particular issue frontally. The minister will tackle that particular programme in greater detail. And I point to that particular programme, Mr. Speaker, as one of the very important developments within the context of poverty

eradication in Barbados and it was implemented by this administration.

We have the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, Mr. Speaker, and it is important to recognise what has happened to that scheme since 2008. In fact, there has been a transformation in relation to the accomplishments of that particular scheme, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme. During the period of March 2009 to April 2015, the following accomplishments were realised by the YES programme that were consistent with our overall strategic objectives. And I dare say, Mr. Speaker, consistent with the agenda that Barbados would have had to follow in the aftermath of the 1937 disturbances. I want to recite only some of them to give meaning to what I am saying in relation to the role that we have taken extremely seriously in propelling the agenda that we require to move forward.

21 businesses, Mr. Speaker, were assisted to generate in excess of $10 201 923 in income for the four-year period of January 2010 to December 2014. That, Mr. Speaker, remains an achievement never before accomplished - $10 201 923 in income during that period. Mr. Speaker, the YES programme started 52 new businesses in Barbados - 52 new businesses in Barbados - created 61 new full-time jobs, expanded, Mr. Speaker, 378 existing businesses and retained 397 full-time jobs, provided business counselling and mentoring services for 731 new clients and provided business counselling services for 292 assisted clients.

Mr. Speaker, and of course the story goes on. We assisted during that period, Mr. Speaker, 219 businesses with specialised technical assistance totalling $346 579 000. We have provided specialised accounting services, Mr. Speaker, for 107 businesses and provided specialised marketing services consultancies for 141 businesses. We offered, Mr. Speaker, 1 581 580 hours of training during the Entrepreneurship Development Training 2010 to 2014. And of course the story of success continues as it relates to the YES programme - that is only but one programme, Mr. Speaker.

And of course we had the Endless Possibilities programme, which is much loved by the member for St. Thomas, a very proactive programme of the Democratic Labour Party government. Mr. Speaker, this programme, as I have said repeatedly, targets those young people between the ages of 16 and 24 and is a direct response to the ongoing problem of youth unemployment in Barbados. And we have developed this programme to target that. The programme, Mr. Speaker, has been quite successful over the years not only in providing employment, but providing training, providing life skills and also the necessary psychosocial support mechanisms and of course the wide-ranging curriculum. The wide-ranging curriculum, Mr. Speaker, of Endless Possibilities has helped to fashion and provide a future for many of our young people across Barbados.

And of course, I do not need to go into the goals - I have mentioned them already. To date, Mr. Speaker, after I believe the programme was implemented only about two years ago, to date we have had three cohorts of this programme being successfully implemented. We have benefited, Mr. Speaker, from a total of 120 young people who would have had full-time employment. And of course, Mr. Speaker, we continue to place persons through the assistance and partnerships of the private sector into meaningful job activities.

We have the Youth Mainstream programme as well, of course, in partnership with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Barbados Community College and the Barbados Vocational Training Board. We have been able to grow a programme that has imparted many skills of a technical nature to many of our young people. And oftentimes, oftentimes in this House, Mr. Speaker, we hear the clamour of the Barbados Labour Party about what we are doing for our young people. And therefore I feel compelled to say to the members what has been happening. That Youth Mainstream programme had to be put in place to really move us beyond what existed before - the programme that existed before under the Barbados Labour Party. And indeed, indeed, the programme has allowed many young people to find employment. I believe they call it Project Oasis - the Project Oasis programme that existed before this programme.

But when we are talking about tangible projects, Mr. Speaker, that have been used as means of social re-engineering to answer the issues that would have created the agenda after the 1937 disturbances - these are actual programmes. These are actual programmes. We also have, Mr. Speaker, the digital media programme. The digital media programme. And this programme, Mr. Speaker, is indeed very purposeful. We have had approximately 200 people trained in digital media over the last three years, of which 20 per cent own their own businesses. Others have found employment in the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, CMC and other video establishments. Some have worked, Mr. Speaker, in the shooting of some of the most reputed international films in Barbados. And they continue to provide the skill set that allows us to build a modern film industry in Barbados. I do not know if many people understand that much of the raw footage, much of the raw footage from international filming comes through Barbados for re-editing and for re-export. And much of that work is done by persons in the digital media programme.

And of course, we have the Barbados Youth Service. We continue to use that programme in a very purposeful way. We are aware, and I am sure the members of the opposition are aware, that we are in search of a permanent

home for the Barbados Youth Service. And we are bringing a proposal to the Cabinet very shortly to do exactly that. Because one of the success stories of the Barbados Youth Service in rescuing young people from a situation of harm, potential harm, is really the residential component of the programme. And the residential component - when I go to the graduations in relation to the Barbados Youth Service, and you see how that programme has been able to transform the lives of so many of our young people - is truly remarkable. In fact, the programme is so highly subscribed that we have to now find ways to respond to those young people who would like to be a part of that programme. And we intend to, by means of ensuring that we could enlarge the programme. And of course, we are determined, with the approval of the Cabinet, to find a permanent home for that programme.

And of course, we have the Commission for Pan African Affairs, which I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would like to hear about, because much of what we are talking about in relation to the importance of the developmental programming that has ensued in furtherance of the agenda after the 1937 rebellion has to do with the role and function of the Commission for Pan African Affairs. And recently the Commission launched a very transformational programme called the SIRIUS Programme, which is designed, Mr. Speaker, to speak to issues of social identity renewal and upliftment strategy - which is what SIRIUS stands for. And of course, the approach, Mr. Speaker, of the SIRIUS project is a very simple one. It is conceptualised within a context that is designed to empower particularly young people using the precepts of Afrocentric ideals and of course ensuring that they are aware of the origins of many of the issues that they face. Of course, although in Barbados we are approximately 94 per cent Afrocentric in terms of our genealogy, many of us do not for some reason want to identify with things of African nature. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this Government certainly has taken the lead through the new programmes of the Commission for Pan African Affairs to ensure that specific programmes can be targeted to make the link between identity and national development.

And we have sought to utilise the mirror image message of the first Prime Minister of Barbados, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, who spoke of the mirror image and the need, of course, to build and embrace African connection with Barbadian culture. There are many areas, and of course that programme continues to reach out to a number of our young businesses and to ensure that they can be placed on a sound footing. We are utilising the Spirit Bond as a centre of innovation because one of the things we recognise, Mr. Speaker - and I believe even in this debate, as we reflect on the realities of the 1937 disturbances - one of the things that we have got to grapple with is the need to be more innovative in Barbados. We cannot expect to be talking about transforming our economic base as a small, open economy without recognising the need for innovation.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor of the Caribbean of 2011, the Barbados national report, which is contained in that, would have made a number of observations which I believe this Parliament should be aware of. It actually indicated that Barbados has been identified as an economy in transition from stage two, which is efficiency driven, to stage three, which is innovation driven. In other words, we are in a stage of transition, as I said, from stage two, efficiency driven, to stage three, which is innovation driven. And of course, there is need for increased analysis and study to create the impetus on which we are going to build a new Barbados economy. And the other observation - the report concluded, and I wish to quote from that report, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of this debate - that report, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor of the Caribbean 2011, the Barbados national report, concluded. And I want to make this point because the issue of innovation in helping to frame the expanded Barbados economy that we want to have happen has yet to be a part of a national dialogue. I am yet to hear in debates in this House, members of the Opposition speaking to issues of innovation - how we are going to innovate, how we are going to take our young people forward towards creating innovative solutions upon which their livelihood can be made more secure. How are we going to move forward in terms of strengthening the economic base of Barbados and earn the same foreign exchange that, of course, the Barbados Labour Party says is not being earned.

Now that report concluded, and I quote: Barbados's economy cannot grow by focusing on competing with other efficiency driven economies. It does not have the market size or access to resources that are open to these other economies, none of which have a population of less than one million people as Barbados does. Therefore, to grow the economy, it must become innovation driven and focus on developing unique products and services that are in demand by the markets around the world. End of quote. That is what that report said. The report, Mr. Speaker, stopped short of the important insight that if we are to innovate, we must first have confidence in ourselves. We must first have confidence in ourselves, Mr. Speaker, through our own strong identity. And that is where, for example, the Commission for Pan African Affairs is focused in relation to transforming into reality some of the very important projects that are being used nowadays to strengthen our young people.

So, Mr. Speaker, over the last two years the Commission for Pan African Affairs has laid the groundwork of the Social Identity Renewal and Upliftment Strategy. The old Spirit Bond has been gradually

transformed and outfitted into an innovation centre for Barbadian entrepreneurs, especially young people. It is a place, Mr. Speaker, where young people can go to be inspired, can go to be renewed, and can go to be reinforced in their identity and test new ideas and products. And the intention, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that these products are exportable both to the Caribbean diaspora and of course to the Pan African world and the global community.

And I want to refer to just a few of these programmes that are part and parcel of the SIRIUS - the Social Identity Renewal and Upliftment Strategy - which is being championed by the Commission for Pan African Affairs. We have the Mirror Image Media and Innovation Lab. And this, Mr. Speaker, is a broad programme in media, images, innovation and identity designed to explore the ideals of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow's notion of mirror image. We have, Mr. Speaker, the General Bussa Youth Leadership Programme. This programme, Mr. Speaker, will build and reinforce identity and confidence among our young leaders and empower them to implement income-generating and development projects. We also have the Freedom Corridor, Mr. Speaker. It is a contribution of the Commission to the World Heritage development - Barbados's historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, the UNESCO World Heritage site, as you know, is now a key plank within the promotion of heritage tourism in Barbados.

And certainly as we contemplate - because at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, what we have to talk about as we look at what we have to do to safeguard the ideals of those who perished in the 1937 disturbances - we have to look at what the new Barbados economy has to look like. And therefore, I am referring to tangible examples upon which we can, bit by bit - because this is not going to happen overnight - construct the future. And therefore, this Freedom Corridor programme is designed to utilise the World Heritage inscription of historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, and to propel heritage within the context of heritage tourism and to utilise that for the benefit of our young people. And we will proceed on that basis.

Mr. Speaker, we have the Mbalozi Programme, which I am sure the members of the Opposition are aware of. It is an Afrocentric education programme which is currently being implemented by 80 teachers in over 60 nursery, primary and secondary schools across Barbados alone. And of course, this will be developed as a separate initiative from the SIRIUS in the future as well. And there is a programme which I believe, Mr. Speaker, is very inspirational because it is a growing area for employment generation. And I speak of the SIRIUS grant writing unit. The unit, Mr. Speaker, has trained a cadre of youth as grant writing entrepreneurs, and of course to access funding and other resources for themselves and other individuals and agencies. And there are others.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, part of what we have done in taking forward the ideal of our champions of the 1937 rebellion is that this Government has put in place a reparations task force. And that task force is involved in the important work of sustaining local, regional and international momentum for reparations. Indeed, the CARICOM Heads would have recently put in place a CARICOM Reparations Commission. And the reason why I am mentioning this is because many of the challenges of a structural nature that are impacting our economy today are deeply rooted in what happened to Barbados and other Caribbean economies post-emancipation. Many of the structural issues that are still impacting on Barbados today were never addressed post-independence, and it has been left to respective governments to address them. And within the context of the movement of resources out of Barbados and the Caribbean, we believe that we have to look at the question of reparation.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, we have the importance of our major festivals, in particular, the Crop Over Festival, which over the past five years has grown each year, exponentially each year. Certainly it has been a key driver in economic activity. The last figure cited by the Central Bank conservatively put the annual economic impact of Crop Over at about $50 million. And I believe, of course - I say conservatively because I believe it is more than that. But the Crop Over Festival continues to be a key part of the cultural development landscape. And indeed, we intend to adopt even more innovative approaches to our Crop Over Festival, which of course is poised to reach its climax over the next couple of days.

And I want, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity to salute and to thank those partners - all of them - who have been very instrumental in assisting in the continued growth and development of our Crop Over Festival, whether they are the Calypsonians, the masqueraders, the designers, all of the organisers, certainly the National Cultural Foundation as the key government agency with responsibility for the management of the festival. They have done an exceedingly great, fantastic job. Our private sector partners as well, Mr. Speaker, who have continued to hold hands with us in ensuring that the festival can be appropriately sponsored. And of course, we are increasing the number of private sector partners as we go along.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, represents part of the emerging industries - the cultural industries sector in Barbados. We have brought to the House one of the most inspiring pieces of legislation that has helped to create a base upon which the cultural industry sector can develop and transform. And I referred to the Cultural Industry Development Act. We have moved ahead, Mr. Speaker. We have not only enacted the legislation, we have proclaimed the legislation, we have put in place the Cultural Industries Development Authority and its board is

in place, and they are poised to do the kind of work that I believe is necessary to ensure that this sector can be developed purposefully.

We have also, Mr. Speaker, paid a lot of attention to the development of our World Heritage property and of course the need to ensure that our properties in our World Heritage site are appropriately preserved. A national task force has been established under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Fraser as a mechanism for receiving donations to help with the restoration of properties. The task force would have received the permission of the Cabinet to put in place a trust that would be used as the major vehicle for receiving donations to help with the resuscitation and the development of properties in Barbados.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, there are other areas that I will not at this stage go into. But I want to revisit the fact that this resolution provides the first opportunity for this Parliament to debate and to pay attention to the developments of 1937. The debate, Mr. Speaker, also brings to the fore a number of important developments that will ensure the legacy of the 1937 disturbances. We have certainly strengthened the social partnership, Mr. Speaker. We have ensured the protection of the rights of workers. We have ensured, Mr. Speaker, the protection of the rights of employers as well. We have certainly strengthened the social safety net. And I am sure that the Honourable Member who has responsibility will give further details on that. We have created, Mr. Speaker, an environment that is conducive to doing business in Barbados and in obtaining decent work. We have created, Mr. Speaker, an environment that is conducive to creativity and innovation in Barbados. These are direct social and economic strategies, Mr. Speaker, which connect in a frontal way with the ideals of the 1937 disturbances. And I submit, Mr. Speaker -

Speaker, that this certainly is an historic occasion for this parliament. I hope that in the contributions of members that we see this as an opportunity across the divide to be able to reach out to Barbadians and inspire them in the way forward as we continue to build out a new Barbados economy. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that like government, the opposition has a responsibility. The opposition has a responsibility to be responsible at this time in its utterances and how it projects itself to the public of Barbados. It also has a responsibility to be honest not only with itself but with the public of Barbados as to the true state of affairs of Barbados. And therefore we have to be reminded, and I hope that in this debate there is recognition that as Barbados faces challenges today, as it has faced challenges in the past, that this House has a responsibility to hold each other's hands and to together join with the government in plotting a path for the sustainable development of Barbados. And I believe I've heard at least one commentator making the point that even as we are faced with challenges in the industrial relations arena, that we have a responsibility to practice tolerance, to practice an appreciation for the rules. And I will say this, Mr. Speaker, that certainly we recognise on this side that in approaching any industrial relations matter that there will be fairness to both worker and employer and that we will ensure, Mr. Speaker, that those particular issues are resolved in the best interest of Barbados. I am hoping that as we reflect on the lessons of 1937, that I hear from the members of the opposition specific areas in which they will be providing leadership and guidance to persons who are looking, who will not necessarily agree with them, but who will hear some of the things that they are saying. And that in this debate we reach the point at which we can practise not only the kind of things that will catch the headlines, but matters that are relevant to the sustainable development of Barbados. So, Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, it has been my privilege and honour to introduce this resolution. And I do move, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder?

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: And I move that the sitting be suspended for lunch at this time until 1.30 this afternoon.

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

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken, we were on Order Number 16. And with that we shall continue. Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to this resolution which I believe comes at a very important period in the history of Barbados. It is a resolution which seeks not only to remind Barbadians about the series of events which took place during the 1937 uprising, but also seeks, through this Parliament, to be able to allow us as legislators to certainly lend our voice to what I consider to be a reflection of the period from which we have come. Certainly at a period where persons who look like us were not the persons who controlled and who ran this institution back then.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to, first of all, just go through the points which have been set out in the resolution, because I think it is important for Barbadians to fully appreciate what we are here to discuss, so that as we

develop on our points this afternoon, it is clear to them what the nature and the substance of this debate is all about. So, apart from reminding the Barbadian public and certainly the rest of the world of the victory over injustice that was wrought through the 1930s disturbances, we are also here to discuss and to embrace the lessons learned from the struggle of the 1937 disturbances. And thirdly, to encourage Barbadians to fully appreciate the importance of the meaning of July 26, the day of national significance and all that it symbolises. And the fourth point of the resolution seeks from this chamber to reaffirm this Parliament's commitment to the high ideals of good governance and social justice for all as a lasting legacy from the 1937 disturbances.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will deal with each of these in turn because I believe the history of this uprising is particularly important. And I want to take my time not to rehash much of what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central would have said, but more so to highlight, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes there are different perspectives that can be put on history. And depending on who is telling this story, the story seems to take a different tone. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that regardless of my political persuasion, I have a responsibility to tell the history the way I understand it and the way in which it has been presented, not only by the historians, but also certainly the storytellers who were the persons who were there at that point in time. I think we also have a responsibility as persons who hold this office to ensure that regardless of whether or not we are of a particular political party, that we go on record as commending those who have gone before us, even if they did not share our particular beliefs, but also giving credit where credit is due for the persons who have, by their labour, certainly been able to change the development of this country.

Now, 1937 and the period before it was certainly a different Barbados than what we know today. And I think it is important that when you discuss the 1937 uprising, it is important to place the context in which the Barbadian society and the landscape of Barbados would have existed at that particular time. It is important to do so, Mr. Speaker, because Barbados was a predominantly agricultural society. We had come out of the period of slavery. And while slavery was over, at the same time, a number of the rights and privileges that we certainly enjoy today were not afforded to persons of colour. As a consequence of that, and as a consequence of power being concentrated in the hands of a limited few and persons who were of the white planter class, there were a number of periods of unrest, not just in Barbados, but throughout the entire Caribbean.

Now, Barbados, as many of you know, would have been referred to often as Little England. And Barbados would often boast, even today sometimes, of having the history of being called Little England. But it was called Little England, and many historians would record that. We did not have the periods of unrest that other territories did. We did not have the periods of uprising that other territories throughout the Caribbean did. We did not have the change in the colonial masters and the colonial powers that the rest of the islands had. So for Barbados, for the most part, we were an island which predominantly had the rule of the British Empire. And for that is what we have continued to boast of being Little England. I suppose we could go so far as to say that even in our behaviour today, many compare us to being not as vocal, maybe not as agitating, not wanting to create any unrest. Because when you read a lot of the historians' articles on Barbados at that time, even the slaves were described as being of a very docile class.

I remember being a student of history at the Barbados Community College. And, you know, paper after paper, we would read and we would debate about the fact that the slaves in Barbados had nowhere to run. So our behaviour was certainly shaped by the fact of our landscape. Whereas in Jamaica, you had a large land mass to be able to escape, to be able to rebel, to be able to rise up against the oppression, Barbados did not have that luxury because it was flat. And when persons chose to rise up, they could easily be captured. So our history has been a different history from the rest of the Caribbean in that respect. And in many ways, it reflects on the way that even today many of us deal with the situations that may present themselves in relation to opposition to power, opposition to the political class, opposition to people in government, and certainly wanting to maintain what has for several decades been considered to be a tranquil and very peaceful society.

That said, in 1937, Barbados was also very segregated in relation to race and also in relation to its class structures. Several black Barbadians, being labourers on the plantations, could not and were not afforded the luxuries of the planter class. And because the wealth was concentrated in the persons who owned the plantations, it made it very difficult for persons who, even though they were now free, to be able to have the benefit of several of the social services to which today we have now become accustomed. With the decline of sugar, Mr. Speaker, and the demand for sugar, because it became certainly cheaper to produce sugar in the other colonies, Barbados was obviously suffering as a result of that financially. And the level of poverty which prevailed over this country was such that there was unrest amongst the labour population of the land. There was obviously limited opportunity, because if you were a black person, it was difficult to be able to afford the luxuries of the planter class. And wages were at a ridiculous amount of thirty cents per day. So persons of colour could not, at that time, afford the social mobility that was necessary through being able to be employed in a steady job, to be able to enjoy the luxuries that were afforded to persons of the planter class.

The Barbados population was rapidly growing. Again, because we did not have all of the social programmes in place, and also because of the issues within the health care system, where it was not afforded to persons of the labour class. And the unrest in that period was heavily focused on the labour class wanting a better life and better living conditions for themselves and for their children. And I think we have to understand the context in which we place this debate, because I think these are the things that all Barbadians aspire to - to have better living conditions, to have a better way of life. And in 1937, the situation was no different, in that those persons who were of the lower socioeconomic bracket wanted to have a better life for themselves and their families.

Now, throughout history, there have always been the leaders and there have always been the followers. There have always been the people who, because of their circumstances, feel not able to be motivated to lead the charge against the persons who are oppressing them. And throughout history, we have had the persons who, by their nature or nurture, are natural born leaders, and are able to emerge in times like these to lead the people, to improve their conditions and to fight the powers that be in order to change their living circumstances. And in 1937, a man by the name of Clement Payne, who was born in Trinidad but of Barbadian parentage, came to Barbados. And he, along with other Barbadians, mobilised the labour population to be able to take a stand against the planter class at the time. He did so, bringing what perhaps many at the time may not have understood - a Marxist theoretical background - which, for many who understand it today, reflects on it and perhaps have their own views of the position that he took to be able to mobilise the people to fight the oppression. But regardless of what views you hold, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that this was a man who came to Barbados and who was on a mission to make life better for Barbadians. And he went across the country speaking to the people and trying to mobilise them to rise up against the planter class.

What led to the climax, in a sense, which led to the actual disturbances in 1937, is that the planter class at the time, the elite of this country, felt that he was creating disturbances which would result in the instability of this country, and in turn, no doubt, result in their own social and economic instability. And as a result of which, they sought not only to arrest Clement Payne, but also to go further to seek to deport him.

Now I draw reference to what, throughout history, we have seen when persons stand up to fight for the oppressed. And we have many examples, whether South Africa, the United States, even within the Caribbean - we have several people who have stood up to fight for the rights of workers and to fight for the rights of persons who themselves may not be able to fight for themselves. And on each occasion, you have a situation where the persons who hold political power or the persons who are being opposed often try to discredit the individual or individuals who stand up for the rights of the workers or the people in that particular country. And oftentimes those persons who hold political power and those persons who are the oppressors often believe that they have a legitimate right to continue to oppress, and also to suppress persons who they consider to be of lesser value or lesser importance in the society.

History has also shown that when people come together for a common cause, and those persons do so sometimes peacefully, or even not peacefully - sometimes people have to die for a cause, and people have died for a cause; sometimes people protest and things change in a country - but the fundamental basis, Mr. Speaker, is that when people stand up, regardless of where they have been in the history of the world, that change does in fact come about. And I believe that is one of the fundamental lessons that we can learn from the 1937 uprising: that change comes, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, when you become a part of the change that you want to see. And therefore, I applaud the efforts of those who would have been at the forefront of the 1937 disturbances, because given the circumstances and the climate that I have just outlined, it would no doubt have been difficult to mobilise not only the workers, but to mobilise even persons who were sympathetic to the cause, who may have had a little more to lose by standing by those persons who were standing up for what they believed in. And for that I believe that we must commend those persons who have gone before us.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I believe that this debate allows us to do is not only to reflect on 1937 and to reflect in such a way that we ask ourselves some questions, even about the reference to the 1937 riots, as some people may refer to it - some people refer to it as a rebellion. Depending on which side you sit, then the narrative or the description of what happened in 1937 takes on a different perspective. Some people refer to it as a revolution. I know there are persons, for instance, in the climate change movement, Mr. David [Inaudible.], who takes the view, as I do, that it was more of an uprising of the people. And then when we put it in a perspective where we are trying as well to empower our people to understand that they were doing nothing wrong, when you use the word uprising to fight the struggle of the oppression that existed at that time, it connotes a different meaning than saying that this was just a riot and people were looting and burning down the place and fighting and people were being killed. But when you say uprising in the context of empowerment, it connotes a totally different meaning, not only to our young people, but to the persons who understand what that means to our people. And so I believe that in educating the public and the rest of the world about what happened in 1937, the word uprising is important.

I remember watching a play at the University of the West Indies where the Clement Payne period around the disturbances was depicted through drama. And I commend those who were responsible for the play. But I will go one step further, Mr. Speaker, in saying that - and I have said it before - I do believe that when we speak about recording our history, we have to be mindful that recording our history is not only through drama. It is also through film. And if you were not there to see the play, you have missed it, because you cannot now go anywhere to find the recording of that, whether for simply watching the play or for archival purposes. And I think that while we may record it for the dramatisation effect, I am suggesting that perhaps we need to make a film of it as well, so that we move to the next level. Because we record things all the time, but as you can appreciate, we have a film industry that is certainly blossoming. And I think that these periods of our history, we as Barbadians have to capture. We have to be mindful that we must not distort it, and that the person who is certainly responsible for doing it has a responsibility to ensure that the persons who were part of the struggle are properly credited for their role during that uprising.

So I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps we move in the direction where we provide persons with the research abilities - because, remember, a number of the persons who were around in 1937 are getting older, and a number of those persons may also be gripped by Alzheimer's and may forget what happened during that period. And therefore, before we find ourselves in a position where we cannot recount what would have happened during that period, I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have to pay urgent attention to this particular area and ensure that the history is recorded. I have said it before about various events that have taken place in our political landscape, and I will say it again in relation to this part of our history, which not only relates to those disturbances, but there were a number of things that happened as a result of that disturbance that resulted in a number of the political figures that on both sides we champion today. And I think those are the stories and the lessons that have to be told, if only we take the moment to capture what has actually transpired and the importance of how those struggles have actually led to the transition of Barbados and Barbados' development.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to spend a bit of time too on the issue of the distorting of history. And I know my colleague on this side would have addressed it, but I feel - and I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central when he was speaking - I do believe that again, regardless of which side we may sit, we have a responsibility to give credit where credit is due.

