
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

PRESENT

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

Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON, B.A., M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) (Deputy Speaker)

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

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

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

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)

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

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

Hon. R. D. JONES, J.P., B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Ed.) (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B.B.S. (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Transport and Works)

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

Hon. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M. (Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc., C.Eng.

(Ministry of Health) (Leader of the House)

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT, (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development)

Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Dip. Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. (Minister of Environment and Drainage)

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.) (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS, Dip., B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC, MVO, B.A. (Hons.)

Mr. E. G. HINKSON, LL.B (Hons.) L.E.C., LL.M.

Dr. M. M. AGARD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., D.D.S.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.)

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)

Prayers were taken by Father Reverend Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon Honourable Members, this Sitting of the House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Members I have with me the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, May 03, 2016.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its Meeting of Tuesday, May 03, 2016, be taken as read.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir. Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no corrections or observations, then let those Minutes stand confirmed.

I am not yet in receipt of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 and I ask for the usual motion.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of Tuesday, May 10, 2016 be deferred.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Just let me observe, Honourable Members, that during the session of our last meeting we were advised of the death of the father of the Honourable Member for St. Peter. On the Honourable House's behalf, I wish to extend our sympathy to him and we pray that God will give him the fortitude to deal with these matters at this time.

PAPERS

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the National Sports Council Annual Report for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

FIRST READING OF BILLS

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDINGS ORDERS

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

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDER No. 6 (Cont'd)

NO CONFIDENCE MOTION

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to first of all, indicate that I have no hesitation in indicating that in no way can I support this Motion that has been brought by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in terms of this Motion of No Confidence. I also wish to say that at a time, in our country when we essentially need every hand on deck in terms of trying to, first of all, take us out of the current difficulties that we face and more so than anything else, to face the new challenges that we face today in the world. We have to spend over two days debating a No Confidence Motion that, in truth and in fact, has no substance that, in truth and in fact, can be seen as trivial, in truth and in fact, can be seen as mischievous and lacking any real substance because the manner in which these supposed reasons have been brought and all of these issues have been addressed. In many cases the Government has already laid very clear strategies ...

House C 31 Seq 1 3.15 p.m.

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House C31 Sequence 2

3.25 p.m.

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Mr. J. D. PAUL: A lot of these issues have been addressed and in many cases the Government has already laid out very clear strategies on how it would attempt to deal with the issues that it is faced with in this economy and how it would return this economy to the growth that it once knew and even better.

I am really not surprised to look across the aisle and note the absence of persons on the Opposition Benches. It does not surprise me in terms of the fact that they are not here to debate a Motion which they brought. This tells us the level of seriousness that they wish to bring to bear on the affairs of this country.

Sir, during the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, some references were made to the agricultural sector, and I got the impression that we are living in two different countries, a Barbados that all of us know and which we appreciate have some challenges, but we are carefully developing strategies to deal with those challenges, and a Barbados in which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition lives in, in which all they can see is darkness around them that prevents them from seeing the light. They have darkness around them and they cannot see

the light and they are so blinded by the darkness that they want to convince others that it is so.

I have always brought with me into political life what I have learnt from a boy, that is, integrity and commitment to a cause. That is why I was very surprised that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition questioned my commitment to the farming sector in this country in her speech. Any one of these Government Members can say to Barbadians that I do not back down or back off when it comes to bringing issues of concerns to the farming community, so when I heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in the House questioning my commitment I had to say to myself I am not like that person, I do not say things because of the fact that I am trying to catch a vote or because somehow it brings me favour. I say things that I believe in, so therefore they should not attempt to judge others from their own standard because in a debate of this type Barbadians would have expected to hear something of real substance not an attempt to question people's commitment.

I also want to say to the constituents of St. Michael West Central that I give that same fervour in terms of representing their interest in this House of Assembly and that is why we are going to make every effort to work together as a party and a team to ensure that we deal with the challenges facing this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have to vote against this Motion of No-Confidence because of the fact that it is mischievous, it is trivial and it is not really brought with any real concern for Barbadians because I kept on hearing in the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that we need to speak to Barbadians, and that is why she brought it. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that this Government continues to speak to Barbadians about the issues. The problem is that the Opposition seeks to distort the message. They seek to confuse the minds of Barbadians into thinking that the measures that we are adopting will not work. They will not work in the short-term because of the fact that we have to appreciate why we are here. We are in this condition facing the challenges that we now face which did not arise in the last eight years. These are circumstances that were built up from the actions of previous Governments over the last 30 years.

The fact of the matter is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East would have contributed in no small measure to the huge public debt that this country now faces. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East through her actions in the previous Government would have assisted the Government in incurring debt which this Government has to pay for now and she cannot behave to the people of Barbados as if she has no responsibility in the matter because it is of her actions in the past that this Government now has to rectify

certain things which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East caused.

Mr. Speaker, I heard reference to the agricultural sector, but I want to go to the issue of Sandals first because both the Honourable Members for St. Michael North East and St. Michael North questioned why my voice has been silent in terms of Sandals. I would wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that apparently the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North do not attend Parliament very often if not they would have heard what I had to say.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I have no friends to look out for in the tourism industry, I treat all equally. The standard that we have always held on to in the sector was that we feel that those persons in the tourism sector should show some measure of commitment in terms of purchasing locally produced agricultural produce, that is all we have said.

In this whole debate, the Opposition has refused to get involved in any constructive way and have not sought to encourage their friends in the tourism sector or chastise some of their friends who do foolishness in the tourism sector that they should at least seek to purchase more local fruits and vegetables. I have not heard one Honourable Member from the Opposition Benches speak to that because they have friends in the tourism sector that they have to look out for, so when they came inside here pleading to give the other hoteliers the same benefits that Sandals enjoyed, it was not because they know that those hoteliers would buy any more local produce because they are actually now trying to facilitate the actions of those reckless hoteliers in some cases who will not want to buy any local produce. That is what they are trying to do so when they come inside here pretending to be speaking on behalf of Barbadians, the question that all Barbadians out there must ask really is: On whose behalf are they speaking?

I have never had a cheque for \$3.8 million in legal fees on a project that right now cannot even get off the ground for Government, they should give back the money.

3.25 p.m.

When they come here questioning my commitment to Barbadians, they must look at theirs and deal with them, do not come here trying to give the impression to Barbadians that you cometh holier than thou.

Mr. Speaker, I was approached by a gentleman recently. I was having lunch at Chefette and a gentleman who previously ran for the Barbados Labour Party, whose name I will not call, said to me: "James, I would like to tell you something." I ask him what it was and he said to me

that politics is only kind to persons of a certain class. I told him that I will agree with him, but I now understand what he meant, because it seems as if we have a certain political class in this country who seems to think that they could position themselves to extract benefits out of this country while the people must pay for it. Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party is attempting, through this No-Confidence Motion, to hoodwink Barbadians into thinking that this Government is not doing its best in order to rectify the economic situation in which this country finds itself.

I also want to say to Barbadians that the world's economic environment is completely different to what it was 10 years ago, it is completely different to what it was 20 years ago, we live in a very hostile environment in the world today, therefore the strategies that we have to adopt have to be different. Mr. Speaker, not only that, the responsibility of the citizenry has to be of necessity different because the manner in which countries had looked out for us before they are no longer doing that. They are now saying to us, after 50 years of Independence, that we have become adults and that we have to pull ourselves up by our own boot straps.

Mr. Speaker, when I heard the Leader of the Opposition bellyaching about water, it is so ridiculous that here we have a chance as a nation to play a constructive role in the lives of Barbadians to bring together those progressive force that exist in Barbados, to try to encourage Barbadians to adopt different ways of doing things to be able to survive in this very challenging environment. Sir, instead, what do we have? We have dysfunction, we have the Opposition trying to destruct Barbadians from what is required in order to cope with the current conditions with which we face ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, do not be fooled, we are seeing successes in the agricultural sector. The Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, I am sure will speak to it, but we are seeing successes in the agricultural sector today. Mr. Speaker, if we could have the kind of cooperation amongst the different elements that we have in our private sector, then the successes could even be greater. Mr. Speaker, the problem that this country faces is that we have elements in this country who are encouraging certain elements in the private sector to be dysfunctional and to hold back on cooperation where it needs to and in everywhere that you look, try to undermine Government's policies in some form or fashion.

Mr. Speaker, how do we move together as a nation when you have an Opposition Party behaving in the way in which we see it behaving today? When you have an Opposition Party who seems to be telling Barbadians to disobey laws, not to pay this or that? Mr. Speaker, I looked at the whole thing about the tipping fee on garbage. Sir, all

of us as Barbadians are at pains to see, when we walk around the country, the level of garbage, the fact that people are disposing of their garbage in such a reckless fashion. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we need to see a different form of behaviour on the part of Barbadians, so that instead of recognising that, instead of recognising how do we work as a Government and as an Opposition to help people to change their behaviours, we have an Opposition Party that is prepared to encourage Barbadians in dysfunctional forms of behaviours, without recognising that in truth and in fact we need to change. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day all of us will inherit the same Barbados, we all have to live in the same Barbados, we cannot pick up and fly somewhere else. Sir, what sense does it make for the type of behaviour that we are seeing on the part of the Leader of the Opposition and on the part of certain elements that support her?

Mr. Speaker, the other point I wish to make, this is being done at a time when we are at least seeing certain strides being made within this country, and we then see a deliberate attempt to derail those strides. Mr. Speaker, the Opposition cannot deal with the facts, they cannot accept that that is the way it is. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to read the Central Bank of Barbados Quarterly Report to see that this country has recorded 1.7 per cent growth. Sir, it was so noticeable that throughout the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East there was no recognition nor mention of the fact that that type of achievement was made, but the Honourable Member continued to reflect on what they consider to be the negatives.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I will also wish to say that we have seen in agriculture a greater willingness of the part of farmers. Sir, I want to compliment the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. We have farmers complaining that they were not getting back the VAT on inputs. Sir, I can tell you today that farmers are beginning to get their VAT returns, but the Opposition does not want to hear that. Mr. Speaker, in addition, we have had considerable difficulties in the dairy sector when it comes to the issue of milk. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, we see a Cess being imposed, it will give the dairy industry in this country the opportunity to retool itself, to be more competitive. Sir, hopefully very soon we would see expanded production in the dairy sector in this country.

3.43 p.m.

If that is not an achievement, what is? The Opposition does not want to deal with that. The Leader of the Opposition is on a mission to say to Barbadians that everything is bad, getting worse and not likely to get any better. That is what the Leader of the Opposition is

attempting to say. In fact, I will put it this way: The Leader of the Opposition is attempting to hoodwink Barbadians. I wish to say this: We as Barbadians have to recognise that at a time when it is extremely challenging in the international arena, at a time when the world is going through difficult periods, we have to have a different approach. I heard a statement on Tuesday, and I could not believe that the Leader of the Opposition lives in the Caribbean. The Leader of the Opposition said on Tuesday that Barbados ranks below all other countries in the Caribbean. Pray tell, go to Guyana and tell me if that is the truth. No. When you look at what is going on in other countries in the Caribbean, it is an unfair statement. That is the point I am trying to make. Do not make statements just to score cheap political points when you know they are not true.

There is not another country in the region, in this subregion, which has the type of welfare benefits that Barbados has. If any of our children today in this country has a problem with his or her eyes, the welfare system takes care of it. There is not another country in the Caribbean comparable to that, and we maintain it. What it demonstrates that singles out Barbadians and this Barbados Government is that in all the economic difficulties that we have faced, we have looked after those persons least able to look after themselves. When I look at it, that is probably what has the Leader of the Opposition so angry. Yes, that is what has her so angry, because the Leader of the Opposition thought that in this period of economic difficulty this Government would have scuttled some of the welfare benefits that we give to poor people in this country. We did not do that. We did not choose to do that. When they talk about cutting expenditure, that is what they mean; that is essentially what they mean. I can therefore understand the level of disappointment that they feel when they do not see these things happening. I want Barbadians out there, poor Barbadians who continue to benefit from a generous welfare system that this State provides....

Mr. Speaker, I hear a lot about Moody's and Standard & Poor's, but what poor, developing countries like ours have to understand is that when you hear these people speaking, they are speaking from a particular background. They are not seeing development in the same way that we see it. They do not think it is important to maintain a school feeding programme. They think that is a luxury that we are giving to people. Moody's does not think that to maintain hospital care is important. They think, "No. Charge everybody, and if you do not do so, that is Strike 1 against you." Standard & Poor's does not feel good when you tell them that you are providing primary education to people free of cost. That is Strike 1 against you. We must understand that all they are interested in doing, like the Leader of the Opposition, is balancing their books; but at what expense do you balance them? At whose expense do you balance them? This Government has made a decision that in balancing the books, it should not be at

the expense of poor people in this country. It should not be at their expense.

In addition, we also need to appreciate that we have to be our brother's keeper during this difficult period. Let us understand this: Because of the scarce resources we are faced with, there are certain difficult decisions which Government has to make. We have to make them, but at least this Government has shown the strength to make the right decisions and a balanced decision that would minimise the type of damage likely if we had made the decisions which the Opposition wants to be made. If you listen to them carefully, they would have basically thrown away a lot of the benefits that Barbadians now have in order to balance the books. They would have essentially been glad to throw away the free school meals and the healthcare. They would have wanted you to pay even higher fees for water. That is what the Opposition would have wanted in order to balance the books. They would have wanted you to privatise certain Government agencies. In fact, if you listen to them talk, the Transport Board would be privatised. From the arguments which the Opposition is bringing, all they want to do is balance the books and look good for Moody's and Standard & Poor's. However, the difference is that the Democratic Labour Party does not want to look good for Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The Democratic Labour Party wants to look good for Barbadians. That is the difference, and that is what the Opposition cannot deal with. That really is the substance behind the Motion of No Confidence that has been brought to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. J.D. PAUL: Thank you very much, Sir. I note that we claim to have principles, but if you have principles you have to live by them. You have to live by your actions, by how you deal with people, and by how you treat others when they disagree with you. One of the principles which I hear that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is committed to is fostering civility, inclusiveness and respect for diversity among our citizens. Certainly, when you look at how treatment is meted to people, you have to question that principle. On the other hand, this Government has been able throughout all to accommodate different interests. We have taken a lot of licks, but at the end of the day what is important is that, by and large, Barbadians themselves have not compromised the basis upon which poor Barbadians have been able to live. Sir, we have to recognise that we are our brothers' keeper. We cannot attempt to rectify the problems in Barbados by trying to compromise other Barbadians. We should not attempt to get this country back on the right path by throwing Barbadians into the deep sea to let them swim for themselves and that is what they are trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, this motion of no-confidence should be defeated. I would hope that after we have gone through this process that we see an Opposition that is prepared to at least hold fast to certain principles that, at the end of the day, at the end of the process we could claim to be wanting to change the way in which we, as Barbadians, do things because it is necessary. We cannot attempt to deal with the current global threats that we face as a nation if we do not change the way in which we do things, if our expectations do not change because the fact of the matter is that level of resources that are available to Barbados in the international context is very diminished and unless we adjust the way we do things, we will not be able to survive.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to indicate in no uncertain terms that I cannot support this motion of no-confidence. When I hear the arguments coming from the other side, it says to me that obviously, the Opposition is intent on misleading Barbadians as to the true impact of what is happening to Barbados. They are living in darkness and they would not allow Barbadians to recognise the fact that, in truth and in fact, there are good things happening in this country, which will form the basis upon which, we shall be able to achieve sustained growth to the benefit of all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Thanks for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Government in this so-called no-confidence motion because what I saw on Tuesday seemed to me more like a preparation for a public meeting, with placards and supporters waving. Sir, what I heard on Tuesday is what our late leader would have called warmed over soup and all across the benches of the Opposition, I heard the same refrain, the same comments and you could close your eyes and know what each one of them was going to say. I heard nothing new, I heard nothing to suggest that there was basis for any lack of confidence in this Government. Indeed, you had some comments they were saying from 2008, so you had eight year old soup, warmed over. Mr. Speaker, there were the same comments continuously.