Now, when I was reading through this resolution, it struck me that at the core of this resolution were some things that we had to put in perspective. And one of those things, Mr. Speaker, is not only the people who played a part in this uprising, but in terms of what actually occurred as a result of the actual uprising in 1937. It struck me, Mr. Speaker, that we could not have this debate without speaking to the fact that after the 1937 uprising, not only were political parties formed in this country, but the Barbados Labour Party, then called the Barbados Progressive League, was formed by the late Sir Grantley Herbert Adams. And it is important to note that, Mr. Speaker, because the late Sir Grantley Adams is the founding father of the Barbados Labour Party. But he is not just the founding father of the Barbados Labour Party alone. He played a very pivotal role in the 1937 disturbances as well and in laying the foundation in this country for what was to follow in relation to the trade union movement of this country. So not only did he play a role in relation to the formation of the first political party and the first black political party, but also he played a role in relation to being the first black president of the Barbados Workers' Union.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because we have a responsibility to lay the facts as they are. We have had a situation where, coming out of the 1937 disturbances, the Trade Union Act was passed in 1939. That is an important and significant thing. The legislation was passed to protect the workers of this country and to allow the persons who would have participated in the protest for the future. Now, I heard the Honourable Member in his introduction speak to the fact that the Democratic Labour Party's legacy is such that they went on to pass a slew of legislation and that the Barbados Labour Party would have been opposed to some provision on picketing in the legislation. And therefore we should not claim, it would seem, any credit for giving birth to the trade union movement in this country. And I sat there again wondering, as I am sure many on the outside who know the history, if we do not have a greater responsibility to come to this chamber with the facts. We cannot distort the facts. We have a responsibility to tell the people as it is and to say that the same Barbados Labour Party in whose bosom the labour movement would have been nurtured would then have an issue with provisions relating to the picketing of workers in this country. I do not want to say that it is untruthful, Mr. Speaker, but the record shows that has never been the position of the Barbados Labour Party. And if, Mr. Speaker - and I know the rules of this House allow for documents to be laid which would contradict what I am saying - therefore, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about good governance, I think that we have a responsibility to ensure that when the record seeks to be distorted or persons are challenged, when the historical record is put on the table, that the facts are laid before the chamber, because it cannot be allowed to go out to all and sundry that a man who fought for the rights of workers in this country and who worked with others in the Barbados Progressive League at the time to mobilise workers could

then turn around and Barbados Labour Party members would then oppose provisions relating to picketing.

But I understand, Mr. Speaker, that if those on the other side have the facts, perhaps they should intervene. I will sit down and allow them to lay the facts. But when the opportunity arose, Mr. Speaker, they did not lay the facts. And therefore, as far as I am concerned, I am putting it to this country that the Barbados Labour Party, under Sir Grantley Adams, as it was then the Barbados Progressive League, has never had an issue with picketing or allowing persons to picket. So they need to clarify that.

And I want to go on record, Mr. Speaker, because Honourable Members would like to jump past Sir Grantley Adams and sail down the road towards the late Errol Barrow. They would like us to jump past several years of progression in this country so that they can tout the legacy of Errol Barrow. And I have no difficulty speaking to the legacy of the late Errol Barrow. But what I have a problem with, Mr. Speaker, is the distortion of facts and distorting the record of history in this country.

Now, it is true that when the Trade Union Act would have been passed, it did not only provide for the right for persons to picket. And I think that when members on the other side want to pull out provisions out of legislation, they need to read the entire legislation, because it also spoke to the intimidation of workers. It spoke to the fact that offences were created under the legislation where employers sought to intimidate workers who wanted to affiliate with unions, who wanted to participate in union activity. And you know what is interesting is that today we have situations where when industrial action takes place in this country, you can hear the record - we can hear persons speaking to the fact that their ministries have been asked who are the individuals who protested. So when the Democratic Labour Party seeks to mention the Trade Union Act and to cast aspersions on the character of the Barbados Labour Party, they need to perhaps read the legislation carefully, because sometimes the fingers start to point back at you.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that those on the other side are rattled, and that is the normal course that these debates take. But I believe the record must show the history of what took place in this country if we are to be truthful. In terms of what happened in the 1937 uprising, apart from giving birth to the trade union movement and playing a fundamental part in being the president of the first union in this country, it is important that Clement Payne never lived to see what he had, in a sense, given birth to materialise. But a lot of times the people who actually are the most vocal and who lead the revolution sometimes never get to see their hard work actually come to fruition. And I think that is something that we must certainly continue to give credit to him for.

There were also persons at the time - Clennell Wickham - who would have come back from, I believe it was the British Army. And because of his writings at the time about what was happening in the country and his passion for seeing what was going on with his people, he wanted to see a different Barbados. And he was one of the writers who would also have influenced Sir Grantley, who was also there putting forward the views of Clement Payne and who himself played a pivotal role in advancing the cause of the workers at that critical time in our history. And again, I say that we have to continue to salute the persons who have laid the foundation. Of those three persons that I mentioned, only two of them are national heroes. And perhaps that may be - I know we cannot give national hero awards to everybody - but I think that we must find a way to recognise the contribution of the persons who were part of that struggle in some way, because they all played a part in mobilising the people at that particular point in time. And it was not that the union and the political -

The birth of the union rather than the birth of the political parties in this country were the only things that came out of that movement. We also saw what I consider to be an emphasis on the recommendations which came out of the Moyne Commission, because the British responded by setting up a commission led by Lord Moyne to look into what were the causes of the actual uprising. And of all of the recommendations that came out, it was emphasized over and over that the poor social conditions in the country at the time led to the uprising. The conditions, the inequality in this society is what led to the actual uprising. It then meant that persons like Sir Grantley and later the late Errol Barrow would have been the persons who no doubt would have been shaped and continue to be shaped by what would have come out of the Moyne Commission. And it would have shaped not only them, but it shaped many others in terms of wanting to see an improvement in the living conditions and the standard of life in Barbados.

But Sir Grantley Adams went on to emphasize education and that it was important to educate your children as a way out of poverty. I can recall from my own experience through my grandparents who were labourers on the plantation, that they emphasized through my father and to his siblings the importance of education. They didn't have a lot, but where they lived in St. John, they made sure that everybody in the household was educated in some way to be able to make a better life for themselves and their families. And I, fortunately, am the product of a generation that took the education, made the most of it, didn't kick down the ladder after, but allowed me to be educated, to be able to make a difference to my country.

So it started with the movement in 1937 of those brave men and women who would have been at the forefront of change. And I have grown up hearing about Errol Barrow stating that there should never be another

cane blade in Barbados and leading the argument towards the fact that we needed to focus more on education. And I say both Sir Grantley and Errol Barrow understood the importance of education in respect of social mobility in this country because they came out of an understanding of what the 1937 uprising meant to them. And I think that is important, that we must always remember that education was the key to social mobility. And even today in this society, it remains key to allowing persons who may not have the means to be able to send their children overseas or to go to university, to be able, through free education, to be able to have access to education, to be able to improve themselves.

Now, I will get into the strain away from the Barrow legacy later, but my point is simple, Mr. Speaker, that the foundation was laid in relation to an understanding by these persons who later emerged as political leaders of the importance of education to this Barbadian society.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the 1937 riots laid the foundation, I believe, for what was to come and what would have shaped many of the leaders of this country in the post-uprising period, if we want to call it that. They understood, as did the Moyne Commission, the importance of social programmes to be able to move people from one socio-economic bracket to the other. They understood the importance of giving persons the right to vote, as did Sir Grantley Adams then move on to do. Because not only was the property qualification removed eventually, but we went to full adult suffrage in this country under Grantley Adams. And that is important, Madam Deputy Speaker, because it didn't just take the Moyne Commission to recognise that we had to do these things in this country.

So Grantley Adams gave evidence before the Moyne Commission and in his presentation to them, when he was asked about the reasons why we had found ourselves in this country in a position where we would have such an uprising, that was the critical issue that he put on the table. The poor social and working conditions of the labour class, the inequality in this society, the concentrated wealth in the hands of a few. And I know for many of you, when you hear that, if you did not know we were talking about the 1937 riots, you would probably think that this is the Barbados today. Because a number of those things still exist in our society. A number of those things are still happening and a number of those things still concern our people - not that they don't believe that we have made progress, but there is concern, particularly today as we are in the midst of industrial action across the country, that a number of the issues that would have led to the same uprising in 1937 now still present themselves in 2015. And that has to be of concern to each and every parliamentarian in this chamber. I believe it is of concern to almost every Barbadian in this country who understands what is happening across this country.

These signs and these symptoms are there as they were in 1937. When people stand up for what they believe in, they are called agitators. They are the protesters. They are making noise. You even hear them saying that you are choking and robbing, trying to rob the Government. You hear all kinds of allegations thrust upon the people who rise up, who take a stand for what they believe in, to fight a cause for the people of this country. You hear the allegations now cast on them as though they are the real troublemakers and not the people who are creating the trouble in the first place.

Now I take offence even today when I hear that it is the youthfulness, the youthful exuberance that is causing us to move away from the good values and the principles that would have pre-existed the trade union movement. Because I want to remind this chamber that all of the persons who fought in the Labour Movement in 1937 were under the age of 40. Check the facts. All of the persons who fought and who protested against the injustices in this country were under the age of 40. From Clement Payne to Grantley Adams, all of them. So if we have a problem with youth today, well, the ones who like to spout the history need to go and read the history books. Because sometimes the people who are young get frustrated by the people who should know better, not doing any better or doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. And they get tired of it because they themselves want better for their country.

So I believe history has a way of teaching us things. There are some things from history you take, there are some things that you reflect on, but there are also some very good lessons to be learned from history that would teach this present administration perhaps how best to be able to deal with the industrial relations in this country in the present day. Because we have a level of disrespect, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the trade union movement that comes from the very top in this land - when you can hear the comments that are hurled at the people who stand up for the rights of workers.

And let me be very clear, because I have laid the history that the Barbados Labour Party started off the trade union movement. So for those who want to say that Barbados Labour Party members support the movement of the union to protest on behalf of workers, or workers being treated unfairly in this country, we have a history to protect. If the Democratic Labour Party wants to move from its history, we understand what our mantra means to us - a better life for our people. And therefore, whether the people stand up for Democratic Labour Party people or Barbados Labour Party people, they are standing up for the people of Barbados. And that is the only thing that members on this side stand for.

So when we stand in solidarity with workers, whether in industrial action, whether it is the haulers, whether it is the taxi men, whether it is the Transport Board workers, the shopkeepers, we do so because the Barbados Labour Party was founded and has always been a party that looks after the rights of workers in this country. And it will always be a party that will continue to look after the rights of workers in this country. When the head of this land, Madam Deputy Speaker, speaks in a way that is dismissive of the workers of this country, is dismissive of the persons who stand up for the rights of those individuals, it is an unfortunate situation that we have come to. When you are pointing the finger, sometimes the finger points back at you.

Now, I am fully supportive of this resolution and what we debate here today. But when I look at the resolution, Madam Deputy Speaker, the resolution speaks at point four to us in this chamber as a Parliament reaffirming the commitment to the high ideals of good governance and social justice for all as a lasting legacy from the 1937 disturbances. And I want to read it again. You are asking us not simply to remind Barbadians of the 1937 riots or disturbances or the uprising. You are not asking us to embrace the lessons that we have learned from what happened. You are not asking us only to appreciate the significance of July 26th. You are asking this chamber to join with you to reaffirm a commitment to the high ideals of good governance and social justice for all as a lasting legacy from the 1937 disturbance.

Now, I believe that there comes a point where you can agree, and you can agree to disagree, because I do believe that for us to agree that as a Parliament of Barbados or even as a people, that we are reaffirming a commitment to something, I would also like to think that we can point to the examples in behaviour that suggest that we are currently doing the things that we are asking the Parliament of Barbados to reaffirm. And the funny thing is that when I sit down and I really reflect on this particular provision at clause 4, I am not convinced by the learned Minister that he too is himself convinced that these principles have been achieved by the Democratic Labour Party administration, particularly in this last tenure of office. And as a result of that, Madam Deputy Speaker, as I said, I can agree - and I know other members will have difficulty with it too.

I am sure that good governance would have to be reflected in behaviour by the current administration that not only suggests good governance, but as its Manifesto professed in the 2013 election, that it should also be good honest government. And I don't know if it was an error on the part of the clerical staff, I don't know if it was an oversight. But what I do know is the principles - the four principles that the Democratic Labour Party continues to recite in relation to its period of governance in this country. Good honest government is one. But it doesn't appear in this document that we are asking this Parliament to reaffirm. It only speaks to good governance. Now, I don't know where the honest has gone.

And I know if I start to talk about good governance, we can be here for a very long time. But what I will say, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that good governance is something that came out - was a principle rather - that came out of the period of the 1937 uprising. And I say that, Madam Deputy Speaker, because it was important to those then, as it should be to us now, that having been the oppressed class, that we, when we do find ourselves in a position of holding power and representing the people who look like us and the people who have struggled with us to be here, that we certainly have a sense of responsibility to ensure that there is in fact good governance or good honest government. But that nowadays, Madam Deputy Speaker, is questionable by this administration.

If it is that the administration would like us to say that they would like to now commit to these things, well, that would mean that we are wiping the slate clean and that they have accepted that they have not been following what they have said and that perhaps now they will do things differently. But good governance, to me, Madam Deputy Speaker, means that when issues are raised by the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party relating to waste-to-energy in this country and we cannot get a ministerial statement by any Minister, whether involved or not, but yet today we can hear the Minister of Finance come and talk about a meeting that happened about three or four weeks ago and wants to clear the air, but we cannot get a ministerial statement or even an utterance from this administration as to whether there has been good governance in relation to the execution of the Cahill contract. We are not getting it.

And for those rumbling on the other side, who are a part of the Cabinet and who did not see the agreement, they should really not utter anything, not say a word, because they didn't say anything. And an Attorney General, Madam Deputy Speaker, who didn't sign off on the document, who himself cannot say whether or not he saw the document himself, should also perhaps not utter anything. So good governance is something, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we have to seriously discuss in this chamber. Because it is clear that when public funds are at stake and a project can go from US$240 million to over US$600, US$700 million - over US$700 million - and not a Minister, not a member of the Parliament of the Government of Barbados will come out and say anything, then I am not so sure that we have learned the lesson as a Parliament in relation to what should be the issue of good governance in this country as a principle.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when things come out that there are no environmental assessments done as yet, but contracts have been signed off on, memoranda of

understanding have gone through, and the residents of St. Thomas in Vaucluse, in whose neighbourhood this project is intended to be built, have not been consulted about how they feel about this particular project being placed in their geographical location - I say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have not learned the lessons of good governance that came out of the people who fought in this country to get us to this point today.

When, Madam Deputy Speaker, we find ourselves in a situation where there has been no denial that Cahill Energy has chosen to sell Cahill Energy Barbados and to use the funds to promote its own project, we have not heard anything. And then, Madam Deputy Speaker, I can hear the sort of vocal comments that these things happened before and therefore they are happening now. So what is the difference? I say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, once again - good governance. We have not learned the lesson from it, because we cannot come here and simply agree to a resolution and not ask ourselves if, when we read particularly clause four, we are affirming a commitment to something that does not now exist. And it is not me asking it, Madam Deputy Speaker - it is the people of this country that are asking it. It is the people who have become disillusioned with the political process that are asking it time and time again. Because these are the things, the principles that came out of the 1937 riots. These are the things upon which our forefathers wanted to build this country to make a better Barbados.

But if it is that in 2015 we find ourselves in a situation where manifestos mean nothing anymore, that when you make a promise to the people, as members on the other side have said that they made a promise to the people through their manifestos, but then it is no longer a promise once you get to Government, then we have a problem in this country because it means that your word is no longer your bond. It means that we cannot take anything that you come to the electorate and say as being something that when you get to Government you are actually going to implement. It means that the Freedom of Information Act that this administration has spoken about time and time again - Madam Deputy Speaker, even the late Member for St. John spoke about it as well, and on which he fought an election in 2008, that he was going to clean up the corruption in this country and bring open and honest government to the people of Barbados - it hasn't happened.

And then the people of this country realised that integrity legislation was part of that same mantra, to change the way in which people worked with the Government and participated in Government. And now you have a situation where the integrity legislation is passed just before the last election. But what happens? It isn't proclaimed, ma'am. Not one member on the other side can say that they have laid any information regarding their financial circumstances before this chamber - what they came to office with, what they acquired when they came to office, or what they may leave office with, ma'am.

So when we reaffirm a commitment to something that does not exist, you cannot educate us and then ask us to agree to something that we well know is not currently existing. You have to say to the people of this country, let us now commit to this, because it is not now existing.

And Madam Deputy Speaker, it is unfortunate that even simple things in Auditor General reports that highlight the inefficiencies in our administrative system of government, that highlight the inefficiencies in departments, that highlight the wastage - that even those things that would bring better governance in this country, not even those things, ma'am, do we seem to be working towards, and we are all on the same page. Those are the things that I believe coming out of the struggle of 1937 meant something to the people who fought that struggle. That it wouldn't just be a concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, but that other people in the society who helped to build this society would benefit in some way from their labour as well.

So when you have situations, ma'am, where the people of this country are promised that small and medium-sized enterprises will benefit from a 40 per cent procurement policy to give them business in this country, and it doesn't happen, ma'am, it is a problem. Because then you start to realise that other people are getting the work in this country, and the very people who were promised that allocation would specially be made for them to allow them to benefit can now not find themselves in a position where they can do so. When it is that the Procurement Committee cannot get off the ground, we ask ourselves, where is the good governance? Because those are the things that our people are asking. And through us, ma'am, we have a responsibility to ask the Government if they have learned the lessons of 1937. Because unless you can not just invoke the legislation that was passed by the Democratic Labour Party after the foundation was laid by the Barbados Labour Party, then it means that you cannot yourselves point to the elements of good governance that should exist in this country.

That is the unfortunate thing. It means that when those who protest feel as though they are victimised, whether as workers, whether as independent contractors, service providers, feel that they are now the target of victimisation, it means, ma'am, that there is no good governance, that we cannot commit to something that does not now exist. That there is no greater responsibility being placed on this administration to ensure that it gets back to the principles upon which it has promised the people of this country.

Because, ma'am, we have seen the Public Accounts Committee meet. We have even heard information come out of the Public Accounts Committee. We have seen attempts to almost muzzle the Public Accounts Committee. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party came to office in 2013 and said to the people of this country it would not only undertake a public education exercise to raise appreciation of the importance of the Public Accounts Committee's role, but it also would do so amongst the PAC members, the parliamentarians, the press and the public in general. That is at page 51 of the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto for 2013, which means that the Democratic Labour Party understands the importance of enabling the people of this country to participate in democracy. They understand it. But the difficulty, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that they continue to have a difficulty implementing the things that they know to be right. That is the problem, ma'am.

I had the benefit recently of attending a conference in Peru through the Organisation of American States. It was a meeting of young parliamentarians from across Latin America and the Caribbean. And one of the things that was fundamental to this meeting that I took away from it was the fact that in other governments in Latin America, the thrust is towards enabling the people to participate in the democracy. There is a recognition that 30 people in this Parliament alone will not always have the wherewithal and the knowledge base to make decisions that will affect not only this generation, but future generations, ma'am.

They understand that good governance requires that not only is there participation from the younger people in the country who are going to benefit from whatever the policies are - or not benefit, as the case may be - from an administration, they understand that people need to participate in decision-making as well. It is not that the people run the country, but sometimes the politicians have to stop and listen to the people to understand what is the tone of the country at any particular point in time. So whether it is that a new piece of legislation comes up and they provide facilities to allow persons to be able to write in and to express their views, or if it is that the committees of Parliament - or in some of their cases, Congresses - actually invite people from the public to come to meetings to be able to give their input about legislation that is going to affect them, that is what other democracies are doing.

And I maintain, ma'am, that you cannot educate a people and then expect them to play stupid. You cannot educate a people, give them all of the technology that is available to them, and then believe that you can stifle not only their imagination, their creativity, their ability to think, their ability to want better for their people and for their families, ma'am. And if we simply reflect on the riots and we reflect on the uprising that took place in 1937, we would understand the importance of people playing a part in what is going to shape their lives. We would understand that the policies that are made in here affect

the people on the outside. That we know we can't come here and do random things and expect that if we don't explain it to the people, they're going to understand what it is that we're asking them to do. If it is that we have a situation where the Prime Minister doesn't talk sometimes to the people of this country and they beg him to talk. And when he talks, well, that's another story. But the point is that you want engagement. People want engagement by their political leaders and their political parties. They want to feel that a sense of touch and feel. They want to understand that you feel the pulse of what they are going through. They don't want to feel that you are so remote from them that as you govern, you have not reflected on how the policies are going to impact on them. Ma'am, that is not good governance. That is not. If those are the things that we are subscribing to now, ma'am, we are going to be very close to a 1937 uprising again. Because, ma'am, I feel the pulse of the people. If members on the other side do not, I know the Labour Party members feel the pulse of the people and the signals are there. I want you to understand, in 1937, the people, the labourers, did not have guns. And our learned Attorney General is very quick to tell us in this country that the people have guns. He's very concerned about the crime rising in this country. And so I want, Madam Deputy Speaker, for us to be very sensitive and listen to what is happening across this country. We have to listen to the people because it is not business as usual. The concern about the rise in murder rates in this country, the rise in robberies. It concerns me, Madam Deputy Speaker, because I consider myself to be one that could go anywhere in this country. But I feel tension as I go across Barbados, ma'am. I feel the tension. They tell you when you counsel, Madam Deputy Speaker, members on the other side can make light of it. But again, the same things that happen overseas - understand, people watch and they see. And we have to be mindful that if we do not engage our people, this is a different Barbadian society that we are living in. It is a different size of our population. People are more educated than they were in 1937. And there is a lot more at stake for the black Barbadians in this country who have struggled from 1937 to acquire what they have today. So if you all don't understand that, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an unfortunate state that we find ourselves in. Members can make light of this. They can call all kind of gangs, they can call all kind of things in this country. They could accuse me of anything, ma'am, but I can only speak what I believe. And the same way Clement Payne went through it, the same way they accused Sir Grantley Adams of all kinds of things, ma'am. I am in good company if members on the other side want to accuse me of anything, because I will continue to speak for the pulse of the people. I can't change my course because I have, from the time I came to these chambers, I have always spoken one way. And it is for the

people of this country. Always for the people of this country. And I will continue to do that, ma'am. I will continue to do that.

But I say, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have to have a sense of urgency as it relates to the current climate in this country. We are living in dangerous times. We are living in different times. And consultation cannot be a one-way process. Sometimes members of the other side have to listen to the people. Even if you do not agree with them, consultation has to be the way forward. You don't get consultation by casting aspersions on people who rise up and say that you may not be doing what they want you to do or what is in the best interest of the country. That is not the way to get consultation. That is not good governance. You can't dismiss people and expect that industrial action is going to go away. All you do is agitate the situation even more. And I would not want, Madam Deputy Speaker, to see Barbados in a situation of 1937 ever again. But what I do appreciate is that the people have a voice. And as Clement Payne would have said back then, agitate, demonstrate, but do not violate. And that has continued to be the position, too, of the Barbados Labour Party. That has continued to be the position of the Barbados Labour Party. We have led peaceful protests, ma'am, in this country, whether it was the unjustified municipal solid waste tax or not. We have led peaceful protest - protest with Barbadians, right-thinking Barbadians of all walks of life, walking with us and taking the fight to this government. We were not just making noise, ma'am, because if we were making noise, the legislation would not have been repealed. And that, Madam Deputy Speaker, is where good governance comes. Because the people spoke up for what they believed in. It was a bad tax. And the people of this country said to the government it was a bad tax. They agitated, they demonstrated, but they did not violate. And for those who want to talk about cracking heads and shooting people and attempting to make it seem as though we are on a mission in the Labour Party to topple not only the government, but to create disturbance across the land, I will say this, Madam Deputy Speaker. The planter class did the same thing, ma'am. They created the impression that those who stood up for what they believed in were creating disturbance in the country. So we are accustomed in the Labour Party to the behaviour of the Democratic Labour Party. Once you speak up for what you believe in, you are branded as a troublemaker. You are branded as a troublemaker, ma'am. But I say to you, ma'am, I remain proud of the legacy of not just the Barbados Labour Party, but the role that the Barbados Labour Party would have played and other pioneers in the movement in fighting for what I consider to be the legacy that has been left behind - freedoms. It is something, ma'am, that I think that we not just need to reflect on, but we need to act on. And if it is that the times today reflect a situation that tells us that things in relation to good governance need to be addressed urgently, then I think that we need to address these things sooner rather than later, ma'am.

If it is that we are being asked to reaffirm social justice for all, ma'am, the exercise I heard this morning was one of touting programmes of the Democratic Labour Party. Some of them are phantom, too, which, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would love members of the other side to join me in St. Michael South so that I can take them on a journey to meet with some of the people who are not benefiting from the social justice programmes and the social welfare programmes. I would like to take them across Barbados, ma'am, to meet some of the people who are not benefiting or feeling as though the resources are trickling down to them. I would like them, ma'am, to journey with me to appreciate what the average Barbadian is going through. Because when you have people who today still cannot get housing accommodation, ma'am, people who are told - and I have been told also by the National Housing Corporation - they do not have the housing available despite the requests for housing, despite me telling the people, the politicians should not be able to send you into NHC to get a house. Go and fill out the form, follow the procedure. Because there is a way to do it, ma'am. The people must be able to feel that there is equality in the distribution of our housing resources. You are playing with people's lives, ma'am. And therefore, if we are being asked to reaffirm a commitment to social justice for all, social justice entails that people who genuinely need help, that those assessments are made and the appropriate resources are applied to those persons, ma'am. But the same conditions and the same concerns that existed in 1937 in relation to housing has taken almost a different form in 2015, ma'am. We see housing projects across Barbados with overgrown bush, broken windows. The project starts, they stop, they restart, they stop. Housing that was intended for low-income people. Low-income people cannot now afford to get the houses. That is a problem, ma'am. That is where the social injustices come in a society where the people that you say - whether on the political platforms, in the manifestos, or you stand in Parliament here and say there is funding available to ensure that no person, that we are going to house every last person, that no person is left behind. We heard all that when it suited the Democratic Labour Party. But the reality is that the people are getting left behind because the houses are not occupied and we are not hearing from the relevant minister or any of the ministers in whose constituencies those houses are or the units are. What is happening in relation to the distribution of the housing accommodation and the housing stock to the people who are the most vulnerable in this country? The price of housing that was supposed to be for the low-income people is now a middle-income, high-income earner qualification, ma'am. You cannot come out of 1937 appreciating that these things which result in social injustice in a country lead to the disturbances in that country which cause people to rise up,

and then continue to ignore it. You cannot compound the issue with the rising cost of living with taxes after taxes - coming in the last budget with over $200 million in taxes - and expect that the social injustices are not continuing, ma'am. That is the reality because it becomes more and more difficult daily for persons to be able to earn a living.

The difference between now and 1937 is vast. Yes, ma'am. But the conditions under which people are operating, the complaints that people are having in relation to what they are earning, what they're able to do with the money that they're earning, how far the money will stretch, ma'am, how the taxes are breaking their backs - creates the social injustice and the social unrest that we are seeing in this country, ma'am. And before - or rather instead of - addressing the issues, the welfare vote gets cut, further depleting the resources, in some cases nominal, that people who would normally be able to access a little money when the week comes can now have access to, ma'am. When in this country people see accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few and they don't have access to that wealth or they don't have access to any, you create more social injustice in the country. When the legacy of Errol Barrow is now a thing of the past and you can now move away comfortably as a political party from the legacy of free education and free tertiary education to now distort history in such a way that Errol Barrow said education would be free, but he never said it would last forever - the social injustices continue, ma'am. Because the people who benefit from education to be able to change their lives and their children's lives now feel as though they can no longer benefit from the mobility that is necessary to take them from one level to the next, ma'am. And I understand that members on the other side are uncomfortable hearing these things. I understand that because when you are promised you are getting money for bursaries and then you are told by the Minister of Finance to find the money and then you are embarrassed as a result of it, I understand why you would be uncomfortable with it. But if you continue along this current trajectory, the social injustices are going to continue and the social unrest will continue, ma'am.