Mr. Speaker, what was this about? This was about the launch of this covenant with the people. Sir, that is what this is about because the Opposition over the last couple of years, whenever they have had public meetings, they could not find anybody to attend so someone came up with this strategy, to let us have a public meeting in Parliament because you know that if you have a no-confidence motion that you are going to receive television coverage, so the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East stood on her feet for five hours and we heard the same

allegations about Cahill, about tourism and about crime. It was the same thing all over again.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of things that I feel compelled that I must touch upon for the sake of clarity. Sir, let me touch one thing first because the Honourable Member for St. James North has this habit of suggesting, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North also, and you heard it from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, that there is corruption on this side. Sir, two members on this side have leased vehicles from a well-known car dealer, from a guy who has about 22 000 customers in Barbados. The car, according to her, are registered in the name of the entity, so what could be hidden about that. Sir, he is a hard-working black Barbadian. Sir, I have come to the conclusion that it is really not about the leasing, it is about the cars. If, in fact, there were two mini mokes or something, it would have been fine but, Sir, when you grow up in Sandy Lane, you believe that only you are entitled to drive BMWs and Range Rovers but when you are like us, real people of the soil, that you should not be driving certain vehicles. Sir, that is what this is about, all these allegations and stuff but, let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker, if I listen to the Honourable Member for St. James North, and I have no reason not to believe him because he is an Honourable Member. Sir, according to him the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is a thief. He is a big able Q.C., and a thief and has no right being a Member of Parliament. Sir, that is what he said.

Mr. Speaker, if I listen to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is also a thief. I have no reason not to believe the Honourable Member for St. Andrew because he is an Honourable Member and he will not tell lies on his colleague, so if you want to know about corruption and who is thieving et cetera, look over there, they tell you about themselves, and I have no reason not to believe them.

Mr. Speaker, in this so-called covenant, I hope in that covenant there is a pledge not to steal. Sir, I am not reading it but based on what I have heard from their members themselves, they should have such a covenant and it should be the first covenant. Sir, it is warm over soup, the same thing all over again.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this because there are a couple of inaccuracies and if I begin close at home, there is a suggestion that the National Housing Corporation behaved like a three card man. It pledge land to Barrack that it knew that other individuals were paying on. Sir, that is not true. The fact is that the attorneys for the National Housing Corporation approached the court and argued that it would be unfair and unreasonable to have this land attached given the fact that 74 of lots at Rices were already allocated to Barbadians, who were paying for the land. The

issue is that the conveyances were not finalized and it is sad that the judge did not listen to the attorneys for the National Housing Corporation. Sir, it is actually very painful. I have constituents who have paid and have almost completed paying for the land. It is untrue to suggest that National Housing Corporation went and volunteered land knowing that this land had already been allocated to Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, that is not true.

Mr. Speaker, what is true is that Mr. Barracks and his attorneys insisted that this land be attached. What is true is that the court listened to them and the land has been attached. . What is true is, the court listened to them and the land has been attached. Let me say this because Mr. Barrack has been paid millions of dollars and has not consented to have this land free, so these individuals who have paid for that land can go about their lives. There is saying that we have come along all our lives and heard, "Want all, crave all, and lose all." It is not only National Housing Corporation who has these individuals disenfranchised. It is the uncharitable nature of Mr. Barrack and his attorneys, who are preventing these ordinary Barbadians from being able to utilise the land and build their homes.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East knows that in fact the National Housing Corporation did not pledge the land, but got in here on Tuesday saying that was the case, and for her benefit and for the benefit of a person who allegedly brought this matter to her attention, one Mr. Wood. The land at Hopeland is not owned by the National Housing Corporation either. It is actually land at Rices, just for their benefit. The kind of things that I heard.

Before I forget, let me deal with my friend the Honourable Member for St. Michael North. My friend from St. Michael North, every time he opens his mouth, Sandals, Sandals, Sandals, the Sandals agreement. I know you do not want to have the Sandals agreement. Sandals is like a falup symbol to him. I am told he went to Dover, peeping in at Sandals and smiling. He does not want the agreement. It is a falup symbol. He takes pleasure from Sandals, Sandals, Sandals, and it excites him. It cannot be that he so dislikes an agreement that brings hundreds of jobs to Barbados. It cannot be that he so much dislikes an agreement that has created significant employment to ordinary Barbadians that is spending US\$250 million in this country. It cannot be. He is not an unreasonable man. Having listened over the last couple of months and couple of years I have been determine that he is just in love with Sandals. That is why he goes there and sits outside his car and smiles. He does not want the agreement. To throw it is even worse, he then attaches the project at Sam Lords, Government gone cap in hand to borrow \$250 million, whatever the amount, to build a hotel at Sam Lords Castle, a hotel that would employ 1 000 Barbadians directly and another 2 000 indirectly. Sir, he has a problem with that.

How could that make sense, Sir? How could it make sense that an Honourable Member could have a problem with projects that collectively could bring about 3 500 to Barbadians. I do not understand it.

Sir, the Opposition Barbados Labour Party -- I have said it on more than one occasion, it does not matter what it takes to bring this Government down. They will burn down Barbados if it is necessary to have us dislodged from governance and rebuild it. They are so incensed by the fact that the people of Barbados have rejected them twice and for their information, based on what I am hearing on the ground, it will happen a third time. They need not bother.

The third point is, because I need to touch my Ministry. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East deliberately -- I know when I say this you are going to tell me I am wrong, but bear in mind, Sir,

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not say it.

Hon.A.D. BRATHWAITE: Do not say it? Good.

Sir, I was just saying that given the fact the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East had a public meeting in here, I can respond as if I am responding at the public meeting, but I will not, Sir.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in her presentation said Government gave the Ministers and Member a 10% increase in salary. I sat and I said, no Mia, man no. You really cannot say that. That is what I said to myself. Do you know what, Sir? I only want to say this on that score. I am going to say it in particular to my friend from the City. If it is true that they intend to let her have their 10%, do not, because based on what I am told, do not give your money to her. You are not going to get it back, nor will the Party. So do not let her have your money. Give it to me and I will take care of it for you. I can be trusted. Do not let her have your money. If you do not believe me, I spoke to the Honourable Member for St. George South and he agrees, and the Honourable Member, for St. Andrew has already said what he said.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is it?

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South, at no time did I have any conversation with the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not order on which I can rule. No point of order found. I was not there. I do not know. Please take your seat.

Honourable Member please continue.

Hon.A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, all I am saying is, the Honourable Member for St. George South and myself had a conversation under a tent in Greens. In fact he actually bought me a beer. I do not understand what his problem is. There is no untruth here. Under a tent in Greens he and I had a conversation. Do you want to deny that? I can bring the guys to prove to Mr. Speaker know that what I am saying is true. There is no problem here. There is no problem between us.

Mr. Speaker, I also heard about crime.

Asides.

Hon.A.D. BRATHWAITE: I am going to come to that.

Sir, there is a very dangerous thing when we play foot loose and free with some comments and crime is one of those comments. When you do a google search on crime in Barbados, some of the comments you hear and see do not reflect the realities on the ground in Barbados. Again, I go back to my thing about burning the country if that is what it takes to attain the reign of Government. When you go you there and create the impression that Barbados is not a safe place, that the rate of crime is so high, et cetera, knowing that it is untrue, it does not reflect well on them. It does not reflect well on us as a country.

I read an article recently, because there are certain establishments in this country that it does not matter what we do as a Government that is why we should not be bothered. As a matter of fact that is why we should not be bothered by this no-confidence motion. Collectively or individually the Opposition is not going to say anything about us, so we need not bother.

I read this article and it acknowledged the fact that crime in the country is down, but the article could not be complimentary, so it said that they have not seen any new measures by the Minister of Home Affairs, or they have not seen any new measures by the police that would lend itself to a reduction in crime. The reality is, on a continuous basis, the management of the Royal Barbados Police Force sits down, looks to see what is happening in the country, looks to see where we are having challenges and creates strategies to intervene, and try to ensure that there is a reduction in crime in this country on a continuous basis. It is because of the hard work and dedication of these men and women putting long hours into the night sometimes, that we have what I consider to be a very safe society in Barbados. So I am not going to spend lots of time reacting. All I am saying is, you really should not as a leader be walking around beating your chest speaking about crime being high in the country knowing that, in fact, what is

happening on a daily basis in Barbados does not reflect what you are saying, only to have the result that when you look at Trip Adviser and such other entities, you say this is uncharitable to Barbados. This does not reflect what is happening on the ground in Barbados. In anticipation of some concerns by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, the last time I had a discussion about police stations -- in fact, Mr. Speaker, I forgot to bring my placards with the police stations under construction, so that you can see...