And when you look at the situation in 1937 where health care was not accessible to the general population, the labourers, and you look at today and you realise that now we have had a reversal or a distortion now in the accessibility to health care. There are some people, ma'am, because of the shortages in the hospital. And if we speak about shortages, let us be fair - you may go to the hospital, as I had someone go, a child go just two weeks ago to have an operation for a hernia. The child didn't eat from the night before. Got there for 7.00 in the morning. And it was around 10.00 I got a message from the mother saying to me that the hospital did not have the medication to deal with the child. They had to source the medication in order for the surgery to continue. And they did not know if they may have to postpone the surgery because they were not sure if they would be able to access it, ma'am. Those are the things, ma'am, in this country that create the injustices in a society - that when the government doesn't find the resources to be able to take all of the people, take the most vulnerable in a country, and place them in the safety net, unrest is created. The people in 1937, those labourers, didn't have access to basic health care. Fortunately, we built on the lessons of 1937. And we may have to tweak along the way how we do things. But we must be mindful that the rumblings are there. That there are people out there who go to the hospital and, because of the shortages, cannot access the health care. There are many who go, ma'am, who are going for operations. And when I see them months later, they haven't gotten the medication or the operation. And what they say to me is, if they can pay to get it, that's the only way they're going to get it. So they're put on a waiting list and they wait and they wait, ma'am. So while we may not have a situation today where you can't get health care, we have a situation now where health care exists but now there's a reversal in terms of whether they're going to have the facilities or the services available to the persons who require the care. And that, ma'am, is creating a situation where the people who have will find a way to pay for health care. And the ones who don't will continue to wait or be given the turnaround. It is happening in the educational system. Those who can afford to pay will send their children overseas. The ones who can't will delay the education of their children. Or they have to find other means now to figure out what they're going to do with their children when they leave school.

So, ma'am, we have come a long way. But we do, in reflecting on the 1937 riots, have to reflect on where we are going as a country. Because if we cannot pay for the things to which we have fought to get this far to have acquired, then we need to have a conversation with the public regarding it. If the St. John Polyclinic will not be fixed for the people in St. John as promised - it was June, I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker - we heard it was supposed to be open, much song and dance. We heard about the social injustice of the Barbados Labour Party in not allowing the people of St. John to get a polyclinic. But the fact remains that they're supposed to get a polyclinic. And the same government that is critical of us is now giving the same people the runaround, creating injustice yet again, ma'am, in this country. That is the difficulty that we are facing, ma'am, in this country. And I know, Madam Deputy Speaker, I know your heart pains you because you, like me, would like to know that my people in St. John get their accommodation, their medical situation sorted out. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is not good enough for us to come here, talk about these things, talk about the uprising, and not reflect on the current situation in this country. To do so is to serve an injustice to the people of this country, who I know, ma'am, understand that things are not the way they are supposed to be. And each of us has a responsibility, Madam Deputy Speaker, to ensure that the

legacy and the hard work that has been laid by the persons who gave of their lives, who were injured in the 1937 riots, does not go down in vain. We also have a responsibility now that the people in this Parliament resemble each other. We may not believe what each other believes, but we do have the same history. And I do feel that now that we are in a position to shape our own destiny, that we have a responsibility to not only tell the correct stories, to not only recognise the people who have gone before, but to be respectful of the people who will come and challenge us and who may share a different view to what we have when we set foot in this place. We cannot continue the disrespect of those who rise up and who have a different view. And we cannot see these things happening and believe that people are just going to sit quietly and do nothing.

So if it is that we need to educate our people about the legacy of the riots, then, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe that time has come. I am sure the Minister of Culture, who continues to want us to believe that the cultural industries legislation has now created all of these incentives for the persons in the film sector and that we've gone past the stage now where we're just registering the practitioners in the industry - and yet he remains silent on whether there's any money available to the industry to be able to record events such as the 1937 uprising. He remains very silent because there appears to be no money to do the things that the very ambitious Minister of Culture would want us to do in relation to documenting the history of this period. And I share the view that we must document it. But we deviate at the point where we are going to lead our people into a false sense of security, that there is money available to assist with the research and the documentation and the film presentation of these various periods of our history that are so important to giving the people of this country an idea of what we have been through. In every civilised society, the struggle of the people is documented through film. Barbados should be no different. And I hear the comment from the Honourable Minister - it is not that the government must fund everything. I am simply speaking to the fact that the government of this country told the people of this country there was money available to help with various projects that young entrepreneurs in the creative industries would want to embark on. If the Minister wants to go on record as saying there is now no money, as is being suggested to me by the fact that nothing is happening, then he is free to do so. But if there are avenues, then the government can also point persons in the direction to be able to get the facilitation to engage in a discussion about recording these periods in our history. And that is what needs to happen, Madam Deputy Speaker. That is what needs to happen.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I support the resolution, but as I said earlier, I have a difficulty with reaffirming something which does not currently exist. I would urge the current administration to address, as a matter of urgency, the issues of good governance, that perhaps they may need to commit to the ideals of good and honest government, and that there should be a commitment and affirmation of a position that speaks to social justice for all. But this particular resolution and what we are here today to discuss, I believe is on the wrong footing in relation to point four. And I personally will not support a position that speaks to reaffirming something which, as I have outlined, highlights a number of deficiencies in relation to the concept of good governance in this country. So I, Madam Deputy Speaker, would suggest to the Minister that he reassess the last paragraph in relation to reaffirming a commitment. We are committed to governance. We are committed to social justice for all. But to say that we are reaffirming something which I believe does not now exist is a misnomer. And I think that the Honourable Minister would do well to reflect on that particular provision because I am not so sure that it has its place in this particular resolution, ma'am.

As a final point, I note that the riots would have centred around the area of the Empire. Much has been said about a riots museum documenting the history of what would have happened during 1937. I know that there has been a different discourse that has taken place in relation to the Empire Theatre. And I would say, ma'am, that it is unfortunate that while it is not government that has proposed that they will refurbish the Empire Theatre, we find ourselves in a situation yet again where what I consider to be a national monument, a building of great historical significance, finds itself in historic Bridgetown - in an area where, thanks to the Barbados Labour Party, we would have championed the Bridgetown site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nothing is happening, ma'am, in relation to the Empire Theatre. And I think that the Honourable Minister needs to speak to this, perhaps in his wrap-up. Let us know the status of what is happening to the Empire Theatre. Given its prominence in the 1937 uprising, given its importance to Bridgetown. And I know my colleague for the City of Bridgetown would appreciate this particular intervention. Let us know what is happening. Because we cannot continue to say that these buildings are of historical significance and then we hear that developers are supposed to develop it into a beer brewery. We hear it's supposed to have a theatre. We hear all these grand plans. The Chinese at one point were supposed to develop it. And then we hear nothing. These are things, ma'am, that need to be addressed. Whether it is there or whether it is somewhere else. If it is that we are going to educate our people about what transpired during the 1937 uprising, it needs to be implemented sooner rather than later. Because there will come a point where the further deterioration of the building may leave it in a state where it is then incapable of being repaired yet again. We would have lost another monument of significance in our history. These are the things, ma'am, that I believe - when I travel, certainly other countries across the world pay particular attention to. These are the things that drive

traffic, both the tourism and also the investment into the town areas of a particular country or an island. These are the things, ma'am, that we need to focus a bit more on if we are going to make Barbados an interesting destination for tourists to want not only to come here for sea and sand, but certainly to reflect on the historical significance of a number of the things that have brought us from the struggle through the post-colonial period into independence and into modern day. We take a lot of these things for granted, ma'am, because we live it daily. But these things are of interest to a number of tourists that travel. And if we are fair in assessing our tourism products, sometimes we have a deficiency where it relates to the things that are of national interest, the things that tell the story about who we are and what we reflect, where we have come from and where we are going. And perhaps we need to look at investing in those areas in greater detail if it is that we are to make any impact or to be a force to be reckoned with in the rest of the Caribbean.

We have to be mindful of these things, ma'am, at a time when relations with Cuba are on the rise. Because in a visit to Cuba recently, ma'am, I can tell you that the situation there - they have so much history, they have so much of a story to tell, and they are at the forefront of putting themselves in a position to tell their story, which is of interest to the world, which is of interest to people who have never been there, which is of interest to people from whom a lot of the history of Cuba has been hidden. So it is not business as usual in this country. And we need to pay attention to what is happening.

All of these things and their ability to generate the revenue to pay for or to create a level platform of social programmes depends on how well, as a country and as a government, we are able to manage our resources. And our resources are not just our financial resources, but also our natural resources and our historical resources and our cultural resources. Each of them have a role to play in the future of Barbados. And I would hope that the prominence of our history would inform, and our historical advantage in some way, and our connection to being one of the only territories, too, that would have had the type of history that Barbados did, would inform a lot of what we do going forward in relation to our tourism product. We have to start to see ourselves as setting ourselves apart from the rest of the Caribbean. What is it that makes Barbados different? And it is not just going to be the way we govern, but it is also going to be the way in which we project ourselves to the rest of the world that makes us interesting to the people who want to visit the Caribbean.

And so, ma'am, I just wish to reiterate that we support the resolution in principle. We deviate on the issue of reaffirming a commitment to things that right now there are glaring examples of them not existing in public administration and in relation to the governance of this country. And I would urge the current administration not to take the comments as a criticism, but to take note of my observations, certainly of what is happening across Barbados' industrial relations as we meet today. If we had met any other time over the last couple of weeks, this debate may have just been a simple debate on the issue of the 1937 disturbances. But in the current climate in which we now find ourselves debating, the 1937 disturbances has a completely different meaning. We cannot just come here and talk about it in a historical context. We have to place it in a social context. We have to place it in a political context. Because we, unlike members on the other side, we do not live in a bubble. So when we speak, we have to speak with the sentiment being expressed to us by the people of this country, and in the hope that perhaps members on the other side will actually listen and that they may, in fact, be informed, to be able to do things differently, to be able to make a change for Barbados.

So to all those who have gone before, who played an instrumental role and a pivotal role in the transformation of Barbados, to the people who were inspired by the 1937 Rising, to the people who died, to the people who were wounded, to the people who have taken the time as historians to document what would have transpired, to the people who may be inspired to create films and documentaries to be able to capture what happened during that period, ma'am, I am grateful certainly to those who have gone before me, because when I look at those who stood for something in this country, they were shaped by the people who stood up for something. And that, for me, is what certainly motivates me in politics. To stand for something, ma'am, or you fall for everything. And with those few words, ma'am, I thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: as it relates to this day of national significance. And to make the point that unlike the last speaker who spoke, that this day has three significant points for me to speak on. One, it was a year before the death of Duncan O'Neill. Two, it was the same year that my grandfather died, Edwin Boyce, who at the time was killed by his buggy horse. And three, it was the Year of the Rat. But the honourable member for St. Michael South East made the point that the first black political party was the party formed by the Barbados Labour Party in the 1930s. But when I checked the history, that could not be true, because the first black political party would have to be one formed by Duncan O'Neill. And that was formed between 1924 and 1926. And at that time it was called the Radical Democratic League. And the history will show that he was a man of means because he was a doctor. But he devoted his time to advocating on behalf of the masses of people of Barbados and represented not only the labour class, but also fought for the rights of women in this country.

So when you get this distortion that the first black political party, as has been advocated over the years by the Barbados Labour Party, compensating and giving the impression that they are the first persons who ever represented the interests of black people in this country, one must question the motives that come from them. Because one can only come to a conclusion that the history that has been protected by the Barbados Labour Party cannot be accepted. And the last speech by the honourable member for St. Michael South East is either misleading the House or the honourable member is not educated on history as it relates to black people.

But Mr. Speaker, one must recognise that Duncan O'Neill did not have to come back to Barbados because he studied in Scotland and he won a place in the local government in Scotland. But he gave up that right to come back to Barbados to fight on behalf of the oppressed - the oppressed people of Barbados. And you can get an honourable member coming to this House and totally ignoring a national hero, just to put and place a political side to the history of Barbados. And I am asking, sir - Madam - that when we speak our history, it is about time that we get a history book that we can follow. Because when you listen to the other members on the other side, one gets the impression that the whole democratic Adams and Duncan O'Neill did not pave the way. I want to give the light to that. It was Duncan O'Neill who led the charge, and the history is there. All the honourable members had to do was just Google Duncan O'Neill and the honourable member would have seen the facts. So what you are seeing today is a continuing distortion of the history of Barbados, to project an image about the Barbados Labour Party that they cannot relate to. All they have done is connect the history of Barbados and paint a picture to give the impression that they are the ones who fought for workers' rights in this country. When in truth and in fact, it was Duncan O'Neill who was associated with the Democratic Labour Party. Because it is quite obvious it was because of his teaching that Errol Barrow and others followed and continued to fight on behalf of the masses and the oppressed people of Barbados.

But what do you get? Mr. Barrow making a mistake by going and joining Grantley Adams. And he stole the history of his uncle Duncan O'Neill. And now they will give you an impression that Duncan O'Neill - whatever he created, because he died in 1936 - and Sir Grantley Adams came on the scene with Clement Payne after people had to buy game and pin to represent Clement Payne. One gets the impression now that this is a great leader. We must be very careful. We must be very careful, because if you are going to speak ill of the O'Neills, one must recognise that they will be defended, and justifiably so. Just because we do not walk around with name tags like you all on our shoulders and associate with bad history, it does not mean that the foundation and the fight is not continuing. We do not believe in piggybacking on other people's progress to create progress for ourselves. We develop it. And one of the most interesting things in Barbados with the O'Neill clan is that they had never, never, never copied what Charles Duncan O'Neill did to get popularity. Errol Barrow did not do it. He lived in his own name. Errol Barrow lived in his own name. But there are certain groups in Barbados who have to continue using certain names and adopting certain names to carry along the political history to build a foundation in this country. But history will show that the O'Neill clan did not have to tag along to develop or to progress politically in this country.

So Mr. Speaker, we have this discussion on this day of national significance. I also heard the honourable member say that the Democratic Labour Party under my watch did nothing. Everybody knows that there are over 3 800 units, of which 2 575 must be divested at this point in time. And we in the National Housing Alliance are looking for finances to ensure that we not only divest them, but we divest them in a proper state. But we are not going to do like how the Barbados Labour Party tried to sell them in the same state and in the same condition to the poor people. We will empower the poor people by finding the necessary finances to ensure that when we deliver the units to the people, they have something to take to the bank and use as collateral so that their children can get another house. So we will not only be giving them a unit, but we will give them collateral to purchase another property. Also, we will be ensuring that those 500 lots, as per count, will be delivered to poor people. Because they talk a lot, but they do not recognise that the greatest empowerment of any person is giving them a piece of land.

And let me say this - those who do not know the history about us would always believe that the problem is the house. The problem about us is not the house. The problem is a piece of land. If you go through Barbados today, people will tell you, I can easily get a chattel house, but I do not have a spot. And that is why under this watch, we have to ensure that we find house lots to deliver to the masses of people in Barbados. And there is a belief in this country that there are a lot of lots out there that are not being used. But when one does a survey, one will recognise that the lots that are out there that are not being used are not lots that belong to poor people. They are lots that belong to the middle and the upper class who sometimes use these pieces of land as investments. So we cannot say we do not want lots in Barbados for poor people when poor people are not guilty of not utilising the lands. Wherever a poor man has a piece of land, one will recognise that land is utilised. A good example - you take the plantation tenantries. The poor people have always utilised the land. So the excuse that there are a lot of lots not being used cannot be used against the masses of people in Barbados. It has to be used within the middle class and the upper income grouping.

Everyone really wants to understand what is happening. And this belief that we must provide can solutions for poor people is a belief that you must keep poor people poor. And I am not party to that. I believe that you must empower poor people, especially through the dynamic programme by the Democratic Labour Party when they placed those 500 lots out there. That was what I call a significant piece of social policy that will help empower and alleviate the problems as they relate to housing for the poor people of Barbados.

One of the things I also observed is that if we continue to listen to the Barbados Labour Party and its supporters, this country Barbados will still be in slavery. Because the simple reason under slavery you had free shelter, free clothing, and free housing, and probably free education too, but you could not get it. But under the Democratic Labour Party, because we have empowered the people, we have put money in their pockets. And the Bible says we want people to have, not people begging. When you empower people, you empower people for them to move away from the social givens of government and allow the poor people to move in. But right now what they are saying is that you should use the money on education, stagnate the economy instead of developing the economy to develop jobs and so on. We must continue to spend all the money on education and not create work. And then they ask me why the economy is in the position it is in. It is obvious that if you segment the money in one direction and you cannot, after educating people, if you continue to spend the money on education and not on job creation, then you cannot be developing the country. So if you want a national debate, let us have a national debate. This is the right time to have it. Because you cannot come and tell me that you have educated people and made them doctors, lawyers, and everything, and those same people must continue to be dependent on the state, even though you have made them independent. Why would you make a man independent and still keep him to be dependent? And that is the biggest divide between the two political parties. Because they believe that there is nothing called independence as a soul - that there must always be the dependency. And this is why this debate is so important.

What they are also saying is that our country Barbados is too small to be on the cutting edge of technology. And I am saying no - because of our educational system, we must use our educational system to inspire people, so that the latest technology in the world, we gravitate our university students to be able to be part thereof and to join in the debate. You know what they are saying? No, that is too good for Barbados. It is too advanced. So am I to believe that we have wasted the money educating people, and when new technology comes on the market, we must say no, we cannot be part of that? But if that is so, then we would have wasted our time. I am saying that Barbados must recognise that because it is small, it cannot behave as if it is not an educated society. That Barbados will be out there challenging anybody. And that is why I believe in the consultations that we are doing on the new urban cities, et cetera - that Bridgetown should be able to match Manhattan or any of those service-oriented cities in the world. We cannot continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. We have had an educational system that has been free since the 1960s. And we must demonstrate that we have the capacity and the ability to fight alongside anybody else. That we cannot only see ourselves as down at the port loading bundles of goods, but we can accommodate queens, et cetera, and we can diversify the employment system of this country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say to you today is a day that this party must rise to its feet and recognise that we are not the political party that will tell people to keep over $19 billion in the bank at 2 per cent interest, where a man can take $7 million of investment and can grow it to $300 million and be chastised in this country. In other words, if you put your money in the bank for them to send it outside to other countries, there is no crime in that. But if a man takes his money and revolves his money, there is a big crime. Once you are developing Barbados, there is no problem. But as you are developing the economy somewhere else, everything is well. I say no to that. And I say that Barbados is a place and we are a beautiful little rock. And people must stop seeing Barbados through the eyes of 166 square miles, but recognise that we must see Barbados as just as big and much larger than many other countries when we include our exclusive economic zone.

So Madam Deputy Speaker, on this day, as we debate on this day of national significance, let us recognise that we have been grounded in a strong foundation laid for us by the Right Excellent Duncan O'Neill. And that foundation is the one that we will continue to fight for. And because he was a man, he did not only fight for himself - he fought also for women. And because he was rich, he did not fight for himself - he also fought on behalf of the oppressed people. He could have remained in Scotland where he won a seat, but he was so tied up in fighting for the values and the upliftment of the masses of people in Barbados that he came back home to fight on behalf of his people. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am appreciative for your indulgence. Thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for St. Michael East. Thank you.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Madam Deputy Speaker, this debate has gone wide. When people normally talk about Christmas, they spend a lot of time talking about Jesus Christ. Some of them talk about Guy Fawkes; they talk about many different historic events. But we have had some superficiality in a number of contributions, not understanding the rich, in-depth nature of this debate - how

important it is, not so much to good governance in terms of structure of governance, but in governance being underpinned by the clarity of a philosophy. A Pan-Africanist and socialist philosophy in which I believe that both dispensations are grounded. In these thoughts, individual perspectives, attitudes and efforts to apply policies and programmes might divert somewhat and might even contradict the basic principles. And I would love to hear the words continue to be echoed in these chambers about the importance of social democratic principles in the development of Barbados.

What I have observed, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that anytime we abandon these sacred groundings, we go astray. And it is very difficult for us to come back on track. And while I today understand the temptation to go partisan, I will hope that I can remain within the guidelines of an objective analysis of the importance of this tribute to some of the most distinguished and remarkable ancestors in our history.

This is so much of an important day as it has been so classified. We are talking about a national day of significance. And you ask yourself, what is so significant about this? Some people do not even understand, know, or care about any 26th of July in the society in which we live. Some people do not want to talk anything about what is described by the best brains in the Caribbean - not just Barbados - as an important watershed in our history. And the ignorance really is perpetuated because if you do not know what preceded the actual date of 26th July, then you would not be able to understand the importance of the historic date. You cannot start to analyse the importance of the 26th of July with little knowledge of everything that preceded the 26th of July.

And if you go back to the early days - 100 years, because we take that as an important landmark - I say 100 years because I personally, and I am no exception, but I personally could only speak for myself, that is subjective. I personally do not believe that the correct date that we ought to identify and measure those 100 years is 1834. 1834 is a statutory provision in the belly of the beast that speaks about our freedom. 1834. But the caveat that was imposed on us then - probably with the exception of Antigua - the caveat was we must have four or six years of apprenticeship. So the effectiveness of the abolition continued. Four years, in some cases six. But four years after the so-called paper emancipation, we continue in our schools to talk about this - all is in 1834. 1834. What?

And it is not about Barbados alone. When you talk about any other heroes in Barbados, you point to all the British people - in some cases people that never even went to Barbados in their lifetime. But when you want to talk about the greatness of us as a people, you can only find the greatness in 166 square miles. Explain how great we are. But all the greatness of the non-black people will point to William Wilberforce. We even talk - even people talk about Columbus. And people should be ashamed to talk about Columbus because Columbus did not feel that any of us should be free. Columbus thought that we were also subhuman. Some of the greatest writers that we all hail and praise as great philosophers will never be able to understand the importance of July 26th. They will never. And these are the people that we take into consideration - the world's greatest philosophers - and they give the guidelines of some of the most righteous principles that we ought to follow when we come to an occasion like this. We need to strip these misrepresentations naked so that we can see the real truth of who we are and why we can feel a sense of euphoria in an environment like this.

I mean, there are many of us - even members of the House - who do not feel enthusiastic about this day. They do not. So we have a tough job ahead to sit down and purge the level of ignorance within the society itself and to outline to people: look, this is a hundred years' struggle that merits salutes in the successes of 1937. But you cannot forget the struggles that even precede 1838, because the reality - the reality goes right back even into the 18th century - because we broke the back of enslavement as far back as the struggles of 1791 in the Haitian Revolution. And what is great about the Haitian Revolution in this exercise is that people like Toussaint L'Ouverture and Dessalines - these important global icons - do not localise them, do not make them parochial. They are as important to us as Wilberforce and Columbus were to the Europeans.

They broke the back of slavery not by signing a document that came at a later date. They fought in the trenches against the odds to break the back of European dominance. And I think that when we come to reflect on a day like the 26th of July, we must have memories, wild memories of a struggle in the western world for freedom, especially people who have been honoured to be part of these noble chambers. I don't know how a black man, and I know people, this has hurt black people. I don't know how a black man who finds himself in these chambers can tell you that the national day of significance is insignificant. I don't know how a man can tell you that. I have a debate like this today. I want to thank the honourable minister for bringing it here.

There are some things, you know, you went adrift, because in my view, you went outside the perimeters of good judgment and carried the debate into the partisan arena. And in order to contaminate the reality, it stopped us from really appreciating the value of some of the most noble things that you said in the introduction to the debate. But this is a fight not only for social democracy, but a fight against the ultra right wing in the world that we are remembering. Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, some of the most extreme fascists in the history of mankind that perceived us

as nothing more than cattle. A man like Hitler, who some people still hear there might be some good virtues in - who were not support. We didn't befit being called human beings as well. In his doctrine of Nazism, of eugenics, his views of having an Aryan race, it didn't include you. You were not to survive. Not even the inferior whites or the mulatto or mestizos in the western world, not only Bajans. There was no room in the doctrine of that dangerous creature in the 1930s and 40s, especially when Nazism was at its height.

And coming to the fore as far back as 1898 was a great man by the name of Sylvester Williams. In the first Pan-Africanist conference where the greatest minds among the black race and the best minds in the western world met to have major discussions. The emergence of the Garvey movement. The emergence not only of the UNIA, but the NAACP with W.E.B. Du Bois. Although some principles, philosophical principles might be more radical than some. And that happens, it happens to all of us. Sometimes people feel that we are going too far. Some people feel that we should not describe ourselves as black. Some people believe you are criminal to talk about racism. And racism is a very simple, simple term. Racism has nothing to do with if you are black, if you're white. It has something to do when you use ethnicity to prove that you are superior to another human being. I don't know how black people that are broken, that are hungry, that don't have any power could become racist in the system itself. I don't know. So when we talk about these things, it has nothing to do with content. But if there's a conspicuous identification of the pigmentation of a species on earth, I say he is white. Because white is perceived as the colour in which you use to identify the species. There's nothing racist about that. If I say he's black, why do we want to argue with me over whether he's black? What do you want to argue that for? Look at the fundamental principles.

I'm hoping that we will be able to reconnect with those fundamental principles that carry us back to the teachings of men like Toussaint L'Ouverture, Dessalines, Henri Christophe, Boukman, and his struggles of the Haitian Revolution. In my view, these were the people who were in the forefront of the struggle. We get home to love it, but these were the people in the forefront. If people were on such a righteous path that Simón Bolívar, who also - and this is what happens - all animate things, not even human beings alone, all animate things will show resistance as long as they're confronted with oppression. Even a cockroach will show resistance. A slug or a snail will show resistance. If a human being is the highest form of the human species, Homo sapiens that can think, you don't expect human beings not to resist. It was resistance not only in the struggles in Jamaica and Haiti. It was resistance in Barbados as well.

And we did not resist senselessly. For the first time in 1937, there were many revolts. We were not senseless people. We were never involved in any riot. To me, I don't even understand how black people could keep saying 1937 riots. You know, it sounds like a senseless exercise - a big set of ignorant black people got up, everything got in the programme, no clear objective. Even if the programme - even if you don't like the programme - we were always on a positive course, a positive trajectory. It was always about our liberation. I point to the Bussa revolts in 1816. That was what the struggle was about. Resistance to the plantocracy, the oppression, the slave masters. What have you called them then? Unless it happened that we were not the slave masters. Well, who the cap fits, wear it. Well, that is a reality. That's why when we talk about this National Day of Significance we don't have certain images in our heads. Because if we want to look for good people, we have to go outside of Barbados. The closest thing that we have had - a meaningful, positive contribution in the struggle - is the contribution of T.T. Lewis. Are all the best thinkers who examine the contribution of others. Who are the others you're going to bring? It is not our fault. It is not our fault. They know what they did in history. And it is history and it cannot be erased. What we have to do in order to make our people feel comfortable with this celebration is to tell the truth. But we are mature enough to know that other people must live as well.

We are mature enough. Garvey understood it as well. We watch how our men behaved in the early 20th century. A black man - very few black men, unless he is one of the most unfortunate type - wanted a black woman; he wanted to lighten up his complexion. We saw lots of distinguished black men in the early 20th century married to women with far lighter complexion. These are sociological realities that we can't escape. But we know all the developments that occurred within the system itself. We were oppressed and forced out of this system of governance because there was no food, we had no land, we had no homes. We lived in the little sugar shacks on the plantation governed by the masters and servants of the time. And as a result of men not being able to finance their homes, we had to go off to Costa Rica. We had to go off to Panama. Probably the biggest migration in the 1920s - over 40 000 black Barbadian men went to Panama. Gone up on the wall and let the man check them to see if they looked fully masculine or not. To see if you had muscles and if you had the required height to go work on the Panama Canal. We suffered that indignation in order to even get basic things in life. And this 26th of July is a mirroring of all of those significant incidences in the evolution of our history as a people.

And you can't give praise alone, although you can understand it is in order. You can't be honest with yourself and not understand the contribution of Marcus Garvey, because in all this - Clement Payne, Israel Lovell, Menzies, Chase, Ulrich Grant, Nancy Belgrave, all of them, and I'm

only talking about UNIA gatherings - were influenced by the teachings of Marcus Garvey, the man from St. Anne's in Jamaica who became the greatest black man in the 20th century and one of the outstanding international philosophers of the time. We don't even know how to respect that. But if this man was useless - and people distort history all the time - they say Hitler was useless, yet he almost ran over the whole western world. If this man was useless, how come so many persons wrote about him? How come he had the biggest movement in the western world in his time? And it was not just a man of just talking. He put programmes in place, he established business transactions. He did all of these things and he made it important. Apart from agitate, educate, but don't violate - which are the few words that remain with us - he went further. He understood clearly that a people without history is like a tree without roots. Those are significant philosophical positions that you have to pay some attention to.

And if you come to be a representative of the people and you can't understand the importance of this day - well, if it was me who had to give the last vote to get a House of Assembly - you could bet if you couldn't get it, God will not leave home for a man who cannot understand the importance of the struggle over the years. Because where is he going to carry us if he doesn't understand history? Where is he going to carry us?

Now, I don't know how long I have. I would love to have unlimited time, but I want to pay some attention to the Minister of Sports and to share some information with him. Because when the Minister of Sports was talking, I thought that Sports and Culture - Sports or Culture - Sports and Culture - they could be Minister of Sports or Culture. When the minister was talking, I thought he would have made reference to a very important sports icon. In the 1930s, apart from poverty and all of these things in the Moyne Commission report and so on, sportsmen had tremendous influence. And as we talk about exogenous and endogenous influences on the time, men like Jesse Owens - Jesse Owens is symbolic of the thoughts of our people in that first half of the 20th century, especially as a counterforce to the sinister role that Hitler played. It is also a counterforce to the oppression of fascism of the time. Because when Hitler felt and Mussolini felt that the state must have absolute power, that everything must be the state and nothing should be against the will of the state - and while these men felt that black people were inferior - it was Jesse Owens at the Olympics in Germany in the 1930s that was a negation to the bogus doctrine of Nazism. And he made Hitler twist and turn on the edge of the seat as he watched Jesse Owens, initially barefooted, but then a friend gave him a pair of running boots - a German who did not support the Nazis. And I'm not one of those people who blanket everyone. All Germans were not Nazis. Hitler put some Germans inside the gas chambers too. So all Germans were not Nazis. They knew that he was misrepresenting reality - that we were inferior.

And the literature is there. I don't want to go into any detail of it; it's not the time for that. But when he saw a man in the 100 metres blister all the German sportsmen who competed with him - the 100, the 200, the 400, the long jump, everything this man won - before the influence of marijuana or cocaine. He said - Jesse - that he passed in front of Hitler and Hitler nodded at him in approval of his achievements. And he nodded back. But very few historians tell you that. Because lots of historians are really subjective and they slant the history to suit their value judgements. And that is one of the problems that we have had through our history in the colonial period. Lots of people who wrote the history of the 1937 exclude the worthiness of Payne and Israel Lovell. They accord two lines to Lovell. On the 27th or so of July we are going to have - the Israel Lovell Foundation will have a lecture, and it will be good for enlightenment, at the Community College by Dr. Rodney Worrell - and you are going to see an extensive discourse of the value of Israel Lovell, who was the president of the Garvey Movement of Barbados. Lovell was the president of the UNIA in Barbados. He cannot be insignificant. You can't be a Garveyite in the 1930s and become the president and not be significant to the black struggle in the western world from North America all through the Caribbean.

So I cannot come here and disrespect the ancestors. I cannot even come here and disrespect the most recent Pan-Africanists in the struggle. I have to remember them because they made - this is not a romantic exercise. If you're going to drill it into the minds and the psyche of our people, we have got to talk to them. Prime Minister, I know that you will speak to it. I'd be very disappointed if you don't. They know you have to speak to it. We can't talk about a day being of national significance and ignore its importance and go and look at the Bibles and confetti and all kinds of cosmetics and new dresses and new shoes. Those are to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And when you come in here - serious business, serious business. And that's really the problem, that pollution exists. Because now we get into another important problem that the Pan-Africanists deal with every day - that we were created in His own image. So you enter a different debate altogether. These men played an important role.

But in the 1930s it was said not only of Jesse Owens - the dignity of black people also came when Joe Louis met Schmeling. You know, Joe Louis was the black pride. He was the black pride. And if you listen to the old historians of the day they told you that the little transistor thing that used to have then - called radio - sometimes 200 and 300 people trying to listen to one speaker with a two-inch diameter to hear what is going on. And they said when Joe Louis got out of the car he said to the driver - Minister of

Sports, this is important - he said: keep the engine running, I'll be back. He's a black man coming up against a Nazi racist again. Joe Louis put him down in a couple of seconds in the first round, went to put on his clothes and got back in the car. Went home. You understand the pride that we shared in that first half of the 20th century, all through the centuries - the 20th century, sorry - but the struggle for more than one century. It's a long journey in my view. We have not reached the destination. And I don't even know if you can say you will. You will always have to check in at different junctures. But it's very difficult to tell you what the destination will be. But what I know is that it is about our freedom and our opportunity to make vertical mobility. We need to be able to control the commanding heights of the economy as well. And it is still a struggle. It is still a struggle.

And I would say it over and over again - some people believe it is monotonous - but the reality is that we have to preach it and preach it. Because what we're witnessing, what we're hearing, and everything in the society itself indicates to us that there's no appreciation for the contribution that we all have made. And those before us that look like us. And what we were talking about as far back as the end of the 18th century influenced the mestizos and the Spanish whites in Latin America. And as a consequence of that, those in the Haitian Revolution met with the leaders of the struggle in the revolution in Venezuela and Colombia. And Simón Bolívar was able to go back and liberate his own people as a consequence of the thoughts, the material, and the monetary contribution of the greatness of the leaders of the Haitian Revolution. So these struggles are not disconnected. These struggles are not disconnected. There is a philosophy that forms the gel, the adhesive that pulls all of us together as one common people. We might have our differences on ideas, but we can have differences without ultra contempt for each other. I know there's a lot of ignorance even in any household, sometimes across the floor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have three minutes left.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Ma'am. I know that you would accommodate me in order to make a comprehensive contribution. So if you can give me a little more time, I'd be grateful.

The contribution that was made - this is at a local level now - by Lovell and Payne: we have elevated Payne to be a national hero. We have elevated Bussa to the status of a national hero. Not that you don't appreciate the others. Springer, Barrow. I would say this about this party - even a party that never even sold itself comprehensively - can't say everything. But I say this because this is about national heroes. But in the early foundations of this institution, there were great men. Some of them went through history without historians and political scientists seeing them as playing any worthy cause. They even felt that Springer was not a great talker. Not even Springer - Cummins was not a great talker. But if you read through the pages - not the history of the school book - go into the archives, go into the library, and you'll see the information that comes from the Herald newspaper, from the Observer newspaper, on Garvey's arrival here in 1930 - any third year - on board the ship was Sir E.U. Cummins, not just as a dignitary, but as a Pan-Africanist. Lots of the men who were in the forefront - because we were fighting against colonial oppression, white political dominance - so to some extent we had the collective strength of all the black forces at the same time. And that is where you will see a crossing of Pan-Africanists interchanging or relating to the socialists of the time, the Garveyites, the Fabian sources. You will see people's names on registers in the Workingmen's Association. You see the same names on the UNIA membership list. Because we knew that there was one common enemy and we had to fight it. And we did it collectively.

When we felt that we ought to make quantum leaps - leaps - divisions emerge. Some people might be described in history as opportunistic tacticians. History, in some cases, might not be kind to some of the people who played a leading role in the struggle. I would not contradict anything. I know I have to live with my conscience. I would not contradict anything. Although sometimes you say things in the most immature period of your life, and as you become more and more mature, you begin to have a different understanding. Because when you make the assessment of the dynamics of the time, your views on reality were so narrow that you came to a conclusion without the empirical evidence that would take it to a sensible conclusion. On some occasions you go back on views because now a thorough examination has been made and you come to the conclusion that we have had great men in the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party and also in the Democratic Labour Party. On a day like today, it is our duty to sing a common chorus of the greatness of these men.

I think so. Can you imagine - relative to Sir Grantley - can you imagine a Member of Parliament coming in here today and saying anything to negate the importance of these people who contributed in a very meaningful way to the general development of the society? Nobody in here has made such a great contribution yet.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker will return. If I may interrupt you. You please.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. You have been generous on some occasions. I compliment the Chair for having the tolerance to entertain me. Sometimes people believe that I talk foolishness. Some

people believe that my views are very unorthodox. But believe me, they are my genuine views. And I strongly believe that today I should join with all those who see the value of July 26 as an important day in the history of Barbados and paying special tribute to the heroes mentioned by the Government of Barbados in general.

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give full support for this resolution before us today. I start by commending the Honourable Member for St. Michael East for giving the response on behalf of the opposition party. I thought that his comments certainly put it in the right light, as was led off on our side by the Honourable Minister who clearly outlined the importance of this national day as to its significance to Barbados. It is a matter, Mr. Speaker, that we really must take very seriously, because it is a time when we must quietly reflect on our forefathers and what men would have done in and around that era to lay a solid foundation upon which we have built and where we are able in many respects to enjoy today.

And I want to start by making the point that there are many of us who would have gone to school in the 70s and 80s and through university in the 90s and who really and truly had no formal teachings about the 1937 riots. And I think that this is significant because it is something that future generations must not be missed out on or absent from. The reality about it is that today, in this Parliament that comprises 30 men and women, many of us were never taught at school the significance of the 1937 disturbances. A lot of what transpired - those of us who would have stopped studying history formally in third form - the Honourable Member for St. James Central, I believe, perhaps never had that opportunity. And today, as we listen not only in this discussion here in Parliament, but certainly those of us who have taken the time out to read up over the years, must realise that what occurred in 1937 did not start just because of a disturbance in 1937. It was more or less a manifestation of the fact that as a race, as a people, the blacks in this society in particular really and truly felt that there had not been much advancement since the days of slavery. And perhaps it took the colonial masters to realise, arising from the Lord Moyne Commission that started in 1938, that what occurred in 1937 was a culmination of years and years of oppression in our society.

And as we reflect upon it today, it may not have been a large number of people who lost their lives, may not be a large number of properties that were affected, but it was a significant activity that ably reflected the pressures and the lack of access to social services and opportunities in particular in that era. And certainly, as I said earlier, it started the basis upon which we were able to transform the Barbadian society. And sometimes we need to reflect upon the fact that back then you really had a clear divide between the haves and the have-nots, between the whites and the blacks in this society. You had women who certainly did not enjoy many of the rights that we speak of today. The opportunities for housing were not there. The opportunities for education among the masses certainly were not present. And you therefore had a society that was very, very much disadvantaged, dominated in the main by a few.

But what you did have, obviously, Mr. Speaker, at that point in time, were men and women with the intestinal fortitude to stay the course, to realise that they had within themselves the ability to make a difference, a positive difference in society, and to stay the course on that path. And it is today that we in this Honourable Chamber are able to stand and make bold that we, in Government and ably supported by the Opposition, recognise the immense contribution those men and women made back in the 1930s - some who would have lost their lives, some who would have been incarcerated, and others who would have made other kinds of sacrifices to ensure that there was a positive transformation in the lives of ordinary Barbadians back then.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak to the issue of a national day of significance, we must realise why it is significant and primarily because of what has taken place in Barbados since then. And obviously the question will always be asked: to what extent have we made tremendous advancements? And I dare say, Mr. Speaker, in spite of what some others may wish to say from time to time, this Barbadian society has indeed made great advancements. The fact that every Barbadian child today can get a sound education from primary school right through to university level is indeed evidence of the way in which our society has transformed since the 1930s, and the fact that institutions and systems put in place by successive governments have been able to help ensure that. The fact that there are 30 black men and women in Parliament today - the highest organ in the land - is indeed testimony of the advancements we have made since the 1930s.

There are, Mr. Speaker, places not far from Barbados where this is still a pipe dream. There are places not far from Barbados where individuals still, because of the colour of their skin, are not getting opportunities that we have already enjoyed here in Barbados since the 1930s. Mr. Speaker, we have been able to provide a healthcare system that is the envy of many around the world. In spite of all the criticisms we hear occasionally, the fact remains that in the 1930s, when you look at the life expectancy rate and look at all the public healthcare challenges, the sacrifices are worth it because we were able to institute measures that brought those public health services right to the door of the average person in this society. When you

look, Mr. Speaker, at the advancement in housing since then - those were the days when if your skin was of a certain colour, you dare not walk in certain parts of Barbados. Today, properties in those places are now owned by black Barbadians. Yes, as a matter of fact, there is a big party there next weekend. And one of them is Strathclyde, I believe. But these are things that we as politicians and as leaders in society must not forget. We must reflect upon the fact that we have been able to make such advancement. When you look across the landscape of Barbados today, you realise that the housing stock of great substance is primarily owned by Barbadians who, one or maybe two generations ago, could not own more than a shed roof, you know, Mr. Speaker. So we really realise that much has been done.

Those were the days back then, of course. And what certainly helped to lead to the disturbances in 1937 was the fact that you still had a great gulf between the rights of women and the rights of men in our society. Successive governments - especially this party I am proud to be part of - have made tremendous advancement such that today there really ought not to be a conversation about differences based on gender in our society, particularly in terms of opportunities.

But if ever, Mr. Speaker, there is a reminder to all of us of what that struggle meant and the freedoms that we are able to enjoy today, we do not have to look too far. Every day there are hundreds of Barbadians who travel to the USA. Yet still today we realise that in some parts of America, quite frankly, because of the colour of your skin, you are shot at. We have had churches in the USA recently set on fire. We have had black people in churches in America shot and killed. We have had disturbances recently involving the police. And those things do not happen in Barbados. Those things will not happen here, because we as a society have been able to come together and in many respects put a lot of that behind us. When you look further afield and you realise that perhaps because of certain extremist perspectives on life there is the view that women should not get a formal education, we in Barbados, thanks to the struggle of our forebears at the turn of the last century, have been able to put that behind us as well. So that today this little island of 166 square miles is able to boast, to hold its head high in any global arena, and display to the world that Barbados is a place where a lot of these injustices no longer exist, and where our people, regardless of race, class, colour or creed, can coexist and benefit tremendously.

So this is not a debate necessarily that we have to engage in with political rancour. I do not think there may be some subtle differences occasionally, but the reality about it is that the struggle of our forebears in the last century is a struggle that has benefited all of us, regardless of our political stripe today. And that is why, when I hear comments that seek to give the impression that there is a simmering situation abiding in this country where people may feel agitated, I shake my head and wonder if I am living in Barbados. Because we must be careful in our utterances that we do not say things and do things that inspire people to do things that we all regret later on. This is not a 1930s situation. Let us accept that reality.

Yes, there are challenges in our households. There are challenges among the families in Barbados. We have certainly been faced with economic challenges of a level that never before really affected Barbados. But because of the structures and the systems that our forebears have been able to lay the foundation on and we have been able to build upon, we have found ourselves a far more resilient people. Today, one is able to work against a lot of these adversities that confront this society. Mr. Speaker, that is why I think that what we are doing here today is of such great importance - importance to this society and this economy. We are recognising that those who laid down their lives, those who stood up back in the 1930s, did so in a manner that has been able to allow us today to continue as a peaceful society. One where we can have our differences, but they are resolved around a table of conversation, not confrontation. One where we are able to dig deep inside our souls and find that inner strength that says we must always put Barbados first.

So, Mr. Speaker, I only hope that as we go forward in this society, we recognise that the July 26 day of significance that we are celebrating is a day for all Barbadians to celebrate, regardless of the colour of their skin, regardless of their socioeconomic status. And therefore, I think we ought to be able to recommit ourselves in this Honourable Chamber to leading by example and get out there and build a much stronger, much more resilient Barbadian society, certainly building upon our forefathers' sacrifice back in the 1930s. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I would wish to add my contribution to this resolution. I do consider it to be of great significance to Barbados. And as I listened to the other Honourable Members, I started to think a little deeper than I had all morning. And, of course, I have some experiences that I would wish to raise in my efforts to encourage Barbadians to come together as a people and pay great attention to the significance of this national day where we come together as one people.

I think it is amazing that over the past hundred years - well, if you look back a hundred years, when we saw what this envisaged, what this Parliament would have

looked like, there would have been no black people, as far as I can recollect, who would have served this country. And today, we are all black men and women from all walks of life. I would assume most of us from the masses who are here together to represent the interest of over 280 000 Barbadians. And I think it is a critical step that we have been able to make through the hard work and, of course, the vision of our forefathers, and perhaps our foremothers, too, because there were always women in the background who did a lot to help inspire our forefathers in bringing us to this important stage in our lives.

All of us here have got to devote our numerous energies, our skills, our interests and our vision to help to promote a better Barbados for all our people in every sphere of life. We would have known of the segregation and the numerous challenges in the past, and our parents would have experienced a lot of those challenges. But we have been able, together, as a people, to fight off many of them. And therefore, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we should never lose sight of the important strides and the numerous strides that our forefathers have made over the decades and the outstanding contribution that they, the pioneers, have made in making this society one that would have been admired and stands out like a beacon in this world.

I know from my readings - and I would not be so knowledgeable in the history as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East because I am not a history student and I am not into the movement that he is in, although I admire a lot of what is done by the Pan-Africanists and others - but I know that those persons in those days met tremendous challenges and some of them ran for their lives, and their families and properties were challenged as a result of the stances that they took in an effort to be able to bring a measure of justice, a measure of fairness, to help this society be the just society that we are now living in.

And I want, sir, to refer to this document, Global Excellence, Barbadian Traditions, the National Strategic Plan of Barbados 2006–2020. And to refer to, in a brief way, some of the goals that were outlined in it, because it speaks volumes of where we are to go for the next steps. No society remains stagnant. And therefore I want to refer to page 28 where it speaks to Goal One - Inspired, Exulting, Free. And a lot of what is outlined in this document, sir - and I am sure it is a document of this Honourable Chamber already - speaks to our national anthem. And of course, the vision of the author of the national anthem indicates clearly that the individual, as well as the author of the national pledge, would have been a clear indication that they would have recognised what has happened to us coming out of the struggles and where they would like to see us go.

So Goal One speaks to Inspired, Exalting, Free - unleashing the spirit of the nation. And we are seeing it every day in our cultural activities in the various places of work, although there are tremendous challenges and I will make mention of a couple of them that disturb me. And then at Goal Two - Firm Craftsmen of Our Faith - New Governance for New Times. And we are seeing some challenges currently too, but that should not stop us from wanting to continue to work towards the achievement of the goals we have outlined. Goal Three - Strength and Unity - on page 32, Building Social Capital. Goal Four - These Fields and Hills - Building a Green Economy, Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment. At page 35, Goal Five - Upward and Onward - Enhancing Barbados' Prosperity and Competitiveness. And that too is one of the goals that we are working hard to achieve, because without prosperity and, of course, the competitiveness, then our society will fall apart. Our people need to be productive in whatever they say or do and, of course, to take risks, because without taking risks, then we can never tell where our potential can lead. And Goal Six on page 39 - Strict Guardians of Our Heritage - Branding Barbados Globally. And of course, we know the CSME and other aspects of our development and reaching into the diaspora will help us to be able to achieve these various goals.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I found a document - everybody says I have the archives. And it brought me to even a clearer understanding. And I am sure this too is a document of this Honourable Chamber for archives. Anniversary of Independence - Upward and Onward, 1966–1987. And at page 14, it gives a preamble of the Constitution of Barbados. And I want to quote two of the highlights in this document. And it says to proclaim, therefore, that they are a sovereign nation founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity of the human person, their unshakable faith in fundamental human rights and freedom, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions. I think that is critical. And the second one - to affirm their belief that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law. And I think that this must be brought to the fore again in this country, Mr. Speaker, if we are to continue as a people, to consult with each other, to look after each other's interests, and to ensure that the good is dispensed among all of us in this society.

And I am referring to the human development document that would have been, again, I am sure, a document of this Honourable Chamber, where it outlines certain aspects about Barbados. Human Development Report 2007. And at page three, it speaks again to the National Strategic Plan where it outlines two important aspects of social capital: creating the human resource for a knowledge-based, skills-intensive services economy; creating the values of trust, moral obligation, duty towards family and community, cooperation, discipline and respect

for the law that are crucial to any society's successful development. And that is the reason why, sir, we are here as lawmakers and we should all try to work towards becoming lawmakers again and avoid any aspect of our development as Honourable Members in this Chamber. For anybody to say we are lawmakers and law-breakers - I think it is critical that we not only set the parameters for that, but we live by them. Because the eyes of the youth and the elders are on us. We are the leaders. And there are a lot of young men and women who seek to emulate us because they see us as special, and when they go to certain places and young people see us, they gravitate towards us. Because when I was a child, there was hardly any opportunity for me to get near a Member of Parliament. Nowadays, we must make every effort to let our standing in society be such that we are not only admired, but we live by the example, because the eyes are watching us. And it is when we make mistakes that the youth say, if they can make it, I can make it. To what example are the Parliamentarians setting? We do not understand the measure and the depth of the influence that we have on the citizens of this country. And I do not think we do all the time.

Now, I have a challenge, Mr. Speaker, because if you are talking about development of social capital and looking after everybody's needs in a way that the equity is seen and felt and appreciated, then I have a challenge when I can speak as being a Member of Parliament for St. Thomas and I am not seeing the equity in the way I expect it, even though the country is undergoing serious economic challenges and some social challenges are rearing their ugly, ugly heads. So I am not getting roads repaired, but my people will come forward and be a part of this national day of significance because it is about Barbados. I am not getting houses repaired. I have had house fires. I cannot find a house for a single individual. Rural development is not fulfilling in the way, but we are going to do what we have to do because at the end of the day, we have to move on as one people with one common goal - making Barbados a safer, peaceful and blessed place. And I think that is critical.

My play parts are thick with mush. I can write until I am foolish, Mr. Speaker. No cutting of the play parts. I write, I call, and I am treated like a little girl in the yard because of foolish political actions. At the end of the day, we must let those persons who are managing our institutions know we are going to have our political differences in here. But at the end of the day, we are one country with Members of Parliament who have to offer service to the individuals and groups and people of this country. And therefore we must not be showing that hard-line way because a constituency may appear to be safe. Despite what anybody wants to pigeonhole me and say - I am from some stupid statement - I have no problem with that. I am a strong woman. I am a strong woman and I stand up for righteousness, Mr. Speaker. And I abhor the treatment that is being meted out at times.

Mr. Speaker, sir, obviously I am a Member - give me a chance because he is agitated because he cannot go and play golf at twenty minutes to five. We are doing the people's business, Mr. Speaker. And anybody will tell you - you see me, sir, I come here to do the people's business on a Tuesday early. And I do not up out because there is nothing I planned for a Tuesday except I nipped a funeral and I come back and sometimes Parliament is closed. So I wish a Member would leave me alone.

I have a problem, Mr. Speaker, when in the year 2015 instructions can be given for the Ministry of Public Works to close a public road where more than 50 sets of houses are there and people have one way to get out at a dangerous corner, Mr. Speaker. But the people of St. Thomas are going to look at this national day of significance and lend support because they understand - like the Honourable Member for St. Philip says - time longer than twine. But it is a very retrograde step to close off a major road that people use to get in and out of their houses, and they are marooned in those houses if any accident should occur on that main road at the corner. It is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I have a challenge when we talk about Rock Hall Freedom Village. Our shops are shut up for more than four years and not a single resident can get a chance to go in the shop. But the Honourable Minister, in presenting his contribution this morning, has talked about almost everything else and has ignored the livelihoods of those folk in Rock Hall who deserve an opportunity to become entrepreneurs too. It is not only about the youth entrepreneurs scheme. It is also about those ordinary folk plying their trade with the few tourists who come into the parish and getting to feed their children.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I am not even going to focus on any sugar cane growing in St. Thomas - the most arable land between St. Thomas and St. George. But the productivity there is dead. The monkeys are taking over the predial. Praedial larcenists are taking over the few crops we have. But we will support this because we are one people. We are not Barbadians and other people living here. We are Barbadians and we are proud to be Barbadians.

I have environmental challenges, Mr. Speaker. Our challenges with the environmental plans of this Government to establish a Cahill plant at Vaucluse and not a single word to anybody in the parish, including me, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. Mr. Speaker, if you are talking about a consultative approach to embracing people and bringing them on board, chat with us and give us a chance that we can be an integral part of what is going on. We cannot boast about empowering people and then

ignore them as though they are dummies on the hill who can say nothing. Like it or lump it, it cannot work. And I am only asking that these approaches be changed.

I know the late Honourable Member for St. John spoke strongly in the Manifesto of 2008 about the equity and the sharing of ideas and communicating with the public after Cabinet on a Thursday and all those glorious things that meant a difference and people went out and voted for it. And I supported him on that one. We must have communication with the public and other communities.

Unemployment in St. Thomas, Mr. Speaker, is high. Most of those folks who have been sent home - NCC - Judy is there with 15 people in the house, no work, and a tribunal cannot meet to help her to get to feed her children and grandchildren. Something is wrong.

I have a difficulty, Mr. Speaker, with the Beautify Barbados folk. Those little guys from MTW that were on the block that were working 10, 11, 12 years have been sent home and persons that have two and three are still working. Something is wrong in my country, Mr. Speaker, before bus service, one Sturgis bus with 12 trips per day was reduced last year June to four trips. And folk in Lion Castle, Highland and other communities with walking sticks and disabled persons cannot get out of those villages because of what I consider to be an arbitrary action by the Transport Board that has those people at night at 11 and 12 o'clock who are working in the service industries, at the hotels and so on, having to be in danger of some of those criminals who are out there just laying waiting to snatch a handbag and to rob. Something is wrong. But they are going to be mature people and will come to support this day of significance. Because our pioneers have set the groundwork for us to be free people today. And free we must remain forever. And I am sure that honourable members of both sides will try to work together to ensure that we do not lose these freedoms. We see what is happening in certain sections of Africa and in other parts of Latin America and the world. But in Barbados we must ensure that the freedoms and the privileges of our people are maintained, are upheld in every sphere of life.