Asides.

Hon.A.D. BRATHWAITE: They were pretty large and I would have problems getting through the door.

Sir, so you could see where we are going with the construction of our police stations. The construction is going quite nicely. My friend from St. Thomas is happy.

Sir, with respect to the Belleplaine Police Station, the always was and still is, that we will have a store front station in Lillian Scantlebury Centre. What has happened is, before we can get that construction started, the state of the Belleplaine Police Station is such, that the management of the Royal Barbados Police Force said, "AG, we are going to have to close this station. The conditions are not the best for our offices", and that decision was taken. Commensurate with that, they have assured me that they would be better able to police St. Andrew from where they are at District F, because they are going to ensure that more police officers are on the ground in St. Andrew. Not in a building sitting down, but in cars and on foot in a community. In fact, what the people in St. Andrew will see, once the management does what they told me they will do, is an increased police presence in St. Andrew. Having vehicles on the ground, it therefore stands to reason that they may even respond quicker when they have calls and complaints in St. Andrew.

Sir, the other thing is, St. Andrew is not one of these places where there is significant crime when I look at the statistics of crime across Barbados. It is not. For the benefit of the people of St. Andrew, you have not been abandoned by the Royal Barbados Police Force. In fact, you are going to see an enhanced police presence in your community. Fear not at all. You have not been abandoned. I just want to make that point. In fact, the other serious point is, the progress we are making in term of our police stations.

The other point I want to make is -- I say all the time that there is nothing that happens in the Office of the Attorney General or the Ministry of Home Affairs that I am afraid to discuss publicly. I say that, except for national security issues, any papers that I have are available. Anything that I do you can ask me about many times. We have not hidden the fact that we have some issues in our court system. We have not closed our eyes and said it is a

helpless situation. We have set about systematically to see how we can address the issues that befall us, and they are working on them.

The nature of the issues we have, in particular the number of civil and criminal cases we have on a yearly basis is very challenging. There are some other issues. The fact is, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East knows that we have spoken about this. Yes, I do agree with her on that one point. As she puts it, this “cah dear” approach needs to be brought to an end.” In fact, the rules need to be implemented fully and forcefully so that when people go to court they set dates that the courts actually hear them at, and if the matters are not heard, whoever is at fault will pay. Once lawyers and clients begin feeling the weight financially for either not being prepared or not being available and wasting the court’s time, you are going to find that things would be sped up, wait and you will see. I am very, very clear about that.

I am also very confident that based on the several initiatives we have, whether it be mediation or alternate dispute resolution, we are going to bring the Abolition Preliminary Inquiries, as I said, we should be able to debate that within the next couple of weeks here in Parliament. The Bill is ready. There are several initiatives we have.

We are trying to have equipment in place in all magistrates’ courts so that magistrates will stop having to take all of the matters by hand, in writing, trying to have important equipment in magistrate’s courts. It is not a case of us having taking things in hand and not recognizing the challenges we have and trying to find solutions. It is just that there is no magic wand to remove all the issues we have in our court system, but we are addressing them and I am confident we will see systematically an improvement in the administration of justice.

On that note I also want to give some confidence to the public, that we have developed a plan to improve citizen security in Barbados. It is not by accident, if I can use domestic violence matters, that we have not seen many domestic related deaths within the last year or two because of the establishment and function in that unit. We are looking at how we address the issue of firearms among our young people, because we are very, very concerned about the prevalence of firearm among our 18 and 19-year-olds who see nothing wrong with shooting at unarmed citizens, and who unfortunately in one or two instances have led to loss of life of innocent individuals. So we are targeting these young people.

I am glad the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has reminded me of this point. Sir, I cannot help but believe my own thesis and theory that much of the challenges in our young people come from what they learn under the Barbados Labour Party, that free for all,

dancehall mentality, that, in fact, all the Honourable Member for St. Michael North used to say, just bring drinks, somebody ‘gine’pay. That is what the young people were taught, that, in fact, pride and industry was not necessary. Whatever you wanted you go to your politician and they would provide it.

We have a fight in terms of how we re-socialise many of our young people. We have a real serious fight. We have to work out that we can now be developing young men, in particular, who see nothing wrong with the taking of another life and at the age of 22 or 23 you can even take 3 or 4 lives. That is the fight we have.

Sir, the fight is not only in terms of how we reduce the number of firearms in Barbados. That is one fight in itself. I say again on the floor of this Chamber that the fight is not the fight of the Royal Barbados Police Force alone. We need all the security agencies involved, but we need the society involved and we need the families involved.

Sir, I say, as I have said on more than one occasion, I will not forget in 1972 taking a pen one afternoon and my mother saw me with this pen, and almost made me walk back to St. James...

Asides.

Hon.A.D. BRATHWAITE: A pen that did not belong to me. My mother almost made me walk down to St. James.

Sequence 7

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Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: ... and almost made me walk back to St. James, a pen that did not belong to me. A pen, a p-e-n that did not belong to me and my mother almost made me walk down to St. James to return it. You could not turn up in Goldene’s with anything that does not belong to you.

Aside.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: That does not belong to you but that is not the same mentality today.

Asides.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: That is why I say that what we need to do is work on the families also. It is a very, very serious fight that we have on our hands to see how we can save more of our young people.

The other thing though, Sir, that I want to say to all Barbadians is the fact that we still have predominantly in Barbados many very, very, very good young people and we need, in the words of the young people, we need to big them up more. I went to the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination last night, Sir, as you know and saw two films by two young people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes more.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Thank you. I saw a dance by very creative young people so there are still some very positive stories out there. We need to spread the good word more about what these young people are doing. We need to create a more sense that there is hope and still pride and industry in this country but unfortunately these stories do not reach our newspapers very often. These stories do not even reach facebook very often. Whenever you look at what people post on facebook there are seldom good stories. If somebody get shot down Town, that reaches facebook. If somebody creates a new gadget that allows them to a world leader in some act that does not reach us and that is not important to us. We focus too much on the negatives. Indeed, Sir, if the economy is growing by 1.5 per cent that is not important. If it is growing by 1.7 per cent as it is for the first quarter this year, that is not important so we can speak for five and a half hours and never once mention the fact that things are looking better. If they, in fact, mentioned it they will say we should have done 9 per cent.

Before I sit down, Sir, I just want to make one other comment now that I have remembered. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said that the Barbados brand is broken. I also heard one of her friends from the OECS saying that Barbados is no longer the example or the model to be followed. What they have in common is the same political adviser. I happen to know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East went into St. Kitts and worked with that same gentleman during his political campaign so when you hear certain comments you can very well know, Sir, that they are orchestrated but let me just say this to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and to that gentleman. One of the things about Barbados however, is that we refuse and this Government refuses to allow a gangster to advise us and to allow a gangster to let us do things that we know are not best for this country. When I hear certain people making their comments I know where they are coming from, the adviser that now advises the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I do not know his name but I am glad you know his name Honourable Member for St. George North. I understand what they are saying.

Asides.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: When you hear those comments, Sir, I want you to know that they are orchestrated and that, in fact, it is pay back to allow the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to look good but I will end by saying this. It does not matter what that Honourable Member does. She has a history and she has a temperament that will let who she is shines out and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is a good example because anytime you oppose the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East you can rest assured, you are either going to be cursed, bitten, beaten, bastardised, expelled, whatever you do, once you oppose that Honourable Member you know that you are going to incur her wrath and the people of Barbados will see that. I guarantee you, Sir, that over the next 18 months or so her true colours will shine out because we will not be given her any quarter whatsoever so, a No Confidence Motion or otherwise, we will be here and we will continue working on behalf of the people of Barbados and we will continue the good fight. What you are singing in terms of the first quarter performance will continue, the people of Barbados need to work with us because we are working on their behalf. I thank you.

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

Dr. M. M. AGARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sir, I join this debate mindful that as we celebrate 50 years of Independence that we have much to be thankful for. My favourite poet and writer, Khalil Gibran, said on Prayer:

“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance. For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the living ether? And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of your heart. And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons you to prayer, she should spur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.”

Understand that when I rise to my feet whatever I say, know that it is said in the context of a grateful heart, a proud Barbadian, a child of independence, thankful to God, our forefathers and the labour of poor brought Barbadians who brought this country from a collection of villages to one of the most envied Small Island Developing States, recognised by the world as a country that has the capacity to punch above its weight class. Sir, to me that is not a distant designation that applies even today because life is a cycle, sometimes you are up and sometimes you are down, but you will not lose that innate capacity to recover. What Barbadians need to do is to focus on the ability such that once we are out of this recession we are positioned to recover that which we have lost.

Sir, one of the things that made this country great in the past was that we had leaders who forced us to believe in ourselves and the good that we possessed. Our ascendancy was built on a courage to reach for the goal and to stand as a nation, sovereign, satellite of none, friend to all. If I have any condemnation to lay on the backs of our current-day leaders it is that they have lost the art of making our citizens feel proud to be Barbadian and proud to be a part of this country's nation building. In the desire for supremacy we have a tear down society and the modus operandi is to destroy our opponents with character assassination and parody and by extension to ascribe only the most evil and diabolical intentions to anyone not sharing our agenda.

Sir, I recall when the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) was in Opposition how relentless they were at taking the sword for every indiscretion and shortcoming to the then BLP-led Government. Week after week, month after month, for two and a half years, Barbadians were fed that the BLP ...

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Dr. M. M. AGARD: For every indiscretion and shortcoming to the then Barbados Labour Party led Government. Week after week, month after month, for two and a half years, Barbadians were fed that the Barbados Labour Party was a corrupt Administration. Charges were laid against GEMS and how the Barbados Labour Party gave away \$145 million to their friends and families. We heard about \$100 million Greenland Landfill Project and we heard about Hardwood Housing. We heard about the long waits at the Accident and Emergency Department and a Queen Elizabeth Hospital that was vermin infested and falling apart. We heard about the scandal of EduTech, the \$11 000 tree trimming project, a golden shower at Silver Sands, labour unrest and about the private citizens who had the Government in their back pockets for their own personal gain.

Today, as this Resolution of No-Confidence is laid against the Democratic Labour Party, no longer the Opposition but the Government, what is it that we are hearing from the current Opposition. We hear of scandals associated with the hotel chain Sandals, of Cahill Energy and Hard Rock Cement. We hear about the long waits at the Accident and Emergency Department and a Queen Elizabeth Hospital that is vermin infested and falling apart. We hear about the scandals in education, of roundabouts, water woes, labour unrest and private citizens who have the Government in their back pockets for their own personal gain.

Sir, the only thing that we are really arguing about here is the extent of perfidy, a betrayal of the public trust, a gang rape of the public purse. I am left to wonder what is the purpose of this exercise if the real charge is that the extent of your sin is bigger than the extent of mine, that yes, what we did was wrong but what you are doing is more wrong. Who can really come to these Chambers with clean hands and righteous indignation? None.

In a dispensation where Administration after Administration can come to power in a country after trying the previous Administration in the court of public opinion and at the polls on the charges of misconduct and corruption and when having gained power the sins are no less offensive and destructive and sometimes even more so than those they tried, condemned and defeated, and the lesson so skilfully woven in the allegorical *Animal Farm* by George Orwell lost to the minds of people as they move to bring about change replacing one inefficient Administration with another even more even dysfunctional Administration, are we prepared to settle term after term for nothing more than an opportunity to tell the present Administration how corrupt they are, to bellyache about how they came poor and hungry to the House of Assembly and now they are fat millionaires from parliamentary pensions and kickbacks, to complain about an election system that is broken, that concentrate power not in the hands of the masses but a select and nominal few, to complain about who owns Barbados and who concentrated wealth at the expense of the masses when the people that control Barbadian and concentrate wealth are the same regardless of who runs Barbados. Why are we engaged in this futile exercise if the purpose is not to effect real change?

Sir, I have come to these Chambers today to for one reason and one reason only. There is only one thing and one thing alone that I have to say in here today. We need a revolution not a Resolution because 200 years after General Bussa gave his life for a better Barbados, to my mind the Father of Emancipation, joining the Father of the Democracy and the Father of Independence, revolutionary in their time but each ushering in a change that was essential to the progressive development of this nation... Mr. Speaker, I say to you that on the eve of this 50th Anniversary of Independence, we the people of Barbados need a revolution. The time has come for the people of Barbados to say that there will be no change of Government without a change of governance and for the people of Barbados to demand the type of change that will see not only an exchange of political masters but a change of political systems concentrating power in the hands of the people in a real and tangible way.

Mr. Speaker, let me say from the outset, before a charge is added to the nine frivolous charges that were previously laid against me, that I believe in democracy and

I uphold the tenets of democracy and law and order as articulated in the Constitution of Barbados, so I am not advocating a coup even as I summon the people of this country to use their collective powers today to force on this Government and any that is to follow the political will to introduce the requisite legislation that would afford Barbadians protection from wolves in sheep's clothing.

Sir, all people are not good, neither are all politicians good. We should not waste the people's time trying to defend that which cannot be defended. We just have to accept that there is the good with the bad and introduce measures to weed out the bad not by suasion but by law and treat to criminal matters with trial by the court and jailing as needed.

I have noticed that very few politicians, as quick as they are to accuse each other of wrongdoing, are themselves not at all keen to see the laws addressing fraud and corruption and abuse of power instituted. In fact, the Attorney-General who just took his seat is on record as saying that the introduction of anti-corruption of laws is not a priority for the Government at this time, but I want the Attorney-General to know that there should be no greater priority for the Government of the day than to introduce anti-corruption laws now.

4.33 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, everything that is wrong in Barbados today has at its genesis the misappropriation or the misuse of money. It is not enough to boast, Sir, that Barbados does not appear on the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, 2015, the most recent anticorruption reports that we have, when our system in itself lacks the framework and the mechanisms to accurately document the failings and to properly address the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that at a conference of Crime Stoppers International a couple of years ago, one of the past presidents of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados suggested that based on a study by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the estimate of 5 per cent of the total Barbados Government revenue could be lost to fraud. Sir, if that is to be taken as being correct, it means that Barbados could be losing in excess of \$100 million annually to corruption. Sir, whether that loss is characterised by misappropriation of goods, goods paid for but not received, financial statements not adding up, procurement contracts gone bad, Sir, wherever it is to be found, it is to be condemned because what is so destructive about this pattern is that it harms poor people more disproportionately than any other. Sir, if indeed we are misappropriating \$100 million a year that is money that could go to the upgrading...

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. First, I want to say for the record is that we do have anticorruption legislation on our statute books, the legislation has not been proclaimed. What I said was that because of the cost of putting the structure in place at this point in time, and that, in fact, if one looks at what is happening in Barbados in comparison with many jurisdictions that have actually put this structure in place, one sees that corruption is not such a big issue in Barbados. Certainly, Sir, I do not know where one comes with figures of \$100 million-plus that is said to lost in the economy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for the elucidation. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will get to that point in a minute because I will speak about the anticorruption laws that have not been proclaimed. Mr. Speaker, regardless of the figure, even if it is \$5 million, \$10 million or \$28 million, the point I am making is that misappropriation of funds, regardless of whether it is deliberate or simply a matter of inefficiency of management of those funds, I am saying that those funds could have gone towards the upgrading of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that serves the needs of the poorest of the poor; it could have gone to paying off the drug debt; it could have gone to post-secondary education; it could have gone to the return of VAT and income tax refunds; it could have ensured that senior citizens receive their pensions on time; it could have gone to ensuring that new mothers receive their maternity benefits. Sir, it could have been used for any progressive incentives for Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying and it is not stated, but if it is believed that private donors can purchase political parties and can then control what they do in Government, the perception by the average person is that these threats are very real and ought not to be allowed to continue, so, Sir, we need to be able to fix it. Mr. Speaker, I am therefore fully supportive of electoral reform and the regulation of political parties, the regulation of political and campaign financing in Barbados. In fact, I am fully supportive of a mandate for an independent commission to be given to the powers to force all political parties who receive State funding to be registered bodies with fully audited accounts, opened to scrutiny by the public whose taxes support the existence of these very political parties.

Mr. Speaker, I support a commission that would regulate and control the extent of campaign financing political parties receive from donors, and the publishing and exposure of 'big-named' donors of political parties. We need to know who these people are, and what privileges and contracts they enjoy from the public purse when the party of their choice is elected to Government. Sir, I fully support that donors should be prevented or

limited from receiving contracts if there is evidence to suggest that the awarding of the contract is a payback for election financing. When I speak about a revolution, this is what I am speaking about. Mr. Speaker, political parties must come under the control, regulation and the will of the people because inasmuch as they claim to be private institutions, their only objective for existing is to become the Government of the day and to control the very public treasury and the people who elect them. I am therefore asking that we bring legislation on electoral and campaign financing reform now.