Mr. Speaker, water woes - three consecutive days on this weekend, Mr. Speaker, sir. Not a drop of water, not a single word. But you know what, Mr. Speaker, when the water in the heights is going to be turned off across Barbados, a notice is put in advance. Standpipes have been removed. And the honourable member for St. Philip West will speak to me asking that two or three of the standpipes in St. Thomas remain so that persons can get water. Because we still have persons with toilets who rely on water in order for them to be able to function. They cannot access water, especially those in the Harrison's Cave area. But we must have a more compassionate heart, Mr. Speaker, towards peoples and their needs and treat all of us as though we are on the same level. The working class are making their contribution as are the middle class and the upper middle class. But we want to be treated as human beings.

How do we boast of empowering people, Mr. Speaker, when we limit the educational opportunities at the University of the West Indies? People cannot go to pay BCC and SJPP now because their parents have little or no employment, if any. How do we turn out 3 500 children from school every year and no employment and the opportunities? The honourable member spoke about youth mainstreaming. And I would have assisted some young people in sending in forms - about 20 of them. Not one single one of them, sir, has gotten an opportunity to go anywhere. I cringe when I found out, Mr. Speaker, sir, that the Vocational Training Board office, the location at the Holy Innocents Pavilion, was closed off. And those young fellows are on the block again. And the facility has been turned into that for the constituency empowerment group. What is going to happen to our youth because they are the ones who feel most threatened? They do not know about cutting and contriving in the way we do. And some parents, because they are so young, do not even know how to tell their children about cutting and contriving our lifestyles and attire and modesty and so on and so forth. We, the leaders in this honourable chamber, have to assist with that element of development.

What will happen to some of those students who have to go to school in September? Textbooks, new school clothes, meals - now that it is in the summertime. Especially now that the summer camps have no funds and therefore the children do not get the meals anymore. That was paraded all over Barbados as the best thing after sliced bread. And the caterers gained over $3 million every year. And the food not even the best. Where are we going as a people? And who will control this madness that has taken place in our society?

Mr. Speaker, I am going to come to a close now. The honourable member for St. Lucy speaks. I wish that one day the honourable member will do some meals in some styrofoam containers and bring over here to Heroes Square of all places, Mr. Speaker, and offer a meal to those persons who have not got another meal. And I must commend the Vagrancy Society for coming out and helping to feed the poor people, helping to look after the homeless. Too many people are losing their properties because they have lost their jobs and cannot pay their mortgage or they cannot pay the money towards the houses they are renting. So the honourable member for St. Lucy could probably grant me that. And I will love him even more.

Mr. Speaker, we have locked up fractured households, broken families, domestic violence and other forms of abuse in our households. And our society is just

reeling under those situations. Mr. Speaker, our tradesmen - many of them trained at the polytechnic and from the Vocational Training Board - are at home sitting down because this economy cannot accommodate them. Because a lot of rich people have been given the contracts. And those ordinary guys, carpenters, masons, tailors and so on are on the bread line. Something is wrong with my society. And I want this Government, sir - and I know many of them listen - just help to turn it around. It is not something they can do suddenly. But I had hoped they would turn it around and ease the plight of the poor people. Because if they have needs and the money is not there, they cannot pay the maintenance for the children in the court because they have lost the work. They are going to look for other means. And I encourage them, do not go the negative route. Families still have to help out with the children and the grandchildren, the offspring.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely concerned as well about black on black in Barbados. Because I move around all over the place. There are some people - you go to banks, you go to stores, you go to other institutions - and people treat you as though you are just one of those because you are not a white person or you do not look rich. And if you are talking about celebrating the significance of a national day of significance, and some of our own people treat us so unkindly. Some of the schools, Mr. Speaker, sir, that children go to - the children have got some different deficits and some teachers look at them and tell them you are not going to make much because you come from X or Y. I am not going to call the name of any neighbourhood. Even our women members in here, sir, I have heard them talk about how they have been treated by others in here because they would have gone to a newer secondary school as opposed to an older grammar school. Where are we going with all of this education that we are boasting about? We must treat people as equals. And unless we are determined in our hearts and in our minds to treat people as equals, we are not going to get very far.

Mr. Speaker, I wrap up. A famous Barbadian has said Barbadians have short memories. I think it is critical that we do not forget from whence we have come and where we are going. The most critical thing is our future that we must plan for. We must not have short memories. Another Barbadian saying: it is not sensible to get up the ladder and kick it down. The worst thing in the world is to go up on a ladder and kick it down - then you cannot get back down. I hope that honourable members are taking the opportunity to hand-hold others along the way. I expect if we are to go forward as one people with one goal - empowering each other and making sure that our environment is green and that it remains useful to us and our health and our advancement - that we will nurture, guide and protect our people from the scourges.

This debate must not be watered down. It must not be watered down. Where we call a few persons who are the pioneers because they are from our party and we leave out some of the others because they are from another. It is not a partisan thing. It is that we must work together, not losing sight of the struggles that our forebears would have gone through. Because we must not forget from whence we have come and where we must go, taking along with us some of those individuals who too can make a difference and will replace us in this honourable chamber. Because we are not here forever. I believe that charting the course for Barbados is extremely important. The outline of these objectives serves, sir, to - I would say that they are noble and therefore should be worked towards. In achieving our goals, Barbadians must come together, should come together to share in these goals that will help to push Barbados forward. The time is right for unity, Mr. Speaker. It is right for good honest governance. It is right for social justice to be meted out for all. That was the platform, sir, that was laid by our forefathers that should still be held in high esteem. And we must not lose sight of the vision that our forefathers had in helping to bring along everybody with us. Yes, there are numerous challenges, but we must not lose sight of the major goal. There is unity. Are there strength in unity or unity in strength? All our leaders must be mature in their actions and in their thought. All of our leaders must show a measure - and a high measure - of honesty, sincerity and tolerance towards diversity, embracing all ages, all religions, all political persuasions, and provide good, honest government.

I support this resolution, Mr. Speaker, and I encourage all Barbadians, despite their plight at this time, let us acknowledge the hard work, the dedication, the commitment and the sacrifice of our forefathers that has brought us thus far. And we collectively can take it to another level so that at the end of the day we can all pat ourselves on the back and say we are proud Barbadians because we have made a difference in creating a more wholesome environment for all our people to access. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to make a brief intervention on this resolution. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central outlined quite clearly what was the intention of this resolution as it pertains to the commemoration of the day of national significance, which is determined to be July 26, the day on which there was an uprising in Barbados. We've heard much talk and discussion, debate, I should say, on this particular day, July 26, 1937. And this has been going on among rankified Barbadians, among academics, intellectuals. I well remember the seminal work of Dr. George Bell on this period. And even then, as you read not

only that piece of literature but other works, you still realise that there is a search in their writing, in their theorising of the moment when persons feeling the level of frustration that they did, responded in a manner which some have argued - which is incorrect, of course - that some damage, some jailing, some deaths ensued.

Of course, those who understand and appreciate the history of captive peoples in a strange land would recognise that as part of that captivity there would have always been a search for escape. That is part of the natural condition of men in captivity. And by men, I'm referring to women as well, in the generic meaning of man in that context. And so through the many centuries of the enslavement of particularly people of African origin, and notwithstanding the different bouts of indentureship, African people in Barbados and in the Caribbean have always sought the means to escape. Barbados, because it was almost the first point of contact between Africa and the dispersal of captive African people to other parts of this hemisphere, developed a very difficult system of enslavement - a very harsh system, really, of enslavement.

And some persons have made the point, maybe accurately or inaccurately - one has to arrive at a given conclusion to determine what it is - that as a result of the brutality, the extensive brutality in the system, that it somehow cultivated a very passive people. Untrue, from my own perspective. There have always been points of time when rebellion was in the atmosphere. And there was, in fact, different rebellions over the history of enslavement of persons of African origin in Barbados.

Women played an important role in their resistance by means which, if you had to apply a Christian ethos to it, would not necessarily be celebrated - particularly from forced impregnation, forced pregnancies, utilising different methods to cause an expulsion of the embryo or the foetus from their womb. That was practised right across slave societies. Strong participation of women in doing what they thought that they should do in order to protect their offspring from the ravages of enslavement. The brutality and the creation of tools of punishment, of pain - the whip, mild in comparison to some of the other equipment and tools - developed the practice of coercion. That was an extreme practice, of course, and I don't want to get into all of those details. Those who understand the history can relate to that.

But out of that crucible of victimisation and of pain and of moral decadence - because one of the things that we don't ever speak about is the forced cohabitation between persons of European ancestry, Caucasians and Africans, within this part of the world - the complexion of so many persons in Barbados would show that there had to be strong mixture of African and European. The stockades was a happy harvest ground for many of the depraved of that period. And that resulted, as time emerged, into classification based on colour - from the milk white or chalky white to the darkest black. And this country is still somewhat immersed in that meaningless classification, rather than caught up in what can be called the total liberation of the consciousness, where colour no longer matters.

But we know that it matters to some who are not willing to remove the blinkers from their eyes, remove from their hearts the notion of superiority based upon race, or based upon ethnicity, or based upon class, or based upon economic power. Because it goes through a whole iteration of classifications. And we have still, even as we speak in here today, the notion that we have to occupy different spaces at different times. So there was the period when this House was occupied by the nominated, the denominator, the upper class, the dominating class. And then there were small doors opened for persons like Samuel Jackman Prescod, whom we refer to as a mulatto - a phrase no longer applicable within modern political speech, no longer applicable. And then the commingling after the 1937 riot of other moneyed persons within the society, some of African origin, mulattos and Caucasians, to this period of 2025, where generally in this House, persons mainly of African origins occupy this space.

The holistic society demands that not only persons of African origin come to the elected or electoral plate, but others as well - others who are willing to face the barbs rather than wait in dark corners just to reap the rewards. That's what it demands. Because as we are to create the society that we have talked about over time, it means all should come forward. All might not necessarily be selected, but all should come forward for service in the highest body of the country. And that if I knock at the door of a Caucasian, I should be received based on what I bring, not on who or what I look like. And if a Caucasian knocks on my door seeking to be elected, I should do the same.

But maybe that is an idealistic posture being taken by a man who will soon be 60 years old. Idealism can still be at the heart of those who are beyond 35 or beyond 36 or beyond 25, because there are still dreams and ideals and visions that we want to accomplish in the creation of the genuine New World. This is what this part of the world was supposed to be. But it got its birth in murder. That's what it really called its birth in - Europeans bringing distress to otherwise settled peoples in this part of the world, persons we refer to now as the indigenous citizens. The New World spread right across the Caribbean, right across North and South America, who were caught up in periods of genocide as persons sought to bring them into what they call modern society by Christianising them. And therefore Africa was seen in the same light as a pool of extraction - we can extract, because they too were part of the uncivilised world in the minds of people, to be brought to this part of the

world to be civilised. But that never emerged. What emerged was a vertical cesspool.

And it is out of that condition that today we can speak. And we should be proud of our journey now. How after 1838 - because the period before and up to 1937 and beyond, desperate circumstances prevailed in our land - between 1838 and 1937 is about what, 97 or so years? Just about a hundred years. That is essentially about a short period out of the colonial grasp of the factors of production, of the control of the society. And after 1937, we tried to create a society and a civilisation for people. So we were on a new journey, a new journey that had the emergence of persons who had a vision, who had a view.

I would want to argue that with the presence of Clement Payne, one of our now national heroes present in Barbados, was to continue a journey of education. And then ultimately revolt started in other West Indian territories before it coalesced here in Barbados. It was a period of education which led to some uprisings - Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, you know, across the space and here in Barbados. So it started out as a period of political education, excitement, raising the passions of the people. Look and examine your conditions because they're real. Around 90 per cent of the population, by and large, still tended the fields, still lived on the peripheries of productive land, but they lived on what people will call land that couldn't be tilled for food. So I will give you a spot because you're going to work for me. The day you stop working and go to the next plantation, shift your chattel to that plantation. Still a very dastardly period.

It was the unconscionable actions of the constabulary and those who sought to arrest Clement Payne because he was claiming to be a Barbadian, when in fact under our current immigration laws he would have been. And he was arrested. And the anger built to reach the crescendo that it did. That's the racial reality. The first process was that of education. And people became angered because you removed those who were educating you and the spillover took over.

The significance is that it was the catalyst for so many things during the pre-colonial and post-colonial period up to 1966. Because between 1937 and 1966, some 29 years, one saw the emergence beyond the gifted schools - as I would call them - to poor whites, mulattos and ultimately high-brow blacks in the society: Harrison College, over 300 years or thereabouts; Combermere; Alexandra; The Lodge; Queen's College; St. Michael's, one of the more recent of that vintage established by 1928, established by the vestry-type system. And then with the coming of the political establishment - Grantley Adams and all of those after the 1937 riot - the development of political trade unionism. Because we are scared to attach to the notion of trade unionism or industrial relations the - political unionism. Because there were political activists working on behalf of the trades group employees in the system and in the structure. I want - because we don't have to be revisionistic. Let facts speak for themselves. One knows that our celebrated national hero, Sir Grantley Herbert Adams, was not involved in the initial protest and debate. Because he was a cultured lawyer writing in the plant - his paper. That is the history in my creation. It's not being held against him because he had truth to go through his own crucible. He had to make his own journey. And after making his own journey, he was able to move across the highways and byways and in decaying grounds. The story is told that he became such a reviled individual, hiding from the planters who wanted to evict him off the plantations in St. Peter, that ladies in white skirts hid him under the skirts. That's the story. I wasn't there. I'm not singing calypso, but that's the story. But he came at a point in time where, having crossed that bridge, he became an important symbol of liberation. That's the story. An important symbol of liberation as a political leader and as a political trade unionist. And then Sir Hugh Springer. Honourable Sir Frank Walcott.

It pained me a bit over the last few weeks when, not understanding history, that somebody could proclaim that some assumed negotiated settlement was the greatest victory for the trade union movement in its 75 years of existence. And then, you know, I spent some time having discussions with the spirits. And Sir Frank Walcott's bones shook in his grave. Lawrence Nurse. Evelyn Greaves. Lavere Richards. Orlando. Gabby Scott. Horatio Coke. O'Brien. Trotman. You can name them, because regardless of if you had a contestation with those individuals, you cannot remove them from the history books or history pages of Barbados. You can't do that. Because each man is important in his time. But he sets the foundation on which others can drive or cruise. And to be easily dismissed - and the want of passing of the hand, they were not important, I am now - important is a travesty to their names, to their memory, and to the early and continual foundations of the trade union movement in Barbados.

If I were not involved and engaged at a time in my life as well - I didn't know what place I was in. Our voluntaristic method or system of trade unionism, possibly one of the only ones remaining in the world, has gone through a period of being tarnished. I don't withdraw the words - of being sullied - because out of that one gets the impression that gentlemen's discussion and agreements are no longer relevant. And if in fact that is the case, it has to be now prescribed. It would have to be now prescribed. If the gentleman's discussion and agreements no longer stand or can be discussed rationally, and protocols and processes followed, then it has to be heavily prescriptive. I say that, but I don't want it. I want gentlemen's approaches to continue.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, the period of the 1990s. You brought a resolution and I got it amended and fixed up. And within a week or so she was in the House of Assembly - in the Senate by 1994 she was a member of the executive of the Barbados Union of Teachers, and quick as she was, she was in the House of Assembly. Yes, you did. Anyway, the point being made is that we have made, out of these difficult set of circumstances, we have tried to create an economy and a society, albeit not totally whole. There are still too many fractures within the total body of Barbados. There are still issues of social justice yet to be met. But one cannot give the impression that everything is met in the instance, that by a wave of the hand everybody can be satisfied. It is going to take government with its legislative framework to create a buoyant society. It's going to take the individual working with his family to help create a family and a community environment that is conducive. It's going to take the private sector working and building out its own economic and capitalist infrastructure to help in the total process.

But one gets the impression somehow - and it's a dangerous one, because maybe sometime the Barbados Labour Party will be once again in power - but we're giving the people the impression that the government must be all to everybody at the same time. You've always been in power. That is what moved you from our side to theirs. Because the smell of power was greater than your nose. The reality is that we have done a tremendous amount of work in a small, resource-scarce environment, dependent really on some agricultural production - declining in sugar but expanding in one or two other areas - a tourism product. We're selling Barbados and there have been constrictions in that. We've lost over 1 800 rooms, now building them back out to help that development. International business - and every time the OECD rakes, somebody in the OECD wakes up, they put an X against your name and say, let's go after them. So you have to scramble again to say, take me off some blacklist. All of these travails and these pains descend upon our economies and society.

About a week or so ago, just under a week ago, we had - or we felt - the tail end of earthquakes to our northeast. So we were essentially feeling the tremors, measurements of between 4.5 to, I believe somebody told me, 7.4 - I don't remember if the upper figure is accurate. And we were scared because we have the Scotland District with its fragility. We have a coral cap in the other parts of the island where there are many holes in the ground. So any major shake and Barbadians are in the stew. That is what the reality is. And therefore we have to move past the kinds of contradictions that we bring as leaders to this environment. We have to stop seeking to excite - not the imagination, because I want the imagination of our people to be excited - but to excite somehow their passion to be insulting. So political trade union leaders now can insult the political leaders of the country, and that can be encouraged. I never insulted a fellow because I understood the reality of sitting, talking tomorrow in front of a man, knowing that I did him something bad yesterday. And therefore you create that respect across the table. So sometimes you could have taken up a telephone and said, look, I have a little issue at School X. Resolve it for me. All right, Jonesy. All right, President. And it's resolved. Because you have to develop those relationships. It is not only about the prescription, it is about the relationship, understanding the dynamic of the environment.

I am not going to tell anybody what to do. That's their business. But let's understand that in our space, to commemorate the significance of July 26, 1937, that we have - as we did in the 1990s in the creation of the Social Partnership in which the trade union movement was a major mover and shaker - well, let's remember the National Productivity Council, the tripartite arrangement, all of that was part of that period, and we now want to throw that away while other peoples are now looking to take up that methodology to keep their society sane, to make it work. And therefore, let us reflect as we look back at July 26, 1937, and the sacrifice through death, to where we have come - not in the complete journey, because no journey is ever completed - but that in this continual journey we have to bring more and more of our poor, more and more of our vulnerable, out of the traps in which they find themselves. Because if we don't do that, we don't deserve to have been the progenitors of what took place in 1937 and before.

Parents have sacrificed a lot. We too will make our sacrifice for our children. But don't let us give the impression that somehow you have these burdens of corruption, corrupted evil sores, and our remiss. Because this is not the space that you all remember for St. James Central that Walter occupied. This is not the space that the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central wants to occupy. This is surely not the space that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central wants to occupy. Let us work harmoniously together to make a difference, a genuine difference. And if in the realisation of various impasses - which will happen from time to time - we have to sit and have discussions for resolution, let us do that. Let us not resort to implements of distrust. Let us not resort to implements of violence. And surely, don't let us resort to theatrics as a means to prove our point. Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution 100 per cent. And I invite all Barbadians to be part and parcel of the reflection on this period of national significance - July 26th. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Honourable Members, the sitting is suspended until a quarter to six this evening.

The question that the House be suspended until 5.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, St. James North. Sorry, North.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise to make my contribution in this debate here to commemorate the 26th of July as a day of national significance. All members of Parliament, all right thinking persons, Barbadians, I believe, must understand the significance of this day and would give credit to this resolution here today. Certainly we on this side understand the significance of the purpose and ambit of this resolution. After all, it was the Barbados Labour Party which in the late 1990s established 26 July, the day of the revolts in Barbados 1937, as a day of national significance. Tied into that, Madam Deputy Speaker. After all, it was the Barbados Labour Party that created a National Heroes Day and established 10 great Barbadians on the pantheon of national heroes in this country. Again about the same time, I believe it was, that this day was established as a day of national significance.

We have 10 national heroes transcending all ages and periods in Barbados history. Most of them, yes, being within the recent history of Barbados in the 20th century, but transcending political parties basically. I think that the 10 national heroes that we have are sufficient for our island. I know occasionally there is public debate on whether we should have more. I believe 10 is enough. Jamaica, a country with almost 10 times the population of Barbados, only has seven national heroes. And these are the 10 that are generally considered to merit that status. My parliamentary colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Michael - [Inaudible.] - in terms of the words, I mean, we see that the word disturbance is used here. It is a question of semantics. I prefer the word revolt rather than disturbance. Disturbance I think does not forcefully speak towards what took place on that day in that period. Indeed, it was a transformational period in the history of this country. A period which we all recognise brought into establishment trade unions and political parties - the Barbados Labour Party that has served this country so well. The first large or mass-based trade union, the Barbados Workers Union. The trade union legislation, I think 1940, came in soon after this period, coming out of the reports of the Moyne Commission. And we all know generally speaking the history of it.

We have to ensure that young persons in this country appreciate the history of the period and how it has shaped their lives and current Barbados. The 14 persons who died as a result of those revolts - we owe them a great debt. And I have always said that you must be prepared as individuals to stand for something. You have to stand for certain principles. If not, you will fall for anything. You must be prepared - as we must be prepared as individuals in public life - to die for your principles, if needs be. And these 14 persons who died, plus the 47, I believe, who were injured, put their lives on the line for what they believed in at the time. And that was the need for social justice for their countrymen, for themselves, for their families at the time. Because not much had changed after a hundred years of the abolition of slavery in Barbados - not only in Barbados, but throughout the Caribbean. And therefore the names of Grant and Chase and Aline and Israel, Lovell and Skeet that have been mentioned in here today must stand as heroes in their own way of this Barbadian society. And it was correct for the government of the time, the Barbados Labour Party government led by the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, to exonerate - to pardon, whatever word you want to use - them from the convictions which were meted out to them by the unjust laws of the time.

The presenter of this resolution, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, was going along very well in this debate earlier today until he sought to bring partisan politics into it by trying to say that, but for the Barbados Labour Party, even today the workers would not have the right to peacefully picket in this country. I mean, I know he knows better than that, Madam Deputy Speaker. I know when he knows that he is not being credible. His facial expression betrayed him on that occasion. He knows better than that. The Barbados Labour Party certainly never opposed that right and that amendment when it took place. Nor did the Barbados Labour Party ever oppose the right of public servants to join trade unions as they desired to. So let us set the record straight on that.

That Honourable Member spoke about the contribution of the Democratic Labour Party to the trade union movement and to workers' rights. Again, we are not going to contest that on a historical basis. Legislation passed by both the Barbados Labour Party in the 1940s and the 1950s, and legislation passed by the Democratic Labour Party in the 1960s and 1970s, all contributed to the advancement of workers' rights and to where we are today. But the great concern, Madam Deputy Speaker, is where we are today in July of the year 2015. And where are workers' rights now as we treat to them in this country of Barbados today? That is what concerns us. Because the history of it, although important, cannot help the worker today who is under severe strain and pressure under this Democratic Labour Party government.

The workers who are under severe pressure - I see that even the Honourable Attorney General agrees with me that the workers of Barbados are under tremendous

pressure under the Democratic Labour Party government. And Madam Deputy Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister - I am probably the last person from whom he would want to take advice. I mean, we studied the same law books over 30 years ago. But how you treat the people really and truly cannot be found in any law book. It cannot be found in any ancient history book by Plato or Cicero or any of those either. But the Right Honourable Prime Minister needs to temper his language when talking about today's trade unionists. Words such as bullying, blackmail, actors on stage, elements waiting to create civil commotion, like fanatics armed with guns, venturers, rape and burglary and choke and rob - all of this kind of language should have no place in today. Surely we as political leaders must be able to find language which can address these issues rather than this hot and sweaty language. We talk about cooling heads and tempers - both the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Minister of Finance. But the tempers that need to be cooled are those of the members of this Cabinet.

We have fought too long and too hard - including those people who were part and parcel of the 1937 revolts - fought too long and hard to establish the rights of workers in this country. Fought too long and hard for the right of workers to peacefully demonstrate and to agitate for what they believe is theirs. Our forefathers, our grandfathers, our great-grandparents have fought too hard against colonial government and against oppression and injustice, social and economic, to bring us here today, where, as has been said many times, you have 30 black people in Parliament. For all of this to be undermined now by a Cabinet that does not understand its role - that feels that, like some emperor of a Roman Empire, or some fascist government - soon you are going to see them wearing purple like the Roman emperors of the day. We people are just here, all of us, for a time. We are trustees of the people. We are servants of them. Do not let us forget that. Do not let politicians, members of Cabinet, get so pompous in their boots, so arrogant, that because they have achieved ministerial status - which many of them would never have imagined they would have achieved - because when the people are ready to put you out, they will put you out. And they would pass you in the street and spit at you. The same people who feel they have to call you Mr. Minister now and all of that - they will spit at you in the street, and that can happen very soon. So let us keep our feet on the ground and let us deal with the trade unionists with respect and with humility.

I am totally disturbed, Madam Deputy Speaker, at the condemnation of the present-day leaders of the two major trade unions just because they are young people - mid-30s or however old they are, late-30s. What is wrong with that? Most of the leaders in life have made a mark in their country by the time they are mid-30s. So this thing about how these are young elements, and a young man with a gun started World War I, and all this kind of political nonsense - really and truly it is disappointing coming from the political leadership of this country, that ought to know better. These are young people who are fighting for the rights of the workers whom they represent, as they have been democratically elected within their trade unions to do. And they have a role to play, and we as politicians have to understand that. And this notion being put about that they are partisan political and all of this kind of political nonsense has no place.

When the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central was heading a trade union, it was not said that his actions were based on party politics and that he was seeking to bring down the government. When in 1986 the Democratic Labour Party won the government and at least five top trade unionists were members of Parliament, no one said that their actions were politically partisan and sought to establish a DLP government and to bring down a Barbados Labour Party government. In 1986 they had at least five DLP members of Parliament - between the elected Parliament and the Senate - one of whom is still now the campaign manager of the Democratic Labour Party from the last election, those who are alive still very much entwined with the Democratic Labour Party. So let us not get confused.

And this kind of language, comparable to the Minister of Education's language of shooting off heads and cracking skulls - why this attempt to intimidate people? Why this attempt to intimidate people in the year 2015, after almost 50 years of independence, after almost 80 years after the 1937 revolt? Young people are not frightened of anybody here. So there is no use using that kind of language trying to intimidate them. Some people are not frightened of nobody in Cabinet. So let us be fair about this. And this attempt now - there is Section 48 of the Constitution that speaks about good governance and peace and security. Just because people have given notice that they want to demonstrate and they do not like what a government is doing in terms of unfair treatment of workers - and the latest, trying to discriminate on the basis of age - and you are talking about passing legislation to curtail trade union activity under Section 48 of the Constitution. Well, whatever that is, it is a fairy tale of the highest political order.

The whole point about this debate here today is that those people who were associated with the 1937 riots fought hard - some lost their lives - to bring Barbados to where it is, to allow for demonstrations peacefully, to agitate for workers' rights. No one has talked about violating anything. And this threat now to change the Constitution - the Democratic Labour Party cannot change the Constitution by itself because it does not have a two-thirds majority. So it is legal nonsense anyway. And this need to now protect the trade union movement - the trade union movement leaders have been elected democratically.

So what protection does the trade union movement need from its present leadership? If anything, we need to pass laws in this Parliament so that the people of Barbados can have the right to recall members of Parliament who have shown themselves to be unfit to lead this country. That is what we should be talking about. If we are talking about protecting people, we should be protecting the people of Barbados by passing legislation dealing with the right to recall members of Parliament.

Members of Parliament who do not know right from wrong - that they should not be accepting gifts from companies with whom they have deals, that their statutory corporations are doing business with, that they should not be driving about in vehicles given to them by those companies. That is where we should start. Members of Parliament who do not know right from wrong in terms of judgments against them for unreasonably withholding clients' funds for over 10 years. That is what we should be talking about, if anything.

This is the Democratic Labour Party that passed the Public Order Act in 1971. You had some disturbances in Trinidad and Tobago and the Democratic Labour Party came quickly here and passed the Public Order Act to prevent people going on a political platform and saying certain things. Only one person has ever been prosecuted, to my knowledge - I stand to be corrected - under that Act in almost 45 years. And that person tells me that he never paid the fine that he was ordered to pay. So that Act was a useless Act. Again, a spontaneous ad hoc measure. So let us not talk about bringing legislation to curtail rights that have been fought for strenuously over the years, fought and won. We have passed that stage.

What we should be doing as the political directorate, for example, is condemning the powder attack on the trade union that is leading these demonstrations - the powder attack and the threats. That is what we should have been doing, and that is what the people would have expected the political leadership of this country to do.

The Honourable Minister of Culture, who presented this resolution today, spoke about how the Democratic Labour Party has strengthened the social partnership. Again, he knows that is not correct. The social partnership has not met in full, according to my understanding, since July last year - exactly one whole year from today - not met. Cannot get a meeting with government. The Right Honourable Prime Minister - he could correct me if I am wrong - has been quoted as saying that the social partnership is a philosophical absurdity. He said so. I mean, he might have said so a while ago. I believe it was 1999. He might come and say his view has changed - one has to put that in the context of today. But if that is the government's view of the social partnership, which a Democratic Labour Party government brought into place - yes, probably the main achievement of the Democratic Labour Party in the 1991–94 period was that. Give credit where it is due. Almost everything else they did between that period was a failure, politically and otherwise. That was to the credit of the Right Honourable Erskine Sandiford, and we give that. But do not come and say the Democratic Labour Party has strengthened it. This government has not observed the process which has been established under the social partnership - to have meetings, to consult, to negotiate with the trade unions before it acts.

It sought to dismiss 10 or 13 employees of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation just because they reached 60 years old. That is discrimination. But in that case, some members in this Parliament should go home - you can include the Right Honourable Prime Minister. And I would not say - I would be the last person to say - that because you reach age 60 you are no longer of any use. But that is essentially what has been said, without negotiating with the representatives of the workers as the social partnership protocols - all six of them, I believe - have said, and without observing the Employment Rights Act that this Democratic Labour Party passed in this Parliament. Because the Employment Rights Act says that once 10 per cent of a workforce is being made redundant, you have to consult with the unions. And obviously if they are being sent home for financial reasons because the corporation feels it is not able to pay them, it is not a retirement - it is an economic redundancy. But that is common sense. You do not have to be a lawyer, Honourable Attorney General, to know that. So I can understand why they were wrongly advised.

The Democratic Labour Party - again, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central this morning spoke about how the Democratic Labour Party brought in the severance payments legislation. That is correct. But let us give the other side. You have to give the full picture. The Democratic Labour Party government also undermined the severance payments legislation in 1991–92 when it came to Parliament and lessened the amount of severance that workers could get. And they did that before laying off 4 000 workers, so that those 4 000 public servants who were laid off in 1991–92 got less severance payment than they would have got under a Barbados Labour Party government.

The reality of the situation is that this government has lost the trust of the people of Barbados, and that is why it is unable at this stage to get anything through. The trade unionists are not standing up for their rights and holding their ground as well they should for any partisan reason. The government of Barbados needs to take the people into its confidence. The people of this country have been educated - have reached a certain stage of education because of both political parties here. We brought people to this stage and you have to have confidence in your people.

You have to be able to tell the people of Barbados, for example, what are the details of these negotiations on this Cahill waste-to-energy project? Why are these negotiations being conducted in secret, as if it is some private matter personal to the Cabinet of Barbados? Bring it out to the people of Barbados. Have town hall meetings. Tell the people what it is about, what is in it. Do not have any private secret deals.

One of the outstanding parliamentarians of post-independence Barbados, the late Sir James Cameron Tudor, Democratic Labour Party Deputy Prime Minister - he once said, having attended more Cabinet meetings than any parliamentarian on the DLP side in his lifetime, that Cabinet meetings should be televised. That in his time he could only remember about seven Cabinet meetings that could not have been televised because of reasons of national security. So let us stop being a secret government. Put the people of Barbados in your confidence and reveal details of all these intended projects to the people. You will get through better. But then you do not have to take my advice.

This resolution speaks to good governance. I totally call for the advancement of good governance in this country. That is why I have consistently called for the proclaiming of the Prevention of Corruption Act that was passed in this Parliament and in the Senate almost three years ago, and not one word has been mentioned about it - not one word mentioned about that piece of legislation since I came into this Parliament in February 2013. What is the Democratic Labour Party frightened of in terms of establishing the Commission Against Corruption?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have two minutes left.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Only two minutes, Ma'am. I will beg you, Ma'am, for a little more time. What is the delay about? Let us have good governance by establishing the Prevention of Corruption Act. Let us have good governance by establishing the promised freedom of information legislation promised in the Democratic Labour Party manifesto in 2008, so that information can be freely revealed. The information belongs to the taxpayers of this country. It is not the personal business of the Cabinet of Barbados. Let us have good governance by bringing in contractor general legislation in this country so that contracts which Cabinet makes with individuals can be reviewed by an independent body. Let us have a standing law reform commission to review and recommend the repeal of laws. Our Constitution of course saved pre-existing legislation - legislation that existed before independence - and therefore we have some laws that are unfit for today. For example, in our Immigration Act we have a provision that says that imbeciles should not be admitted into Barbados, and people who are wandering are still brought before the court. These kinds of laws should have no place in modern-day contemporary Barbados. Let us have a standing law reform commission. If we are talking about good governance, let us have justice. Let us have justice for those -

who National Conservation Commission employees who were encouraged to go before an employment rights tribunal 15 months ago. A tribunal that has only heard one case so far and has not even set down a date for hearing of the cases of the National Conservation Commission employees.

This Democratic Labour Party government - Barbados is in danger under this Democratic Labour Party government of experiencing a reversal of all the gains made starting from the 1937 revolt. It is in the people's interests that must prevail over injustice which presently transcends this government. Thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate. And you know, one thing I think we need to recognise is that if we do not learn from the lessons of history, we are deemed to repeat the mistakes of the past. And you know, listening to the debate and listening to the contribution from the other side, if I was a young person sitting down listening to this debate, I will be questioning seriously exactly what it is about and whether or not we, as representatives of the people, have looked back at the events that occurred on July 26, 1937, and have learned from those events. And not only that, having learned from those events, the extent to which we are prepared to use what we have learned to inform us as to how we need to proceed for the future.

Because essentially, the 1937 riots, it is said, represented the commencement of a process of healing in this country in which it was recognised that the social fabric of this country had reached the point where it was becoming undone. And really, I think the important thing, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we need to take from this is: what have we learned from that? And how can we apply the circumstances that applied then to carry us forward at a very challenging time?

You know, I would say to young people in our country - I want to say today I represent a constituency in St. Michael, an urban constituency in which we have persons from all strata. And the price of freedom - always remember - is eternal vigilance. And many have, even today, persons in our society which, because of their own experiences, will seek to bring their approach to life to influence young people in terms of certain actions. We have to be concerned because what it says is that to what

extent have we learned that if we want to maintain our society and take it forward in a very positive way, that behaviours, in essence, have to change. And that is something I think we need to recognise. And I call it trying to demonise. Demonise politicians, demonise young people, demonise everything - does not help us. Because, as you know, the Member for St. James North made a statement to say that when you point at people, your fingers point back at you. It is correct. Because effectively, what you did - and you know, it is disconcerting that as politicians today we continue to do this kind of thing - what you did is that you offered nothing from the 1937 riots that we need now to use to try to improve our society and to speak to our people at this time as to what is required.

Because one of the things that came out of that is the promotion of equality in our society - that then there was a feeling among people that there was inequity and that everybody did not have a fair chance. Another thing that came out of that is: how do we construct a positive culture in our society that made it possible for the society as a whole to progress? Because culture is extremely important. Even in this society today, where we want to break down culture and introduce new norms. The other thing that is extremely important is how do we improve social relations when we see today there is an effort on the part of a group of Barbadians to break down the social relations that exist even among young people. And young people in our country today have to be careful that they are not misused - in order to obtain the goals of a certain class in this country.

Because at the end of the day, when the 1937 riots, Madam Deputy Speaker, ended, who suffered the most? I believe, subject to correction, 14 black people died. Black people died. And many go about trying to give the impression to our people that our society has not progressed, it has not learned, it has not improved from where it was. It is then an indictment not only on the Democratic Labour Party administration - I hear that Member trying to interject - but on the Barbados Labour Party administration they helped create it. So when you get inside here and on another debate where we need to give our people hope, we try to ferment all kind of fears and distrust. What does that say for us as a people? And not only that, what does that say for us as representatives of the people? Because the very people that we put fear in, that we cause them to panic and we cause them to do stupid things, are the same ones that we have to turn around and lead.

At the end of the day, we have to be careful about what we are doing in our country. We have to be extremely careful. I really think that we need to sit down and understand when we have these types of debates, what are we trying to achieve? And what I think we are trying to achieve, honestly, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that we are trying at a very difficult time in our history - where we face the type of challenges which means everyone must come on board - we are trying now to bring the best out of our people to face the challenges that we have and to conquer those challenges, because I have every confidence that we can conquer those challenges. And this day, the day of national significance, July 26, is an opportunity to refocus our people on their strengths in order to deal with the issues that we face today.

And we have an attitude in our country, a development attitude, that we seem to accept that there will be collateral damage. When I say that, we seem to feel that at some point in time you will have losses. So it does not matter that someone who has misinterpreted the message goes and does something reckless. And because of that reckless action that they have done, a family loses a father, a family loses a son, a breadwinner. It does not matter to them, because you know why? They could stay behind their guard gates with their guard dogs and they are not touched. But who gets touched in this country is the ordinary people - ordinary people that come from Grazettes or from Bronx Land and Black Rock. But they get gathered by the police so they can sit down and talk foolishness and encourage people to hate one another. We have to get past that type of political discourse. There is a time and season for everything. The time is not now. The time is not now. What we have to be doing is to learn from what has happened and seek to promote what is best for our community at this time and develop healthy attitudes.

We therefore, in debating this particular subject in terms of the 1937 civil rights and what has happened, we need to focus on where we as a society need to go and how our people working together can help us achieve a better society. Because let us understand that today everything is not perfect. Everything is not perfect. We still have work in progress to make. Because sometimes when I look around in the country and I see the fact that today people disrespect one another - that you can have a Prime Minister of this country being disrespected, and not only that, being encouraged to be disrespected by persons who should know better. We could have an opposition who could sit down and at times seem as if they want to ferment these things. That, to my mind, is inexcusable.

Because at the same time, I ask myself - all of us inside here are part of a government. I ask myself, we are all part of the government. And at the same time, we operate as if we are not moving together. Because it is the same mechanisms that we use today that the opposition would at the same time seek to use. That is what it is. And I think that we need to understand what we are dealing with and what we are doing. And at the same time, all of us are guardians - all of us are guardians, therefore, of the social fabric.

And let us deal on the whole question of at least learning that we are guardians of our natural environment. You know, we live in a country today in which we see a lot of things happening to actually destroy the natural environment of which we are part. And we as Barbadians have to play a role in terms of helping to guard that environment, to ensure that the environment that we are part of today is secure. Reason being that, you know, I get the impression when I look at people today and how they deal with issues, it seems as if many of us feel that we will be around for the next hundred years and that the houses that we build for whatever hundreds and millions of dollars, that somehow we will live long enough to enjoy them and will never leave them. We also do not think of the impact that is there on the physical environment, the impact that we create in our natural environment and the impact that it has on the standard of living that others experience as a result. We don't think about that.

And in that regard, I want to say that we need therefore to exercise a responsible attitude to how we manage the environment of which we are part and what we put in place for the future of it. At the same time, and I want to say this, we expect those persons who have the responsibility to ensure that we do what is correct to carry out the job that they are supposed to do. And I have not known government to interfere with those persons who are responsible for protecting that natural environment. They are the people who are supposed to make that recommendation. And I would expect that the government gets the benefit of the best advice possible in terms of carrying out the jobs that they are supposed to do. But one of the things I want to say is that Barbadians do have a responsibility individually, by their actions, in safeguarding that natural environment.

And you know, one of the things - I was in the constituency over the weekend and one of my constituents came to me and she said, you know, one of the issues that I have is the fact that the sanitation service is not picking up the garbage. I want to say, and I want to speak to the Minister of the Environment on this, because this is ridiculous. You know, people are thinking that the sanitation people are now on strike. But there are some places in my constituency that for four weeks, even prior to the so-called strike, garbage was not collected. And there are some places in this country, I can tell you this now, that the garbage is being collected. What it suggests to me - and I want to say this - we pay our civil service well and our people, ordinary people in this country, have a right. And don't come blaming the politicians, because that is what they like to do. When the civil service falls down, who is the fall guy? The politician. And the Members on the other side, instead of recognising that and helping us to deal with it, they fall into the trap too, because they feel that they can benefit from that kind of blame game. There is no time for that.

And we have to be honest. Because if we are to deliver to the people the type of services that they have voted for us to deliver, we must all act in unison to ensure that the civil servants do the job that they are supposed to do. That is what we should be doing - not getting inside here and, because of the fact that a civil servant does not do the job, blaming somebody. At the end of the day, what are the administrative processes in the civil service doing to address that particular problem? What is the internal management of the Sanitation Service Authority doing to address that particular problem? That is one issue. That is an issue. Not getting inside here trying to score cheap political points off each other.

And you know who suffers at the same time? Speaking on behalf of ordinary people in St. Michael West Central - the people in Clevelandale, the people in Deane's, the people in Black Rock - people are steaming. Myself, I did not get a garbage collection for the last four weeks, because somebody in the Sanitation Service Authority decided, you know what, I am not doing my job efficiently. No. As a country, we need to start to look at ourselves seriously.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I understand that many people engage in these actions. As I said, 14 people dying when they had rights. Black people. Not a boy who was among the wealthy got killed. And in this thing, who - garbage not getting collected - the poor people's garbage not getting collected. And we must stay inside the Chamber and talk about all kind of nonsense. And poor people - and you know who deals to the poor people? Poor people too. You know why? Because we have people in this country who are prepared to mislead people, to tell them, don't do the job that you're supposed to do.

Let me put it this way. When people stop things coming in at the port - people don't understand - we are a country in which we depend on the port to bring things in for food. We don't understand what is going on in this country today. When the customs drivers at the port say that they will work to rule and we are only learning certain things - who do you think they are hurting? They are not hurting the rich. They are not hurting the rich. And the Member for St. Thomas should know better. She should be with me, not carrying on in that way, because I don't - on one hand she is for the poor, and next thing you know, she is for somebody else. I don't understand. Two tongues. Two tongues.

My point is this: one day you block something from coming in. It might be baby food that a mother needs to feed her baby. When those things start to go short on the shelves of supermarkets in this country, who gets hurt? I ask the question - who gets hurt? And I am saying there is a better way. You mean to tell me we have not learned anything from the 1937 civil rights? There is a better way

to deal with disputes in this country rather than trying to hurt each other, rather than trying to engage in collateral damage. That is what I am trying to say. When you get there and leave garbage on the ground - look, I could tell you this. In the area of St. Stephen's, the health people did a survey. I know my constituency, that is why I could talk about it. In that area, we have a problem in terms of vermin, rats that we have to control, and we have been doing a good job. But when you leave that garbage out for so long, what are you doing? Who are you hurting? Who are you hurting? And this is not something to make sport about, Member for St. Thomas. This is not something to joke at. It is nothing to score on. And Member for St. James North ought to be ashamed.

My point is: who are we hurting? We are hurting ordinary black people, poor black people who cannot defend themselves and who don't have the ability to call Jose and Joseph to come and pick up the rubbish for them. What are we doing as your people when the actions that we undertake to prove a point end up hurting the very people that we are supposed to be providing a service for? And they get encouraged by people in the opposition to do this kind of thing. They get encouraged by them. And they hold their hand and tell them, go ahead, you are doing the right thing.

I mean, Madam Deputy Speaker, I always thought that we had a civil service that was professional, that would do the job that it is supposed to do. And I have always said that Barbados has the best civil service in this Caribbean region, and they still have it. But we have to bring the best out of our people. Because I sincerely believe that when it comes down to the crunch, we are going to do the right thing. But let it not get to the crunch. Let it not get to the point that collateral damage has to happen in order for us to recognise that we have to do the right thing. Because we could do things, but we could do it in a way that the very people that will suffer the most don't get hurt. Because at the end of the day, that is what will happen. When you stop things coming at the port again and a poor farmer looking to make money for the family cannot get the seeds that he wants - who are you hurting? You are hurting the poor farmer. And I am appealing to us in this country that there are better, different ways that we can solve the problems that we have.

And we must learn. Let us learn from the 1937 riots. Let us learn from it and understand that we don't have to go down the road of this militancy. Because at the end of the day, it is the poor people in this country that get hurt.

I want to, you know - I hear people walking about the country talking about the Prime Minister not taking people into his confidence. I want to say this: that is the most big untruth I have ever heard. I have attended a number of the sessions. Get to the point because, you know, we have to be truthful when we speak in this country and stop trying to distort things. I have heard the Prime Minister on many occasions - at the Barbados Solidarity, even in this Parliament - come to the country and say things are not good. He said it. He sat down with unions there. You remember the Central Bank Governor said it. The unions there, the private sector there, showing where Barbados was going - everything up for the thing. The most intelligent men sitting down in a room and pointing out where Barbados was at then and what the choices were. Nothing was hidden. Not a thing was hidden. And we still talk about taking people into your confidence. What is there more to tell about the situation that this country faces that any one of us, any enlightened individual here, does not know? We know. We very well know what is ahead. And we also very well know what we have to do. What we do not need at this point in time is the distraction.

And you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, at a time when Barbados has now begun to show some semblance of economic vigour - economic vigour - because, you know, we have not talked about the fact that at least in the report of the Central Bank Governor, the last report, there has been a semblance of growth. And at the time when this country should be seeking to capitalise on the growth that is being exhibited now, what are we doing? We have efforts to diminish the growth and make it seem like nothing. We should be thinking now as a country: how do we maximise any opportunity that will likely be afforded by Barbados becoming the home port for certain vessels? How do we get our private sector to take advantage of it? How do we get our agricultural sector to be able to grow the crops, produce eggs, produce the meat that many ships come here buying from Barbados more, and then we are earning more from the tourists than we normally get? How do we gear our productive sectors to take advantage of it? That is what we should be discussing. That is what the discussion should be on - not spending time trying to be as uncooperative as possible, trying to demonise as much as possible, trying to tell lies and distortions. That is not what we should be doing. And the opposition, looking as much as possible to see if they could create doubts in the minds of people - look, it is no doubt that Barbados in its economic performance has improved. And that is no lie. Even the IMF recognised that. But it also said that we have to watch certain things. That is what it said.

So when we discuss the Day of National Significance, when we discuss the Day of National Significance, what we should be doing is recharging ourselves as Barbadians to do what is necessary to take this country forward. I say this - people are saying, there is a time and season for everything. And this is not the time to get there and belittle the achievements that we have made over the past year. This is the time to build on it. And I really appeal to our civil servants, to the people that we have responsible for delivering the services to people in

this country - recognise who gets the damage most. Who gets the damage most. And we should not believe any principle of collateral damage, because you know what it says? It says that some people in the whole process are expendable. That is what it says - that some people are expendable. And I believe that no one is expendable. I believe that we should try to save every single man or woman. And if we move, we move forward together - not push some people off. And that is what they are trying to do. That is what the opposition is trying to do, because they want to win a government but they don't mind any process of winning, whether or not they hurt people. And that is the unfortunate stance that we see coming from the opposition all the time - that whatever you do, you cannot at least recognise that Barbados in itself, when we do this debate, needs to look at what it needs to do to move forward.

And you know, one of the things that the 1937 civil rights - one of the lessons that come out of it, as I indicated, is the maturation of the political system. How do we mature it in order to ensure that we enlist the support of people? And you know, one of the things I do believe - all of us do believe in the society - is that there should be order at the end of the day. One of the things that people say about Barbados around the Caribbean is that we are one of the most ordered societies in the region. That, you know, if you need something done properly, get a Barbadian and they will do it properly for you. But when I listen to the utterances that I see coming nowadays, it seems as if we want disorder. It seems as if we would prefer to break down things. And if one thing we should learn from those events in 1937, it is that when you get disorder, people get hurt. It takes too long for the country to rebuild. We have well-tuned processes in this country to help resolve things - processes in which we look after everybody. I am saying, let us use them to the fullest extent possible in order to ensure that we make the type of decisions that will bring progress to everybody.

And Madam Deputy Speaker, the national day of significance that we speak about on the 26th of July - we have to reflect not on the negatives. We have to reflect on the positives. Because I truly believe that if we do not learn from the lessons of history, we are doomed to failure. And if it is -

one thing we can learn from the 1937 riots is that if we act together as a people in faith, because that was the. It transformed us in 1937 - the riots brought us to the realisation that we are really one people. That we could achieve so much. And with that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I give support to the resolution and recommend it. For what is society? Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for St. George North.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I rise to make a brief contribution on this important resolution. I want to say from the outset that I have participated in this debate before. It was a time in the last parliament, under a Barbados Labour Party government, when in the 1990s, when we looked at the whole notion of days of national significance, we also looked at Emancipation Day and we also looked at the day for celebrating heroes. So we went through all this before. But I think that it is important at this stage for us to remind Barbadians that there is a day of national significance. And as the resolution says, we want to encourage Barbados to fully appreciate the importance and meaning of July 26th.

I have not heard in this debate two things - or three things. What it is that we want the citizens of this country to know about the 1937 riots - that is the first question. The second is why it is important for them to know this. And the third question, which I want to address briefly, is how can we as a people appreciate those who fought to help free Barbados in the 1937 riots? I have heard a historical debate in which we talk about slavery and we talk about the thinking of the people of the time. It is important for us to know the history. It is important for us to know those who struggled in 1937 and before, because as one member said - I think it was the member for St. Michael North East - it was a combination of a lot of important events that took place, and of course slavery itself for over 200 years. And then the period after 1834, the period of apprenticeship, and then the period of hard struggle. Three hundred years of severe hardship for the masses must be told - that story must be told.

And we have gone through a lot of that before. But one must appreciate that by 1937 and 1938, there was a new thinking not only in Barbados but in the world - especially when you look at the revolutions that were going on at the time. The Russian Revolution of 1917, the Chinese revolution in the early years, and of course the various uprisings that took place within the Caribbean. So by 1937 there were many people in the Caribbean who were graduates. And I heard the member for Christ Church East Central talk about Adams and Barrow and so on, and I want to address that because it is very important to know that every revolution was led not by the masses themselves, but by those of middle income and by the intelligentsia of the time - persons who had more education than the others. And to that extent I want to put on the record that both Adams and Barrow were middle-income persons, both lawyers trained abroad, and they were both from the same class.

And I want to also say that both Adams and Barrow were strong leaders. Yes, there were times when Adams took over from the planter class. He had to be strong in order to get something done. And Barrow likewise had to be strong to get something done within the country. And

that is why I have said in this Parliament before that there is a lot of unfinished business to be done from 1937. I have been on record saying this all the time. A lot of unfinished business still to be done.

And I want to place on the record - because I do not want to speak the whole 30 minutes - we need to find out whether those persons who were incarcerated have truly been pardoned. That is the first thing, because I remember we discussed this and I have never seen a list of those persons who were incarcerated at the time, those persons who died. What has become of that list? Are they truly heroes? The records are there and I want to find out, because we are here, but there are many families who are still grieving because their relatives were incarcerated and were never properly pardoned. And I want to find out if we can shed some light on that list.

And this is very important - that we do this at this stage because the business must continue. We must continue to tell people. And as the resolution says, we must continue to tell people about the 1937 riots, the significance of them, how they have modernised our thinking, how they have modernised this country. Because without the 1937 riots, we would still be, I would say, in a society dominated by another class. And we have to watch this because we know that from 1951 a number of important bills were passed, acts were passed, legislation was brought here. A lot of things happened because of this significant achievement. And therefore we have a right to tell our people. We heard about the poor housing conditions. We heard about social conditions, poverty. We heard about bad roads, social services, conditions of work, education. All these are things we are aware of. We must say that a lot of things have been achieved. We have achieved a lot. But we are still far away from achieving what the riots intended to bring about. Those of us who have read the Moyne Commission know that it speaks about education for all, housing, social services and welfare, and conditions of work. All of these things are enshrined within the Moyne Commission.

People felt that they could not live under an oppressive system. And the time has come for us to ask: is the Westminster system the system that we really want to propel throughout the next 50 years? Do we want to have the power of the Prime Minister, which is enshrined in the constitution, the same as it was in 1966? And the debate must continue. Is it a true democracy when the Prime Minister - not the present Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister as enshrined in law - can call elections at any time he wants to? He is not only first among equals within the cabinet, but the Prime Minister is really the dictator of the country. Now, I am not talking about the present Prime Minister - I am talking about the Prime Minister as enshrined in law. The Prime Minister is really a dictator of cabinet. He dictates what he wants. Even though you have a situation where you have cabinet government in this place, the Prime Minister is more powerful than the President of the USA within the law - because the President of the USA has to go through various checks and balances, whereas the Prime Minister in our system has that power. And if you want to ask a question: do we want this system to continue? And that is why this debate is important. The Moyne Commission spoke about governance. Do we as a people continue to have a Westminster system that may very well be obsolete after 70 years? We need to look at this. We need to ask the people what it is that we want to achieve as far as governance is concerned.

I am also on record as saying that this whole question of poverty seems to come up so often, and that we cannot get it right. There are still too many people in our society who are very poor. And we have to be able to help these people. There was poverty in 1937, there was poverty in 1950, there was poverty at every decade. And I am not saying that there is more poverty now than there was 10 years ago, because there was poverty in our time too. But how do we eradicate this and allow persons to move above the poverty line? We have to get it right. The debate must continue. How do we encourage people to work and to move forward?