Mr. Speaker, secondly, as the Honourable Member has just said, we already have the anticorruption laws passed by both Houses but not yet proclaimed. We need to do that. Sir, not only that particular one, I recall that in December, 2003, the then Administration signed a United Nation Prevention Against Corruption Convention. It has been 12 years and that particular convention has not yet been ratified. In fact, Sir, it stands as a disgrace that Barbados is but one of 21 countries globally yet to ratify that convention, and one of only three regionally still yet to ratify that convention.

Sir, these things must be done. In every era, Sir, there has been some legacy to take Barbados to the next step. Will the legacy of the Democratic Labour Party be to introduce these revolutionary measures before elections are called? I am saying that if this Resolution of No Confidence is to be worth anything more than a platform for people to showcase their oratorical skills, then let it be the catalyst for the promised changes to governance that we so urgently needed.

4.55 p.m.

Let us not, Mr. Attorney General, wait until we have had a national scandal to say that we need the legislation now. Be proactive. Make sure that it is proclaimed and enforced before we reach that point of no return. We owe it to the people. Sir, in closing, I am aware that this Resolutions seeks to present a wide-ranging charge sheet against the Government. Every transgression of this Administration by commission or omission, by incident or intent, by act of man or act of God, has been entered against them. There have been charges of fiscal mismanagement of the economy, veiled suggestions of rampant corruption, secret deals, a retrogressive memorandum of understanding, and the following of the practices and policies which threaten to destroy the very fabric of progress and development our heroes fought for.

Mr. Speaker, I have also grappled with the sincerity of this Resolution, because it represents, to my mind, if only in the confines of my mind - such that the thought would never cross my lips - the rabid, unrelenting, hasty, self-serving political opportunism that represents the DNA

of the author of this Document. So hasty to demand obsequious obedience and subjugation even when the record shows, contrary to a well-publicised public relations programme, that theirs is a history of chaos, control, insecurity, undermining, and failure to bring any project conceptualised to a fruitful conclusion. I have had to say, "You can never be a government of one. You can be an Opposition of one, but you can never be a government of one." When you reach a point that even members of your parliamentary group you undermine and destroy, we ask the question, "Are we courting the devil?" Sir, there are things for which I have laboured upon for many months, and I am convinced in my spirit, Sir, that in the realm of possibilities, you can wake a sleeping giant if you have to, but you could never sanctify a demon even if you dress it in white. I am obliged to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this Debate with a sense of mixed emotions, particularly coming after the contribution of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I wish, first of all, on this occasion to remember and to pay tribute to one of the greatest cricket commentators in the world, Tony Cozier, who would have passed away yesterday. I would wish this House to remember a gentleman of outstanding cricketing knowledge and prowess who would have embarked on this particular career for more than five decades. He was indeed a very passionate lover of the game of cricket. Journalism was in his blood. In fact, he served West Indies cricket for many years. Mr. Speaker, he was also, of course, the author and editor of more than 22 West Indies Cricket Annuals, and in 2011 he would have been elevated as an honorary member of the MCC. Of course, in the refurbished, upgraded Kensington Oval, his name was accorded pride of place on one of the edifices in that facility. It was only last year that the National Sports Council had the honour, and I had the privilege, of presenting Tony Cozier with a Lifetime Achievement Award. I wish, as Minister of Sport on behalf of the Ministry and the Government of Barbados, to record our deep appreciation and to extend to his family condolences on the passing of a giant in the cricketing world. Indeed, I commend his contribution as an outstanding son of the soil, and of course would like to put in the records of this House our appreciation for his significant and outstanding contribution to cricket.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move on to this particular Motion of No Confidence which is before the House. I read some, I think more than 23, recitals which this very long Motion brings to the House. Mr. Speaker, it reminded me of the fact that all it does in a very comprehensive way is to sum up in total the fact that over the past two-and-a-half years, certainly in this term, we have had an Opposition

that has suddenly woken up to the fact that they have largely not spent much time in this House. They have become very lazy, extremely lazy as an Opposition, and they have paid very little attention to the business of the people. Therefore, somebody said that they should draft a Resolution that seemed to purport to extend to almost everything under the sun in Barbados in a token of condemnation of a Government that came to office in 2008 on the heels of an economy facing the world's greatest recession. Therefore, I condemn this Motion, Mr. Speaker.

I condemn it on the basis that it does not in any way replace the fact that this House expects an Opposition to come in here and to speak to the matters of the people. It cannot be that this is a delayed action. It must be done each and every Tuesday in this House. Mr. Speaker, what we saw was the Leader of the Opposition all bedecked in finery to parade before the cameras in Barbados, dressed as a mannequin and coming to the House in self-righteous grandeur to claim that she and the Barbados Labour Party suddenly have all the answers for the evils and the challenges of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that this country will be fooled. Mr. Speaker, when you can claim, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East did, that from as early as 1955 to 2007 -- notably she ended her analysis in 2007 -- Barbados has been a country known for fiscal discipline, in other words, fiscal discipline died in this country, according to the Leader of the Opposition, in 2007,

and we know, Mr. Speaker, and the late Prime Minister who very copiously in 2008, laid in this House a bsafp in which he anyalitically set out the vices left by the Barbados Labour Party administration and the stranglehold of fiscal ineptitude, run away spending that was left for us to tidy up in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I am not only speaking of the presentation of the former Honourable Member for St. John. We have the Auditor-General Reports that have laid out the tremendous amount of debt that the Barbados Labour Party has left for this Government to tidy us. I have done references in this House from time to time so it is not necessary for me to repeat it here. Sir, suffice it to say, that the Leader of the Opposition made a number of commentaries in relation to the state of the economy of Barbados. in fact, she said that Barbados is the most indebted country in the Caribbean. Sir, that is not true. I would have in the Estimates referred to documentation which shows that is totally undue. If you look at any of the documentation put out by the imf1, you will see that Barbados particularly in relation to the area of its debt to GDP ratio is not the most indebted country in the Caribbean. Sir, what has been put before the country is a host of untruth and, perhaps, at the end of this debate, the Honourable Member in putting her last commentary should apologise to the country for coming to paint a picture of a

country of which I know not. The country that the Honourable Member would have painted in Barbados, I guarantee that Barbados does not recognize. It is a litany of doom and gloom that makes no connection at all to the current Barbados that we live in.

Mr. Speaker, they did not say about the Ministry that I have the honour of leading. They could not find anything negative to say and rather than to point to those positives... Sir, this motion has got to fall because it does not connect with the realities of Barbados. Sir, I thought I should highlight some of the positives that occur in my Ministry, to tell Barbados through this live television broadcast that this motion does not in anyway connect with anything. It does not connect with the young people fo Barbados and their reality.

Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight a couple of things. We had a Cropover Festival 2015, the highlights, of course, being Soca Royale which doubled in attention compared to 2014 and this allowed the ncf to break even in relation to its overall budget. Sir, NIFCA continues to be strong with discussions on the way of offering NIFCA to the diaspora. We had a draft National Youth Policy that was completed and put into effect.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I want to refer to is that we had a new Mundo Athletic Track laid at the national Stadium, just under \$3 million. We had a national sports strategic plan. We had the expansion of community sports. Sir, road tennis has come of age, under this administration. We have put in place an under-seventeen Youth Football Tournament. The Sprot Council continues to extend thousands of dollars in assistance to atheletes. In fact, in terms of assistance to athelets for the financial year April 2015 to March 2106, the NSC disbursed \$1.2 million in financial assistance and \$141 000 towards elite atheletes. This is how the money that the Leader of the Opposition claims cannot be found or has been misused in Barbados has been used. Sir, I am not even referring to all fo the programmes in the Ministry. This is just a taste to give to Barbadians who are listening to this broadcast, the reality of what we are dealing with.