The other question is: are we satisfied that those persons who have made it in society have given back to the society from which they came? Are we satisfied that those persons who have made it as professionals - doctors, lawyers - have they given back to the villages that they came from? We have to ask ourselves these questions. Or are we perpetuating a system that we inherited? Because I am of the view that we have a Black society that has materialised the things inherited from the oligarchy system and is using it the same way. So we have taken over from the planter class and put in a new planter class in terms of professionalism. And we have to ask ourselves: what is it that we are doing?

And the debate must continue, Madam Deputy Speaker, because this is an important occasion. And I hope - because I have said before - that one of the things that has inhibited this government and the government before is communication. I think we do not get it right. Communication is still lacking, not necessarily in this government, but in our government before. We do not communicate effectively to the people. So people do not know what is happening. I have said that a long time ago - that effective communication is one in which you ensure that all citizens know. I might teach in a class of 30, but three or four persons might understand me. The majority of persons do not understand. And you as a teacher go along and feel that they understand. But every child hears differently, and people in our society hear differently. We want them to understand what you are saying. Repetition, repetition, repetition. We have to be able to communicate

to people about this day. Even though we have been talking about this day of national significance for a long time, there are still some people in this society who do not know what it is all about. And therefore this debate is important.

And I want to say finally, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I support it, but we have a long way to go. We have to continue the debate - not necessarily only at this time, not only on the 26th of July when we come and say we want to remember these people, but something must be built to recognise those persons who have done their bit to help free us. We have to give those persons some recognition. We have to do it because it is important that we do so at this juncture. It is almost 80 years since the riots, which, as one person said, were the culmination of a lot of events. We agree - the riots were not only in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean. People wanted freedom. People wanted freedom from this harsh reality. And we cannot imagine, Madam Deputy Speaker, what it was like for those persons who suffered in those years. It was suffering that we cannot imagine. And having suffered, we believe that the generation now should look back at what happened then. But how do we move our people beyond this stage into a society that is just, into a society that is equitable, into a society that is truly moving towards adulthood? Thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am obliged to you, Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I just want to lend my thoughts to this discourse because it is a very important discussion and it really speaks to who we are, where we were and where we're going as a society, not just as a government or a parliament or whatever the case might be. And the idea of what has arrested me about this is the whole idea of emancipation. And emancipation cannot be confined to any specific sphere of human endeavour. Emancipation is really a total human evolution that helps individuals to yearn for a sense of freedom - freedom not only in terms of their economic circumstances, freedom not only in terms of their political circumstances, but freedom as it also relates to their own self identity. And when we reflect on this whole issue of remembrance of that particular time and space in our history, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have to really contemplate where we were at that time and what really did the 1937 experience mean to us then and what it means to us now.

I am of the view that as we've journeyed across time from that particular space and place in our history, that many of our people in today's generation do not fully comprehend or appreciate what the 1937 riots mean to us. The speaker who just took his seat, Madam Deputy Speaker, reflected on what he considered to be some of the rudiments of the thinking of that time. And he talked about how we need to reflect on those who would have been incarcerated and lost their lives and those who may have been assessed at the time as creating infractions to the law, how they have been treated and what history tells us about their contribution to the process. I believe that the society in general has really recanted many of the lessons learned then. And I believe that we have not done a very good job in passing on the lessons of that time to those of us who now exist, particularly our children.

There is a space in human growth and development that is called identity formation. And identity formation speaks to that developmental journey where individuals of all walks of life, from all types of backgrounds, get involved in a process of searching to define who they are. The Barbadian society cannot achieve true self identity without looking into the facts of that time and understanding what it was all about. Yes, we've heard today that time talked about conditions - conditions of work, conditions of living, conditions of the family. But there's an important condition that must be reflected upon. And that is the condition of the psyche of that generation. And I think that we will find some great nuggets of truth if we search into that corridor. Because the 1937 riots spoke directly to the state of the society - not only in terms of those tangibles that we could have defined, but in terms of the mindsets that existed then.

People were not just fighting against the planters. The working class did not just see themselves as part of the division of labour that sat at the bottom of the whole structure of society. They did not just see themselves as persons on a journey yearning for what they considered to have been their rights. They were searching for more. They were searching for something more enduring - that the pages of history and the annals of time would have recorded as a significant part of their life and their journey. And I believe that this particular discussion brings to bear to us how people in all societies search for something - sometimes largely untold, but something very important - in the investment of their definition of who they are and their definition of their space.

And if we're not careful, we'll find that today's generation might still be going through some of the same yearnings and the same search. Trying to free themselves of a perception that some of them have been predestined to a certain state in life. And that nothing they do will ever be able to shape that perception, that stereotype or that condition that they find themselves in. And I know of what I speak. I am part of a generational journey. And when I search as far back as I can find, you will see that there has always been a systemic disposition to separate the lives of persons into categories that cause them to be stereotyped as either the haves or the have nots. And part of the salient depression of the psyche of us as a people has to do with how do we pull ourselves out of this journey.

Now, at that time, we had warriors who went forward for us. The Honourable Member for St. George North talked about the champions of our freedom and referenced Sir Grantley Adams, Walton Barrow and Charles Duncan O'Neal. These are all persons who championed that cause. But it is important to note that some of those champions were treated differently, although they claimed to be fighting for the same cause. Because, for example, Charles Duncan O'Neal did not have the pleasure of meeting the acceptance that Grantley Adams did. Oh, yes, they were fighting along the same continuum, along the same journey, at different points of the history of the development of society. But they were treated differently. And when you stop to really analyse that, what does it tell you? That the champion did not always achieve what the masses wanted. Even though, Madam Deputy Speaker, the champion claimed they were fighting for the same cause.

And therefore I have to ask myself what was the real victory in all of this fight and all of these woes? Did it end with the result of the war? Did it end with the acceptance of persons into a more amalgamated society? I say no, it didn't end there. Because one of the freedoms that did not occur was the freedom of the conscience of the society. And that is why today we are still fighting for some of the same things, although we are using different methods to achieve what we see as our maximum emancipation. And that's where we are - that's where we have to station ourselves at a point where we understand that there are still some people, Madam Deputy Speaker, in this society who, even though by their tenor of life may suggest that they have reached a certain plateau in terms of self-actualisation, they still struggle with the doubts and fears and the feelings of being disadvantaged and not being able to get to a certain place.

And that's the point that has arrested my attention. Because I don't want to have another 30, 40, 50 years and us having to engage in a discussion - probably none of us will be around by that time, I hope to be - but to discuss the same dynamic that we are discussing now, the same dynamic that we would have contended with in 1937. The same dynamic, the same yearning for that sustainable sense of freedom. Freedom not just by designation of a job, a community, a birth name or whatever you may have, but a freedom that sets the conscience free and allows me to believe that it doesn't matter where I am in this society or any other society, that I am a free man. Not only because of the wars fought on my behalf, but because of my own maturation as a human being. I have learned to adopt certain unsaleable values about my life, my state, who I want to be, what I want my society to be. And I've chosen to fight for them.

Not in the same fight that we may have had in 1937. So there was a psychological battle, there was a fight against socio-political constructs that kept people confined to a space. And if that becomes the nature of your self-definition, you will always have to look for someone to fight for you. And I'm saying that emancipation empowers us with the courage to take our own battles forward, generation after generation. And that becomes a tool of learning that can be used as a part of socialisation that tells our people, yes, the heroes of then worked hard to achieve a certain space, but that now we have moved on and we have a different kind of plantocracy that we are working against. We have a different type of domination that we are working against in our society. The hue of the planters have changed, but the planter attitude is still in many. And that is where our struggle is. That is where our journey begins. That's where we have to move towards being able to create for ourselves a definition of who we are, how we have learned from our journey as a people, and what we must take into the future with us.

I am saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, that our society is still fermenting in some of those things that hurt us then. The symbols have changed, the symbolisms have changed, but we're still locked into the battle of the mind. Whether or not I should choose to define myself in a certain way, or whether I should choose to define myself in the other way. And I'm saying that if we're not careful to distance ourselves from that kind of socio-political system - and that's what it is. It is a sociology wrapped around our politics that still tells us that some people are supposed to be and others are supposed to be not. That's what it is. That's the end result. So we have those things and we look to modern day heroes. And even when a hero emerges, there's still the challenge of acceptance.

Because when someone who understands the journey, understands the goal post where we're going, comes along and begins to demonstrate that kind of leadership, then you still have to ask the questions. Are you handsome enough? Are you too black? Is your nose too big? Is your last name the right last name? That's what we have to deal with. And we are not truly emancipated unless we can look at our circumstances and unless we can tell ourselves with a certain air of pride that we are going in a direction that our children can follow and safely get across. We are still stuck somewhere in the middle of the middle passage, as far as I'm concerned, and how we've tried to appease the conscience of those who are in the control position. We've tried to appease it by creating certain schools to say that these are the tops and these are the middles and these are the bottoms, as though a designation of a school can determine my intellectual capacity and my ability to move to a position - that's where we are going, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And that's what this commemorating of this period is more than just reflecting on what was then. It is about thinking about where we are now and where we have to journey in order to be able to be truly free citizens. We live

in a democracy, yes, but the freedoms that define the human journey are oftentimes not connected to who we are, to where we are and to where we're going. I thank you.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker. I want to join this debate for just a short intervention.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church South, thank you.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to join this debate for just a short intervention, to join what has been at times stimulating, at times disappointing debate on the day of national significance, July 26, a day, of course, which, as has been indicated, was first celebrated in Barbados and introduced in the social calendar in 1977. And the designation is the outcome, of course, of those disturbances, as have been described by some in 1937, which more or less was a culmination of a number of forces within our communities which would have caused our workers to revolt, to create a disturbance or whatever. And indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker, the historical facts surrounding these events have been carefully put by some members who contributed today. I want to especially single out the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, in this regard, in terms of the historical facts as I have read them and as they have essentially been told to me, especially by my parents, who are now passed, of course, and they lived in a remote part of Barbados, in Boscobel, in St. Peter, far away from the epicentre, so to speak, of the disturbances of that evening.

You will all remember the Member for St. Michael East, of course - his lineage is from the epicentre of the revolt. He is, of course, associated with an entity referred to as the Israel Lovell Foundation, which derives its name from the period and from the leaders of that period. I think wherever we were, wherever our parents were and whatever we have been told, it is a fact that as was thrown up in the Moyne Commission report - a commission which did not only report on the situation in Barbados, it must be told; it reported on the entire Caribbean position in the West Indies, so to speak, as it was referred to in those days, the West Indies, the colonies of Britain - and the Moyne Commission looked into the situation and more or less exonerated the leaders of this revolution. The Member for St. Michael East again demonstrated his alacrity with the history of the era in referring, quite rightly, to the events in Jamaica and the persons like Marcus Garvey and those other heroes.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the point being that the different countries in the Caribbean, and certainly Barbados is a good example of what happened after these events occurred and what happened after attention was brought to the plight of the people of our different communities. I must congratulate the members on this side who have sought within the portfolios of their responsibility to demonstrate what has occurred or what is ongoing in terms of the development in our schools, as articulated by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central when he spoke to the availability of education, the introduction of free secondary education, the access to free tertiary or state-paid tertiary education, modifications all the way until today's reality in 2015, where this administration has had to make the calculated step to ask students at the University of the West Indies at this time to make a small contribution to their education. We made it to the tertiary education. All other education for children in Barbados remains free.

Your Member for Christ Church West Central was careful in his presentation to juxtapose our development in sport, our development in culture. He related to the significance of our Crop Over celebration, because in the merriment of the Crop Over celebration and of course the party transition that has occurred - because when that celebration started, it was much closer to the cause which it sought to celebrate - but today we have expanded that Crop Over event, and quite rightly so; I have no quarrel with it whatsoever, into a festival which the Honourable Member was able to demonstrate to this Honourable Chamber, Madam Deputy Speaker, contributes something like $50 million to the economy of Barbados annually. This is significant. It is important therefore that we understand how, as we celebrate an event like this, we are able to also improve the lot of our people by creating opportunities for development in sport, for development in culture, and to be able to roll out something which our children and our children's children can hold on to for the future.

Similarly, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is important to relate in the area of health care. And you know, I understand the little barbs that occur from time to time about - oh, you go to the QEH and there is no medicine, you go somewhere, they go to the QEH and you cannot have a procedure done today - without necessarily dealing with all the facts surrounding the circumstances of the case. The reality is that, and it is often said in Barbados, and indeed in the larger Caribbean region, we have transitioned from a situation of communicable diseases - those are diseases caused by vectors and by other disease-carrying insects - to one in which our people now are under greater threat from what is referred to as non-communicable diseases, which in significant measure - and I want to say this very carefully because there are some hereditary realities about non-communicable diseases too - but which in significant measure can be affected by our lifestyles.

And we at the Ministry of Health today are spending lots of money. We are spending lots of time in our hospital, in our polyclinics, in our community nursing environment, in our tertiary institutions, trying to educate Barbadians and to encourage Barbadians that a change in lifestyle, a change

in our eating habits, moving away from what I cautiously refer to as probably akin to gluttony, to a lifestyle which sees us trying to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the body. It was perchance on television - I was watching a clip of television last night, probably just before I fell asleep or something like that - and it talked about the adequateness and the appropriateness of breastfeeding. And it talked about - this little clip, about a five-minute clip - the value of a mother being able to offer breast milk to a baby for six months to a year. Some countries encourage a year. I believe in Barbados we encourage a year of breastfeeding, because not only does the mother's milk offer the required nutrition for the child and also respond to the temperatures of the day and the evening and alter its composition to suit the environment in which the baby is being fed, but it also has the ability to respond to disease in the infant's body. So the antibodies are developed in the mother's milk, which can assist in large measure in making and maintaining the health of our infants.

I say that to say that similarly, as we continue through the life course - to childhood, to adolescence and to adulthood - we need to recognise that when we are capable of making those decisions ourselves, moving away from the control of our mother's breast to the point where we go into the supermarket or we go into the shop and we make our selections, we are asking Barbadians again to think about how you can affect your own health by engaging in dietary habits which do not contribute to a healthy lifestyle. So we spend significant amounts of money in Barbados today at our eight polyclinics, at our Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at our other institutions, including our mental hospital and our geriatric hospitals, making sure that along with the provision of care, the incidence of non-communicable disease is properly managed.

I say all this to say that we are at this stage of leadership in this region in terms of health care, not because of a lack of understanding of the responsibility of government, but it is just because of that awareness of how significant successive contributions are to the building of that capacity in Barbados that we can boast the kind of health care that we offer Barbadians today. And the eight polyclinics dotted around Barbados, which serve an invaluable role in providing primary health care for Barbadians today, have been built over a period of time from the early 1970s to as late as the early 1990s. And indeed we are on the cusp of completing the polyclinic in St. John, which of course has a history of its own. The opportunity to discuss that history will probably occur sometime, but I do not think that it is necessary for us to go into that particular history today.

The point I want to make is that we have been able, through a series of actions by successive governments, to establish a network of polyclinic care around Barbados. The Polyclinic in St. Philip was established since 1957. The Warrens Polyclinic was established in 1976 - that is, of course, referred to as the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic, in recognition of one of the very early pioneers in critical care and nursing in Barbados. The Maurice Byer Polyclinic in St. Peter in Speightstown in 1978, the Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic in 1984. And those who like to keep these records and want to jot down one for the Barbados Labour Party, one for the Democratic Labour Party, may do so. The Winston Scott Polyclinic in 1986, the Glebe Polyclinic in St. George in 1988. And the Blackrock Polyclinic, as I said, is one of the newer polyclinics and that was built around 1994. It went through substantial redevelopment since then, of course, but that was established initially in 1994. That, of course, is named after one of the more successful Ministers of Health that Barbados has known, the late Branford Taitt. So the Branford Taitt Polyclinic at Blackrock serves that purpose.

So the Moyne Commission report and the actions of Barbadians in those 1937 disturbances were sufficient to shock us - if we needed to be shocked - into the reality that there was something wrong with our communities. And as I said, in health, in education, in labour legislation, in industry, we went about making sure that Barbadians had hope, that young Barbadians could look forward to a certain future in the areas of their choosing. So what do we face today in 2015? And these are the questions which need to be answered. And I believe these are the questions which we on this side have been trying to touch upon so that the public of Barbados appreciates why some of the decisions that are made today in 2015 must be taken in context, especially of the real economic circumstances under which we operate.

And I believe that all Barbadians have access to the international news today. And we are all watching the events as they occur across country to country. I have heard some comments today which have made me sad, to say the least. Some comments that made me sad, and I really believe - and I only forgive because I believe they came in truth and in fact from the least experienced members of this Chamber - and I think that we must be careful what we say to the people. The law enforcement forces in Barbados are already stretched trying to protect the people of Barbados. Not the politicians, not the police, not the teachers, but to protect householders, to protect people on their way to work in the morning and in the evening. So to try to insinuate in any way that we should be less than law-abiding citizens - it cuts to the core of irresponsibility, Madam Deputy Speaker. It cuts to the core of irresponsibility.

To suggest that some Barbadian would choose to spit on anyone is beneath the dignity of any Barbadian that I know. It is beneath our dignity, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is not about a politician or a teacher. It is below our dignity

to come to this Chamber and try to suggest in whatever circumstance that this is normal behaviour or this is acceptable behaviour. I walk the streets of Barbados, the beaches of Barbados, every day. I drive my own car and I am proud of this fact. And I want to work with Barbados to ensure that it remains that way - that we all can drive in here, we can go into our supermarkets, we can walk our wives and our children to the beach. We can go and exercise, we can go and play games. We can go out in the evening and go to the cinema. We can go to our property, we can relax, we can go have a drink in a bar somewhere. Whether we are the Prime Minister or whether we work honourably for the Sanitation Services Authority. That is the way I see Barbados.

And the Honourable Members on the other side must understand. And I forgive them because they actually are the two less senior members of this Chamber. And it pained me. I did not want to speak, Madam Deputy Speaker - the Prime Minister will tell you - because I feel strongly about those kinds of comments and the impact they can have if they are not wrestled to the ground and if Barbadians, young Barbadians especially, are not given the opportunity to see the other side of the coin. And these are the lessons we must learn - and this is what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East says - these are the lessons we must learn and carry from the events of 1937 and those disturbances and the sacrifices that those men and women made in 1937: the 14 who gave their lives, the 57 that were injured and the many who were incarcerated.

I want to support the suggestion of the Honourable Member for St. George North that we need to consider the next step, and that is looking at forgiveness for those who were actually incarcerated or found guilty of crimes associated with these events. Enough has been said to associate the events of 1937 with a turning point in Barbadian history, with an education in terms of where do we direct our energies, where do we direct our people's energies, where do we direct the resources of government in taking our country forward.

And as we continue to battle with the realities, the economic realities of today - and I believe that along with having to listen to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the Honourable Member for St. James North, Barbadians get an opportunity to look at real television, they get an opportunity to listen to real news. So they hear the stories of the last three years, probably even more than that, in Greece and the confusion that is surrounding the Greek experience, as the people of Greece tried all kinds of ways to avoid the economic reality - the fact that if you borrow, you are bound to pay back. The position we have reached did not happen yesterday. It did not happen in an instant. And it is in large part responsible for that infrastructure I refer to in health and education and in sports and in labour and in commerce. Because we boast of an infrastructure which was paid for - some was paid for directly by taxes collected by Barbadians, but a significant amount of it was borrowed, Madam Deputy Speaker. And if it was borrowed, it has to be paid back. And this is exactly the exercise we are going through. The Honourable Minister of Finance, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Cabinet - this is exactly the exercise we are going through. We cannot do it in one fell swoop, as they say. That would be extremely painful and we are not proud of the fact that Barbadians may not have jobs.

But the point is we know that if we make this sacrifice and we assist those Barbadians who do not have jobs - and we all do not, maybe to the extent that they would wish to be assisted, but certainly we provide assistance from time to time and we wish we could do more - and we point them to the services which can offer help. They may not always get everything they want, but you cannot drag a system across the floor because of one failure when there are hundreds and thousands who are succeeding every day. It is the same principle we use at our hospital. If we felt that every time the system failed we would throw our hands in the air - no, we learn from the experience of that system failure and we go forward refocused and determined that it will not happen again. And we try to teach a number of people that we have to take on board our own personal responsibility for a lot of the things that happen to us in health, in education and in our workplace. We make decisions every day that have outcomes that impact on our lives. And we need to bear in mind that these decisions have to be properly informed and we must be aware of the reality of the challenge.

So as I say, I see this entire - of course there can be dialogue. I am a person who agrees that there can be dialogue. And indeed I do not like confrontation, Madam Deputy Speaker. Those who know me know that very well. I do not like confrontation. And confrontation is not going to help any of us. I have heard the Right Honourable Prime Minister make that point. I have heard the Minister of Trade make that point. I have heard the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Finance, all our colleagues make that point. It is not going to help us. We have established modes of operation for both the Government, employers and our labour unions. And we need to stick to those modes of operation so that when we come out of an arrangement and there is agreement and consensus, we cannot find ourselves in the middle of nowhere trying to play with words - withdraw and suspend and do not act upon - and these kinds of semantics. There are people who are hurting. It is not only the people in the heights and the terraces who may not be getting their garbage collected, but there are workers who are hurting because of certain self-interest that has been demonstrated by some people over the last couple of weeks. And indeed we heard it in here today being reiterated and emphasised. And I spoke to the two

Honourable Members who I thought were especially guilty in this regard.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to end by celebrating with the resolution brought by the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport. I want to end by celebrating, not in the melancholy reality of urging for reconsideration and continuing dialogue about the circumstances which face us today. I know that on this side, on the Government side, there is every willingness to have dialogue. That is what I have observed. That is what I have heard. And I am satisfied that is your position. And I want to urge all parties from my little position to get to that stage where that dialogue is recommenced and get Barbados going at full bore again. We need to get there. We need to get there in a hurry.

So I want to certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker, in closing, associate myself with the text of this resolution as it seeks to remind Barbadians of the victory over injustice that was wrought through the 1937 disturbances. It embraces the lessons learned from the struggle of the 1937 disturbances. The lessons learned, Madam Deputy Speaker, encourage Barbadians to fully appreciate the importance and meaning of July 26, the day of national significance, and all it symbolises. And the Honourable Member for St. George North again must be commended on his contribution. I really want to associate myself with a lot of things that he said this evening and congratulate him, and to the extent that there is still some even more work to do in really fulfilling all the requirements of satisfying this day of national significance, and reaffirm his commitment to the high ideals of good governance and social justice for all as a lasting [Inaudible.]

legacy from the 1937 disturbances. Madam Deputy Speaker, with those few words, I'm obliged to you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. The Honourable Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART: brief intervention in this debate which focuses the national attention on the importance of the 26th day of July in the history of Barbados. The 26th day of July, of course, being now a day of national significance, so determined by this Honourable House in the year 1997. That was the day, of course, on which the Court of Appeal of Barbados quashed the conviction of Clement Osborne Payne and the day on which, of course, he was deported from Barbados to the anger of his supporters here, with the result that there were disturbances. Some people called them riots, some people called it a democratic uprising - by whatever name called, the peace and tranquility of the society was temporarily disturbed. That was the triggering event for what happened on July 26 - the deportation of Clement Payne after his conviction was quashed.

Historians like to distinguish between the reason for something and the cause of that thing. And if I accept that distinction, the causes of what happened on July 26, 1937, existed long before the events of that day. If we look at the political situation in Barbados prior to July 26, 1937, we will have to concede that there was nothing called democracy here. Because in order to either get a seat in this House or in order to vote for somebody to get a seat in this House, there was a very limited franchise. You either had to be the owner of a certain amount of property or you had to be working for a certain level of income in order to vote or to qualify for the right to contest a seat in this House. I always make reference to the fact that in the parish of St. Philip, for example, in 1940, when the late Algernon Crawford got elected to this House, he got just 119 votes and won a seat. Because in St. Philip at that time, only just over 300 people could vote, and that in the face of a large population in St. Philip - but of that large population, only about just over 300 people could vote. And Crawford won a seat to the House of Assembly, got elected to the House of Assembly by getting 119 votes.

And that was the kind of situation that existed in Barbados for many years before 1937. In fact, before universal suffrage, there were other changes to the franchise as a result of the disturbances of 1937, but not until 1951 did we come to universal adult suffrage, where the only criterion that had to be met was that of age. And the age, of course, was age 21. So that was the political situation.

The economic situation, of course, was dire. In the late 1890s, there were riots there as well, called the Potato Riots, where hunger had taken hold of certain segments of the population and they went into the fields and raided potato fields and so on. They were called the Potato Riots. And that situation did not improve. By 1937, wages were horribly low. Of course, between 1904 and 1914, thousands of people left Barbados to go and work in the Panama Canal. That helped to ease some of the economic pressure that was bedevilling the economy. But by and large, the economic situation was there, and in the grip of a merchant planter elite that had stuck its thumbnails in the throat of the entire society. They had taken full control of the society. So 100 years after emancipation, not much had changed for the masses of the people of Barbados - and of course, we say of Barbados, but the truth is the situation in other parts of the Caribbean was not much different. That is why these disturbances manifested in other parts of the Caribbean in the 1930s as well.

And socially, the society was in a very depressed state. In fact, to this very day, reading the Moyne Commission Report, which was released in Barbados in 1945 - the same year, of course, that the Second World War ended - a look at the Moyne Commission Report to this very day would show that in every area of social

importance to the masses of the people of this country, we were in substantial deficit. Running water - we were in deficit. Education - we were in deficit. Housing - we were in deficit. Health care - we were in deficit. Land ownership - we were in deficit. In every facet of the social life of this country, we were in deficit. And the Moyne Commission Report highlighted the scale of that deficit and showed, of course, that the society was just like a piece of tinder waiting to be caught to fire and to take over the society. So the causes were always there. But the triggering event was the quashing of Payne's conviction by the Court of Appeal and his secret deportation, to the anger of the large number of supporters he had mobilised across Barbados as a result of his fiery speeches in various parts of the country.

As a result of those disturbances, people sustained injuries, some people lost their lives, many people got imprisoned, and the reputations of many people got tarnished. And of course, I have heard in this House today - and I fully agree with the sentiment - that we can waste no more time in clearing the names and reputations of those people. Now, that is going to be a giant step. We live in a day and age where we have a piece of legislation on the statute book called the Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, that we expunge convictions from people's records today. It should therefore not be very difficult to find some mechanism by which we can clear the names of those heroes of the 1930s whose reputations continue to be stained by criminal conviction and so on.

Now, C. L. R. James, that great Trinidadian thinker - a man who won for himself the name the Plato of the black world - once asked the question in one of his many pieces of writing: on what do we look back as a beginning of which we want to be the continuation? What is it we look back at and treat as a beginning of which we want to be a continuation? And given the history of Barbados, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be that we want to look back at 200 years of slavery and want to be a continuation of that and treat that as a beginning. It cannot be that we want to look at the hundred years after emancipation - that hundred years of neglect - and treat that as a beginning of which we intend to be the continuation.