Mr. Speaker, of course, we had the lighting improvement outside of the Gynnasium and we have a plan which is unfolding as I speak, which is the refurbishment of the Gynnasium and the plan to install over 70 LED new lights outside fo the renovated Gynnasium.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said that the biggest set of people who are facing the toughest time in Barbados are the young people. She referred to youth unemployment. She said that the Government pursues token programmes here and there limited to the odd constituency, another untruth, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I only want to refer to one of the programmes that we currently have, the YES (6: 06), which between the period April to September 2014, we had 16 businesses generating some \$1.3 million in income and we had in that period 103 young entreps who were trained and in the period April 2013 to March 2015, YES saw 2 351 new clients and provided training to 1 329 of them and, as a result fo that programme alone, young entres were able to access \$2.128 million in financing and started 106 new businesses that created 117 new jobs in Barbados among the yp and generated over \$16 million in income. This is the Barbados of which I know and this is the Barbados of which the Barbados Labour Party does not seem to connect. Sir, what they have to understand is that when you come in here with a no-confidence motion against the Government, it is that we have Barbadians who are thinking. They are not stupid, they are not disconnected with what is happening in Barbados. they recognise that the Opposition Barbados Labour Party has spent most of their term fighting against themselves and you come now to the people with a Covenant of Hope, a Covenant of Hope that does not seek to repair the damage after you have slaughtered one your own. Sir, literally slaughtered a Member of Parliament, a young female, the only wrong she has done is to uphold the tenents of democracy with the Barbados Labour Party and she has been slaughtered and put out to pasture because of standing up for her rights in the Barbados Labour Party. How can you then come to the country with a Covenant of Hope that says that you are going to be a just Party and that you believe in democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I have said over and over again that we have three other females on that side of the House and for them to have stood silent, mute in their defence of the onslaught against the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is an indictment on them as members of Parliament and I am making the prediction that the women of Barbados will not forget. The women of Barbados will not forget them for the sheer savagery of the attack on one of their own. Sir, we need to understand what we are dealing with. We have an Opposition that determines when and where they will defend the rights of Barbados. They determine when and where they come to the House of Assembly but they can find time to occupy the law courts of Barbados to tell the law courts of Barbados the kind of savagery that they are unleashing against one another in that Barbados Labour Party and, Mr. Speaker, we are not fooled.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West made the point in her speech that she is not advocating a coup but, Sir, we know where the coups occurred.

Sequence 12

Thursday, May 12, 2016

House C 31 Seq 13 4.02 p.m.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: ... speech she says that she made, for example, that she is not advocating a coup, but Mr. Speaker, we know where the coups occurred because, as far as I can recall, Mr. Speaker, I have never seen or witness a party turn on their own leader and go to the Governor-General and remove her as being not ready, not able and not equipped to lead that party or to assume any leadership role in this country. They are the ones who went to the Governor-General, not anyone on the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) side. They pronounced on the current Leader of the Opposition and removed her from office and now they are coming in this House pretending as though all is well. All is not well, we know that. We know that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) is very good because the strategy is clear, we have about 18 months before elections, we have not done our job, we have been fighting against one another, Members have taken each other to Court and in affidavits have said one of the most dastardly things. Could you imagine that, Mr. Speaker? We have had affidavits alleging some of the most criminal of conduct against some of their own persons in here. They have said it. They have taken themselves all across Barbados and portrayed themselves to be people who you should keep very far from and that they have determined among themselves that they are not fit and proper to be a part of any Government in this country, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask the question ... Do you know what? We should have brought a motion of censorship against the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Members in this House and in particular the Leader of the Opposition. This party, Mr. Speaker, has no moral fabric, no moral authority at all to come into this House and to lecture the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) on anything to do with fiscal prudence, financial management and certainly how to run the affairs of Barbados. We understand, there is no issue, Mr. Speaker. The issue of lowering the fiscal deficit is not a secret. The Central Bank of Barbados has said over and over again and the Minister of Finance has said that our interest is to lower the fiscal deficit. In fact, during the last financial year we have come to this House and demonstrated that we have reduced the fiscal deficit of this country but you recall in 2008 as this Government, a new Government at the time, was trying to assess the state of the finances of Barbados and trying to position how we should approach the financial management of a country left in a state of huge debt by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and faced with the worst international recession, we came into this House, Mr. Speaker, and we looked at the financial performance of Barbados and we had all kinds of issues. We had to deal with the CLICO fiasco left back by the last Administration. I am happy and proud that the Minister of Finance came into this Honourable Chamber only a few weeks ago and was able to put forward and to show the conclusion of a rescue package for CLICO and also of British American Insurance. Do you know what?

The tragedy of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) has to do with the fact that they do not have analytical skills. There analytical skills are extremely poor.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that we had debate in this House in relation to how we should approach the international recession. We said to the country that Barbados was being impacted by the ravishes of the international recession and I recall that the Barbados Labour Party's sole strategy and their advice to this Administration was that you have millions of dollars in foreign reserves. Why do you not take up some of that foreign reserves and pump it into the economy and generate economic activity? They said that in 2008 as the sole strategy that they would utilise. I think, Mr. Speaker, that this Government did not follow that advice.

We did not follow it based on very prudent practices and if we were to have followed that at a time when no one in the world, none of the leading economists could say how long this recession would last and here you had a Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Opposition telling the Government to pick-up the foreign reserves and spend it one domestic demand with a few to bringing about economic activity. Mr. Speaker, I am happy that we did not follow that advice because the approach that we took, we came in here instead, Mr. Speaker, with a fiscal consolidations package, not an IMP package because we came to this House with a fiscal consolidation package by which all of Barbados would focus on the key issues of bringing our economy back to health. We have had the Estimates only a couple of months ago in which we laid out the success of that strategy and only recently we have had the Report of the Central Bank of Barbados which the Leader of the Opposition would rather Barbados forget. All of a sudden the Central Bank of Barbados is saying to Barbados that the economy is growing and we are on a growth path. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have had the reports of the Central Bank of Barbados and not only the Central Bank of Barbados, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well. Mr. Speaker, the International Monetary Fund dared to say that the Barbados economy will grow, I believe, by 2.1 per cent and this is not news that the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) want to hear. They do not want to hear the good news as put out by the Central Bank of Barbados. They do not want to hear the good news that is put out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), they want to wallow in a trough of negativity. Mr. Speaker, I believe that given the motion and all the things that they have said and each Member of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) got up in this House and could not find one good thing to talk about that is happening in this Barbados as we celebrate 50th years of Independence. Could you imagine that, Mr. Speaker? They could not find one single thing to say that is good and I want to caution the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and the Speaker in this House because I still believe that the majority of Barbadians are still very proud of their country.

We are living in an age, Mr. Speaker, where everything that we say in here goes out into the wide international community and for an Opposition Party in Barbados, Barbadians like myself, to get up in this House and to spout continuously ... Can you imagine? Mr. Speaker, I read in disbelief the Leader of the Opposition insulted Barbados, in my view, and that is why I am saying that she owes it, if they have any decency at all, they owe it to the country to come to this country and apologise for the savagery. They savaged Barbados.

House C 31 Seq 13 4.12 p.m.

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: She owes it. If they have any decency at all they owe it to the country to come to this country and apologise for the savagery. You savaged Barbados. You sullied the good name of Barbados at a time when international experts are saying good things about Barbados. You have sullied the good name of our country and you have done it in such a reckless way that I feel ashamed for every Member of the Barbados Labour Party out there. You have statements being made by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition saying our pride is gone. She said there is an absence of pride in Barbados.

I preside over a ministry in which the young people of Barbados are blazing a trail as athletes. They have done the most phenomenal feats on the track both in and outside of Barbados. We just welcome home to Barbados some very proud young women, members of the West Indies female cricket team who came back to Barbados with the ICC World Championship Cup in their hands. We have Under-19 cricket players, young people, who are the proud prodigy of our ancestors coming back to Barbados with pride, yet still you could have a Leader of the Opposition in this country standing up having the audacity and the temerity to say that we are a country without pride. Where does she live, Mr. Speaker? In what country does she live?

Mr. Speaker, I condemn in the strongest language ever that attack on the pride and dignity of Barbadians. I take it personally because we have challenges, we have never come into this House and not admit that this country has challenges, we know the challenges, and we have taken responsibility for them although 99.9 per cent of the problems were left back by the Barbados Labour Party. Their lead advisor Clyde Mascoll would have said it in and outside of this House. He talked of the reckless spending of the Barbados Labour Party and he warned Barbados of the debt trap, the same debt trap that the International Monetary Fund has been talking about. We are not proud of it, in the same way that I am not proud of any Barbados Labour Party Administration. I know what they do.