So the third major division of Barbadian history comes after the 1930s, when every attempt was made to fully democratise this society. And those efforts are still continuing. So we look back at that period and we regard it as a beginning. And all of us in this House, I want to think on both sides of the House, want to see that as the beginning of which we intend to be the continuation. We have seen universal adult suffrage. We have seen coming out of the 1930s the mass political party and the trade union.

Now, I heard from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East today that the Progressive League was the first political party in Barbados. That is really not true. It is not historically accurate. I think the Honourable Member for St. Lucy sought to make the correction. Charles Duncan O'Neal's Democratic League was a political party formed in the 1920s. In fact, in the election of 1930 in St. Philip - an election that became known as the Surat election - Hilton Vaughan, Hilton Augustus Vaughan, a product of the parish of St. Philip, his father being a landowner in St. Philip, contested the seat on the ticket of the Democratic League in St. Philip in 1930. Mr. Adams, who was at that time writing for the Agricultural Reporter, the newspaper owned by the planters of Barbados and which reflected their interests, incurred the perpetual and unending wrath of the people of St. Philip by coming to run in St. Philip. It was thought to ensure that Charles Duncan O'Neal's candidate, Hilton Vaughan, did not get elected. And that election got its name - the Surat election - because one angry voter at a meeting asked Mr. Adams what he was doing in St. Philip, saying that Mr. Vaughan's father was a respected landowner in St. Philip, while Mr. Adams himself did not own as much land in St. Philip as would accommodate the tying out of a surat. And that is how the election got its name. And that is still part of the local legend in St. Philip. And for many, many years, that situation has not changed, as the electoral reality in St. Philip now reflects.

That explains the attachment of the parish of St. Philip to the Democratic Labour Party, because it had to do with the fact that it was thought that Mr. Adams came to be a kind of fly in the ointment in St. Philip to stop Hilton Vaughan, a distinguished product of the parish, from getting elected on the platform of Charles Duncan O'Neal and his Democratic League. Of course, Mr. Adams would get elected in the parish of St. Joseph in 1934. And Hilton Vaughan would get elected in the City of Bridgetown around 1937, the same year of the riots. But the Democratic League was the institutional ancestor of the Democratic Labour Party. And of course, not only did O'Neal try at a political party and had it contest seats in the House of Assembly, but he also had the Working Men's Association, which was an institution in the nature of a trade union. But I just give that bit of incidental intelligence to correct the error which I heard today.

But the attempts to democratise Barbados after the 1930s can be traced to what is really the first social partnership that Barbados had in its entire history - really social because it touched every facet of the society in a positive way. A partnership between the mass political party and the trade union. And that partnership was natural because both the mass political party and the trade union started from the position that they were fighting the same enemy - the merchant planter elite that had locked off the neck of the society for all of its history. And the workers union and the mass political party worked collaboratively. And I like to be fair to the historical facts: first the

Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers Union, and between 1961 and 1976 and thereafter between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Workers Union in particular. That is when the real forward movement of Barbados took place. But none of that could have been contemplated if July 26, 1937 did not happen. And the agenda that came out of that July 26, 1937 and the subsequent Moyne Commission Report - that agenda is still incomplete.

And the society has now evolved to the point where the social partnership has been broadened. It started as a prices and incomes protocol; it has been broadened now to include the private sector from 1993 - again an initiative of the Democratic Labour Party. And there are now calls to broaden it even further to include other institutions, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, so that the partnership can be more reflective of all the nodal points in Barbados.

And I give that background, Mr. Speaker, because given all that has happened in Barbados between 1951 and the present - and I listened with very great care to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, I listened with great care to the Minister who introduced this resolution this morning, and I listened to the Minister of Education not too long ago - given all that has happened in Barbados between 1951 and now, and given the agenda items that are still to be acted upon and finished, and of course when I say I listened to these Honourable Members, that is not another way of saying that I was not listening to the other persons who have spoken, but I am zeroing in on what those Honourable Members said in relation to the point I want to make: institutions have to reflect the imperatives of their time.

Now, the Moyne Commission Report, as I said, came out in 1945. The Second World War also ended in 1945, and the world became divided ideologically between the Soviet Union and its satellite states and the United States and its satellite states. And the contest between capitalism and Marxism-Leninism was a feature of global life, quite frankly, from 1945 until the dismantlement of Marxism-Leninism at the end of the 1980s and the triumph of liberal capitalism. That, of course, led one American intellectual, Francis Fukuyama, to write a book entitled The End of History and the Last Man. Because as far as he was concerned, once liberal capitalism had triumphed, history had nothing else to worry about. The world was now the right place in which to live, and there would be no more problems for anybody. This was what God always intended.

But there was another book that was written around that time, written by Professor Samuel Huntington, who was then teaching at Harvard University. And his book - it first appeared as an article - was entitled The Clash of Civilizations. And he predicted that, yes, the ideological war is over, but that is not the end of war; that you are now going to see basic passions coming to the surface, manifesting themselves in cultural wars and racial wars and religious wars and everything else. And of course, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing all of that today. And the world has now become a place that is devoid of very much certainty. All the old certainties to which we subscribed and to which we wedded ourselves and which we thought were permanent have now dissolved before our very eyes. And the world has now become a very volatile and uncertain place - uncertain, though, for the workers of the world to a greater extent than for anybody else.

Because during the Cold War period, because the Soviet Union represented itself as being the advocate of the workers' cause, and because the West was concerned that people in this part of the world should not gravitate towards the Soviet Union, there were many certainties for workers. They were secure. Employment was a fact of life. And all the benefits that workers needed, all the institutional assistance and propping up that workers needed, they got during that Cold War period. Once that Cold War was dissolved and liberal capitalism prevailed, all the old certainties related to workers disappeared. We then began to hear about contract work and all the devices that employers needed to ensure that they did not tie themselves too securely to any worker. And of course, there was also the technological revolution that basically marginalised workers - a certain category of worker in the process - and created a lot of dislocation and uncertainty for workers across the world.

I make that point, Mr. Speaker, because that is the kind of reality to which the modern trade union now has to respond. We live in a unipolar world where individualism and uncertainty, therefore, are some of the main factors of everyday life. So the issue is not now winning battles for workers in the same sense in which that was the case during the Cold War period. The issue now is trying to resolve problems related to where workers are located in the whole production process and trying to make sure that the protection given to workers by the state - as much of it as possible - is kept intact in the face of all of these dizzying changes taking place all across the global landscape.

So what the founders of the trade union movement in Barbados had to deal with in 1941, when the Barbados Workers Union was formed, or when O'Neal formed his Working Men's Association, or when the National Union of Public Workers was formed in 1944, or any other trade union formed in Barbados or any other part of the Caribbean - because the experiences of trade unions in Barbados are not unique. Trade unions all across the region, in fact all across the Western world, are faced with the same challenges. In fact, it would be instructive if

Honourable Members of this House would have a look at the trade union bill that is now before the British Parliament, and read some of the articles coming out in the Guardian and the other newspapers on the bill, and get a sense of what it is that trade unions are up against now.

Given the evolution of Barbados and given how Barbados has developed over the years, I have said it over and over again - I said it as recently as May Day at the Barbados Workers Union May Day rally - we have to do everything in our power to protect trade unions in Barbados. That has to be implemented because they have played a very critical role collaboratively with the state in producing the kind of development of which we can boast today. And therefore every sensible government in Barbados - and I know that the present Government of Barbados can lay just claim to that description - has to be interested in the continued existence and vibrancy of trade unions, because they have contributed massively, not only to the political stability of Barbados, not only to the social balancing out of Barbados, but also to the economic development of Barbados and, of course, to the cultural development of Barbados.

The Barbados Workers Union, of course, is well known for putting in place a Labour College in St. Philip where no other trade union in any other part of the Caribbean was thinking about that - and there are very few across the Western world - for the education of workers. And workers came from other parts of the Caribbean to the Barbados Workers Union Labour College for educational nourishment. The Barbados Workers Union also went into the area of housing and produced a housing development also in the parish of St. Philip, because that union did not limit its gaze to wages and conditions of service at the workplace, but saw the workers' cause in a much broader and a much more

comprehensive perspective. And similarly, the National Union of Public Workers, Barbados Union of Teachers and the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union as it is now called. It wasn't always. I think it used to be called the Secondary Teachers Union at one stage - had another name in the 1960s. But anyhow, these unions have all tried to broaden their perspective and to take a more holistic view of the interests of their respective constituencies. But whatever the perspective has been, all have recognised the need to ensure that the labour movement in Barbados is securely protected because of the critical role it has played in the social, economic and political development of this country. And this Government is committed to that. But that is not another way of saying that the union does not have responsibilities as well. It doesn't have all rights. It has responsibilities as well.

And there have been times in the history of Barbados when - and I defend this, I defend this with every bit of energy I possess - the right of unions to defend their workers to the best of their ability. But when the national interest becomes the issue, then it is my view that we have to step back, search for the compromises and ensure that the social stability of Barbados is not undermined. It cannot be for the comfort of the population that the procedures to which we have all grown accustomed in our industrial relations processes now appear not to be of the same level of importance as they were in the not too distant past. That cannot be for anybody's comfort, because that is an area that is one of the certainties that contributed so significantly to the stability and to the development of Barbados.

Ever since we have had that social partnership between the state and labour, then all of the present turbulence is over. And I use the word turbulence just to describe the unsettled state of industrial relations. At the moment when all of this turbulence is on, it is still going to be possible to go and pick up a plastic bag with garbage in it and throw it in a truck. It is still going to be possible to go and take up a garbage can and empty it in a truck, as I see done with my own garbage can outside my own residence. Because there is going to be something called garbage and there is going to be something called a garbage can. Not so easy, though, Mr. Speaker, is it going to be to put back together the values, the principles, the protocols, the procedures to which we have all grown accustomed if we allow those principles and procedures and values and so on that have defined our industrial relations process to be destroyed. It is not as easy to put those things back together as it is to resume work and go and pick up garbage that has been lying around the streets. The garbage is there. You can see it. If you want to take it up, throw it in the truck. But when you come to the values and the procedures and the protocols and the processes, not as easy to deal with those things if you allow them to be destroyed. That is why they are so important.

And that is why one writer once said that genius and its accomplishments - genius and its achievements - are more easily extinguished than revived. Very easy to extinguish genius and its accomplishments. But getting them revived is where the challenge is. And if there is one lesson that I hope we can learn from what has happened in the wake of July 26, 1937, it is that day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, this country built brick by brick an industrial relations architecture that took a lot of the intelligence, a lot of the energy of many men and women who have now passed on. But we can, by inadvertence or recklessness or negligence, destroy all of that and not be able to get it put back together anytime soon. And that is not what Barbados wants at this time. And that is what a government - that is what a government interested in the welfare of the people, and every government should be interested in the welfare of the people - has to keep its gaze fixed on.

I understand the Opposition position on these things. I understand opposition politics. I used to sit over there at one stage of my parliamentary career, and you look to see what you can capitalise on and what political capital you can use against the Government. I understand all of that and I hear it, and I dare say I respect it because I understand opposition politics. Sir William Harcourt renowned himself by saying that the role of an opposition is to oppose, to oppose and to oppose again. So I understand all that. But governments have to view things differently. And there comes a time, I dare say, Mr. Speaker, when the national interest must take centre stage. And where, whether you are in opposition or in government, the national interest should be seen and promoted. Because when all of these values and procedures and processes and conventions are destroyed and there is a change of government, whenever a change of government comes, the new government has to deal with that same chaotic environment as well. So we all have a vested interest in this.

As Lyndon Baines Johnson, that distinguished President of the United States, the Good Society President, once said: do not spit in the soup - we all have to drink. And it is dangerous to spit in the soup if we all have to drink. And therefore that is why it called for a cooling of tempers and a recognition that sometimes it is not whether the employer wins or the union wins, but it is important that the country wins. The victory you want in Barbados now is a victory for the country. Too many innocent people out there in the society are feeling the inconvenience that has resulted from recent turbulence. And it is time that we get back to normal and try to continue Barbados on the trajectory of being a society that is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound, and characterised by transparent governance. Nobody has asked us to be perfect, but we have to be faithful to the achievement of that objective.

And if anything is to be distilled - and there is much that can be distilled from the events of July 26, 1937, and the sequel to those events, what came under the Moyne Commission report and all of the programmatic changes that have taken place in Barbados, the great policy initiatives that were won for the masses of the people - it is that it is easier to destroy than it is to build. And let us remember that and let us get on with the business of continuing to make Barbados the greatest society on earth. That must be our commitment.

So I really want to congratulate the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport for the insight and the foresight and the conviction that would have led him to bring this matter to the Cabinet. I want to thank the Cabinet for the ease with which we were able to approve the proposal to have this debate on so important an issue as this. I think that this House has been the better for the debate. I think the country has been better off with the debate. And I think that we can now proceed armed with all that we heard in this House today and armed with all of that of which we have been reminded.

And I say reminded because as I listened to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and his disquisition on identity problems and problems of crisis in identity and so on, I always remember the words of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow when he said that historically we have been a people imbued with a sense of our own inadequacy and until we get past that, solve that identity issue and therefore have unleashed the powers we have within us to define ourselves and to be the kind of society we want to be, we will continue not to be emancipated.

There are some other interesting echoes in the speeches today. The Member for St. Michael East and again the Member for Christ Church East - East has won the day in the House today, it seems - because I heard reference made to the fact that the planter class may be gone, but a new planter is in place. Now I am certain that if my very good friend George Lamming is listening to this debate, he will smile, because in 1980, addressing a graduation at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, it was he who said that the power of the old white planter derived from what he owned, but the power of the new black planter derives from what he knows. And that trying to demystify the so-called educated persons in this society and getting them to understand that they need to make common cause with the masses of the people - that is one of the biggest challenges that this society faces.

So we have heard some interesting echoes in the debate today, but I think that the country would have benefited from a debate like this. I think we are all indebted to the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth and I want to thank all Honourable Members who have contributed to the debate. Mr. Speaker, I give this resolution my 100 per cent support. I am obliged to you. I am obliged.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to bring this debate to a close and certainly to join the right honourable Prime Minister in thanking all members of the House for their contributions to what I believe has been a truly historic debate. I did preface my earlier remarks by saying that certainly from my research we have not had such a comprehensive debate in this House on the whole question of the 1937 disturbances and therefore coming as it does at this juncture of our history, presented the House with a welcome opportunity of reflecting on the past as it relates to those 1937 events and

certainly projecting to the present and certainly the future of the development of Barbados.

I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to be extensive in this wind up to this debate. And there have been a number of points raised, particularly on the other side of the House, which were extraneous to the central issues pertaining to the 1937 disturbances. And I do not propose to address them. I believe I will have ample time to address them at a future occasion.

I would simply say, because I believe the lead speaker from the opposition did make the point in relation to clause 4 of the resolution in that she had expressed difficulty in agreeing to that particular aspect of the resolution. I would just simply like to point out, though, that the resolution speaks to the Parliament itself, reaffirming the commitment of the Parliament. It did not speak to the reaffirmation of the position of the government. This is meant to be a parliamentary position which is being taken. And the resolution is particularly and especially worded to represent the collective wisdom and judgment of the Cabinet of the Parliament of Barbados.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would simply end my remarks by saying that I think that this debate would have been welcomed by the public of Barbados, who I believe will now be better informed as it relates to the events leading up to, and certainly in the aftermath of, the 1937 disturbances. And I really would commend, certainly the contributions of members, all of whom, I believe, would have contributed to the richness and the intensity of the content which I believe would have come out of these debates. And I certainly would commend the output to members of the public who I am sure would have been anxious to learn more of where Barbados stands currently as it relates to the significance of the 1937 uprising.

There are, of course, as the honourable Prime Minister indicated, certainly coming out of this debate, we appear to be at one across the divide that there is still, of course, a number of matters that have been left unfinished and naturally need to be completed. And certainly the commitment of this administration is that, particularly in relation to the very important aspect of ensuring that efforts are completed to ensure that those heroes who would have surrendered their life in 1937 to plant the seeds upon which a new Barbados could occur, and those who would have been tried before the law courts, certainly convicted based on laws at the time that were skewed, certainly not in their favour - we believe that we need to accelerate the steps to ensure that those persons are appropriately pardoned. And certainly those persons who would have been convicted, to ensure that those convictions no longer stand.

And I do have certainly the assurance of the Attorney General that we will move with alacrity and swiftness to ensure that is made a reality. And I think it is only fitting, Mr. Speaker, that this is an act that is done by the government. Of course, it is this government that will move quickly to do that. But it is a fitting action to be taken, given the fact - and I believe even in terms of the findings of the Moyne Commission report - that they did not consider the actions of those persons who would have been part of that particular uprising to be even an act of a riot or even an uprising by name. But it was considered to be a justified reaction to a system that was unjust. And certainly the actions of those persons involved in the 1937 events propelled the attention, certainly, of the British government at the time, and certainly would have helped to bring attention to the need to swiftly move towards ensuring that the development of Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean was given appropriate attention.

The other action, of course, that we feel that we need to complete is certainly the erection of a lasting memorial in the form of a monument with the names of all of those persons who would have been involved in the 1937 events and to ensure that their names are enshrined for all time. And I believe I am in a position to give the Parliament the commitment that these two particular matters will be taken forward and to add, I would say, the final touch of appropriateness to an action that would have been part and parcel of the emergent new Barbados.

So, all in all, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this debate has been useful. I believe it has served the purpose of bringing to the attention, particularly of the younger members of the public, the critical aspects that had informed the 1937 events. And I believe that not only should we be doing this on this sole occasion, but that we ought to revisit this matter again at an appropriate time to again look at the importance of this particular aspect of our history. And, of course, find new ways in which to give effect to its true significance.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I would like once again to thank all honourable members for their contribution. I believe this has been truly a bipartisan debate which augurs well for the spirit in which certainly the Parliament should address matters of this kind, particularly given the subject matter involved. So, Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I do beg that this resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that, we have come to the end of Government Business today and I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, 11th August, at 10.00 in the morning. Of course, speaking

on the adjournment, we will in the interim celebrate our Cropover Festival here in Barbados and indeed observe the day of national significance on the 26th of July. So I want to wish all honourable members and their families a wonderful Cropover season 2015. I want to wish the staff at the table here in the Chamber, the support staff of the Parliament of this great country, and the security officers - who will probably have a very tough week as they continue to secure our good citizens of Barbados and property in Barbados - a wonderful Cropover holiday. And I trust that we all come back safe and renewed when we return to consider the business of the country on August 11, 2015. So, sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until August 11, 2015, at 10.00 in the morning.

The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

CONTENTS

PRAYERS

MINUTES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....1

PAPERS

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER.....1

Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 1; Hon. R. L. Sealy, 2.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER.....2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....3

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 16 – RESOLUTION – THE 1937 DISTURBANCES AND JULY 26, THE DAY OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.....3

Hon. S. A. Lashley, 3, 9; Mr. K. D. Symmonds, 9; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 14.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 16 (resumed)

Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, 14; Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, 26; Mr. T. A. Prescod, 28, 32; Hon. D. O'N. Inniss, 33; Miss C. Y. Forde, 34; Hon. R. D. Jones, 38.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 16 (resumed)

Mr. E. G. Hinkson, 42, 45; Mr. J. D. Paul, 45; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 49; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, 51; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 53; Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, 56; Hon. S. A. Lashley, 60.

SUSPENSIONS.....14, 41.

ADJOURNMENT.....61

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 61.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BOYCE, Hon. J. D. E. (Christ Church South)
BRADSHAW, Miss S. J. O. (St. Michael South East)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)
INNISS, Hon. D. O'N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R. D. (Christ Church East Central)
KELLMAN, Hon. D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. S. A. (Christ Church West Central)
LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)
PAUL, Mr. J. D. (St. Michael West Central)
PRESCOD, Mr. T. A. (St. Michael East)
SEALY, Hon. R. L. (St. Michael South Central)
SINCKLER, Hon. C. P. (St. Michael North West)
STUART, Rt. Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
SYMMONDS, Mr. K. D. (St. James Central)

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

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while 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 name of the officiant at Prayers, which are printed as given. 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.]' and '[1.30 a.m.]' during the morning and '[2.00 a.m.]' in the evening) and have been omitted.

Q3. *Throughout.* The words 'I beg to second that, sir' appear in the source at the end of the Leader of the House's own motions on the Minutes and on the suspension of Standing Orders. They are printed as a separate seconding under AN HON. MEMBER; the seconders are not identified. Please confirm.

Q4. *Papers.* The Clerk's call 'Messages from Her Excellency the Governor General. Petitions.' is followed by no Message or Petition in the source and has been omitted. (The Governor General in 2015 was Sir Elliott Belgrave.) Please confirm that none was received.

Q5. *Order No. 16, heading.* The Resolution has no title in the source; the heading is editorial, taken from the terms read by the Clerk. Please supply the title from the Order Paper.

Q6. *Order No. 16, point of order.* Mr. SPEAKER's rulings read 'No, Mr. Speaker, sir, no point of order from our member. Please continue.' and 'This house. In this house. Mr. Speaker, please take your seat.' in the source; the words appear to mix the Chair's ruling with remarks of other Members. Printed as in the source. The Member raising the point of order is not called by name; the source heads him Mr. K. D. Symmonds. Please check against the recording.

Q7. *Order No. 16, Hon. S. A. Lashley.* After the point of order the mover's speech is headed 'HON. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, S.C., M.P.' in the source. The speaker continues the argument on the 1964 Trade Union Act amendments begun by the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, so the speech is printed under Hon. S. A. LASHLEY. Please confirm.

Q8. *Order No. 16, Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw.* 'not to rehash much of what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would have said' in the source. Only the mover, the Member for Christ Church West Central, had spoken at that point, and Miss Bradshaw later refers to him by that constituency; corrected.

Q9. *Order No. 16, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman.* The speech begins in mid-sentence ('as it relates to this day of national significance') after the call from the Chair. The opening words may be missing.

Q10. *Order No. 16, Mr. T. A. Prescod.* The Chair's warning 'Honourable Member, you have three minutes left.' and Mr. Prescod's reply are set in the source as part of his speech; they are printed under Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER and Mr. T. A. PRESCOD. The words 'Thank you very much. Madam Chair,' at the end of Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER's later interruption have been moved to Mr. Prescod's reply, and Mr. SPEAKER's call 'St. Thomas. Thank you very much, Mr. [Inaudible.]' is printed as a call to the Member for St. Thomas, with 'Thank you very much' given to Miss Forde. Please check.

Q11. *Order No. 16, Mr. J. D. Paul.* Headed 'HON. G. P. IAN GOODING-EDGHILL, J.P., M.P.' in the source; he was not a Member of the 2013-2018 House. Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER called the Member for St. Michael West Central and the speaker refers to his constituents in St. Michael West Central, so the speech is printed under Mr. J. D. PAUL. Please confirm.

Q12. *Order No. 16, Mr. G. A. Clarke.* Mr. Clarke attributes a remark to 'the member for St. Michael North East', the Leader of the Opposition, who is not recorded as speaking in this debate. Printed as in the source; please check.

Q13. *Order No. 16, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe.* No call from the Chair is recorded before this speech.

Q14. *Order No. 16, Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart.* The Prime Minister's speech begins in mid-sentence ('brief intervention in this debate') after the call from Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER. The opening words may be missing.

Q15. *Order No. 16, reply.* The mover's reply is headed 'HON. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, S.C., M.P.' in the source and is preceded by 'Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.' headed 'HON. G. P. IAN GOODING-EDGHILL, J.P., M.P.' Mr. SPEAKER called the Member for Christ Church West Central and the speaker closes the debate as mover, so both are printed as one speech under Hon. S. A. LASHLEY. Please confirm.

Q16. *Suspension, afternoon.* The source heads 'Yes, Honourable Members, the sitting is suspended until a quarter to six this evening.' as a speech by Hon. J. D. E. Boyce; the words read as the Chair's. Printed as in the source. The source records the suspension as 'at 5.45 p.m.'; the formula follows the motion, 'until a quarter to six'. Please check.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, with Mr. SPEAKER presiding, and the Minutes of June 15 and June 23, 2015 were confirmed. Hon. C. P. Sinckler laid a Value Added Tax refund order, Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption Orders, the Occupational Pensions Benefit Provisional Registration Extension Order and the Excise Tax Rate of Tax Order 2015; Hon. A. D. Brathwaite laid the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation financial statements for 2008 to 2012 and the Barbados Fire Service Annual Report 2013; and Hon. R. L. Sealy laid the Barbados Port Inc. Annual Report for 2014. In a statement, Hon. C. P. Sinckler rejected a reported claim by the Leader of the Opposition on June 28 that a Credit Suisse loan payment due on June 18 had not been made, stating that $41.23 million, being interest of $20.6 million and amortisation of $20.63 million, had been paid on schedule, and that the Barclays BZW loan had been met in full on June 29. Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended.

Under Order No. 16 the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Hon. S. A. Lashley, moved a Resolution reminding Barbadians of the victory over injustice wrought through the 1937 disturbances, encouraging appreciation of July 26 as the day of national significance, and reaffirming the commitment of Parliament to good governance and social justice. He recalled the 1997 declaration of the day by the administration of the Member for St. Peter, its undertakings on a memorial and on pardons, and the outcome of 1937, 14 dead, 47 wounded and 500 arrests; he set out the Democratic Labour Party's labour record and the programmes of his Ministry. Mr. K. D. Symmonds rose on a point of order to deny that the Barbados Labour Party had opposed the right to picket; Mr. SPEAKER found no point of order. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce seconded the Resolution.

After the luncheon suspension Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, for the Opposition, traced the conditions of 1937 and the roles of Sir Grantley Adams and the trade union movement, and supported the Resolution in principle but objected to its fourth clause on good governance, citing waste-to-energy and integrity legislation. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman argued that the Radical Democratic League of Charles Duncan O'Neal preceded the Barbados Labour Party. Mr. T. A. Prescod spoke on Pan-Africanism and the heroes of the struggle; Hon. D. O'N. Inniss supported the Resolution; Miss C. Y. Forde raised conditions in St. Thomas, including water supply and the proposed Cahill plant at Vaucluse; and Hon. R. D. Jones spoke on resistance under slavery and on Clement Payne.

After a further suspension Mr. E. G. Hinkson called for the proclamation of the Prevention of Corruption Act and criticised the Government's treatment of workers; Mr. J. D. Paul warned against militant industrial action and spoke of garbage collection in his constituency; Mr. G. A. Clarke asked whether those imprisoned in 1937 had been pardoned; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe spoke on identity formation; and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce spoke on health care and the 14 who died and 57 injured in 1937. The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, traced the deportation of Clement Osborne Payne, the Moyne Commission Report and the growth of the social partnership, and supported the Resolution.

Replying, Hon. S. A. Lashley said that the fourth clause spoke for Parliament rather than the Government and gave an undertaking, with the assurance of the Attorney General, to pursue pardons for those convicted in 1937 and a monument bearing their names. The Resolution was passed. The House adjourned until Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.