You have, Mr. Speaker, in this country people who are shadow ministers of various portfolios who are going around this country already... Nobody has even thought about an election, nobody has even smiled on them to say that we are going to give you a Government and they are walking about Barbados saying I am the shadow minister of X and if you do not treat me well when I come into Government I am going to get rid of you. You could imagine that? They have begun to threaten Barbadians. They have not even been given a sniffing of anything about power and they have started their charade of tyranny and fear in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Barbados Labour Party of which I am not aware. I grew up in St. John, Mr. Speaker, a constituency that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow had the privilege of leading and followed by the late David Thompson, and I was a victim of the political savagery of the Barbados Labour Party. I want to say if this Resolution before the House is anything close to what the Honourable Members on that side stand for collectively, then I really feel sorry for the Opposition.

We are a proud Government. We are not an arrogant Government. We are not a Government that goes around Barbados saying that we do not have faults, of course, we have faults. There are things that we can do better but we are doing a good job each day. Mr. Speaker, this No-Confidence Motion is against the Government of Barbados and therefore it is against me as the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth and therefore I have a right to stand up in here and to defend my stewardship and to defend this Democratic Labour Party Government as well.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Opposition came to this House with a smokescreen trying to make up for lost ground trying to pretend as though they are together again although the country know that they are not together. I feel they believe they could walk in here with a No-Confidence Motion and expect to leave unscathed without any injuries. Well, I am going to deliver them to you, each and every one of you all. You cannot come in here with a mock up document with all kinds of craziness in it that does not even... You know what, we live in a democracy and that is why I am speaking in the tone that I am speaking in because I seriously and this Government takes very seriously a No-Confidence Motion. It is a serious thing when an Opposition party decides to bring a No-Confidence Motion against any Government and that is why we are all going to speak. We are going to deal with every nook and cranny of what you said, so when you come with a No-Confidence Motion we are going to take it extremely serious.

We believe very much in accountability. No allegation of corruption, no allegation of malfeasance has been lodged against this Government or no evidence has been produced to say that anything other than following the most highest standards of governance has been put in this House. We have had innuendoes. Of course, the Barbados Labour Party is very good at innuendoes, and if I were to coin the words of Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, the money is on that side, they are good at those things.

We are going to remain steadfast, Mr. Speaker, in relation to the job that we have been given by the people of Barbados. We have challenges. We have said that. We came in the Estimates and in the Budget last and before and laid out the challenges that we have had, and we have determined that we will follow an austerity programme that is home-grown. Do not come in here and tell me that all of a sudden fiscal deficits have only been the norm under the Democratic Labour Party Government and you have from 2005 a report of the Auditor General...

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I want to say before I sit. One of our most progressive programmes is the Barbados Youth Service, and the Barbados Youth Service from 2008 has been without a home. Do you know why, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up, your time has expired.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: The residential phase of that programme was put into jeopardy. You had a situation where the prison was burnt down by fire but the Auditor General in his report warned the Barbados Labour Party Government that that prison was undervalued for insurance purposes. In 2003, it was valued at only \$1 million, and the Auditor General warned the Barbados Labour Party about that. With a facility that was valued, by the Commissioner of Land Tax, at \$43.2 million, you had it valued at \$1 million so when it was burnt down the Government ought to have been in a position to claim \$43.2 million and could not claim a cent and then we had to utilise millions of dollars to build a new prison and in the meantime the Barbados Youth Service Programme is under pressure.

Mr. Speaker, in winding up, I believe that my presentation alone has shattered this Resolution. It has left it bereft of value, bereft of content and irrelevant a show. It reminds us of what President Obama has said in relation to Donald Trump's claims to get to the White House. This House is not a soap opera, this is real business and therefore I wish the Opposition will come better next time.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

5.23 p.m.

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

Her Hon. Mrs. M-J.M. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for permitting me some time to participate in this debate because I too have some comments to make. I sat here on Tuesday and basically witnessed the mounting of a political platform, complete with placards and all, right here in Parliament. Sir, it was a political platform with the philosophy that basically said that this was about promoting self, so under the guidance of a presentation leading off a debate in a No-Confidence Motion brought against this Government we had a dose of self-indulgence.

Let me say from the outset that I cannot support this Motion and I will journey to explain why I cannot. Mr. Speaker, I noted that some of her colleagues did not even bother to grace her with their presence and it is this that told me right away what was unfolding. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East repeated many issues that had been raised before and it took her some five-plus hours to do so. I doubt that the Honourable Member had even her colleagues over there that she would have indulged herself for that length of time.

Mr. Speaker, I wondered what was the objective of this delivery on Tuesday, what was it to lead to? It was to set the stage and so the stage has been set. In a few months' time the Leader of that Party will carry on as Leader of the Opposition. There will be an incoming chairman to that Party, who is not here in this Honourable Chamber, but would have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding to occupy the office for one year, after which he will step aside and allow her to return to the position of Chairman. Mr. Speaker, all this will take place despite two of the biggest political franchise holders in the east mounting opposition to her leadership. This is a stage against which the No-Confidence Motion is being debated. It is a matter of what is at stake for one person and one person only, it is not about the Democratic Labour Party. I do not even see it as being about the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I refer to this debate as 'D3' because this is the third No-Confidence Motion that we are hearing. On their side we used to hear about something called SSS, but this is 'D3' and 'D3' is to be a game changer for the Leader of the Opposition. This Parliament has now been reduced to her playground and a stage for the internal political struggle of the Leader of the Opposition; it is about the Leader of the Opposition and the poll that was generated by persons from within the bosom of the Opposition Party. Mr. Speaker, let us face it, that poll was a coup and the coup faction is alive and well, with a philosophy saying it is all about me, it is all about one person's relevance to political leadership in 21st century Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, so pleased was the Leader of the Opposition with herself that on Tuesday night the Honourable Member was posting online, and I quote: "Still here at Parliament and not a word from Government." Mr. Speaker, so that the Honourable Member takes time out of a Parliamentary No-Confidence debate to do a Facebook post. Mr. Speaker, this is the same person who is adopting a soft mode posture and now attempts to come across as a voice of reason, the Honourable Member has the solutions to all the problems in our country, except the ones that happen at Roebuck Street. This Government, according to the Honourable Member, has done nothing for the upliftment of this country and that we should all now stand in line and beg the Leader of the Opposition to save us.

Mr. Speaker, I contend that the Leader of the Opposition was advised to bring this No-Confidence Motion in an attempt to bring all those within who opposed her in line. I speak of those who do not like her, of those who will not like her, and of those who never liked her, and all three of those groups are on that side. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition presided and participated in an Administration which upon a glance of the data -- not my data -- said that her Barbados Labour Party Government collected close to \$10 billion in taxes between 2000 and 2005, and then turned around and borrowed \$1.9 billion between 1994 and 2008.

I heard criticisms being levelled at the Minister with responsibility for the Barbados Water Authority but let the Leader of the Opposition tell this Honourable Chamber what was the debt of the Barbados Water Authority in 1994 when they came to office and what was the debt in 2008 when they demitted office - and not a new main was laid during that time, not one.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. Many water mains were laid in the constituency of St. Thomas between 2005-2006. Sir, that is a fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please continue, Honourable Member.

Her Hon. Mrs. M-J.M. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, they say all manner of things about the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation. The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation has delivered for Barbados. You can take a trip to St. John, at the Lodge School there is a beautiful and totally redone campus. Sir, there is the Blackman and Gollop Primary, the Maria Holder Nursery Schools, the expansion at the Parkinson School and at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, while the school hall at the St. Lucy Secondary School was constructed, there are Caribbean Vocational Qualifications designations, and the

Barbados Community College delivering fulltime applied degrees.

Mr. Speaker, I can boast with confidence in every Democratic Labour Party Administration since 1961 because we have transformed the landscape by building and uplifting school plants. All I can recall happening in three terms of the Barbados Labour Party Administration was a project called EduTech which really was a code word for school repair programme for Barbados Labour Party's cronies.

5.38 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I know this No Confidence Debate is not about any prosecution of any Government. This is about one-upmanship and self-promotion. That is the way I see it. Within the first six months of coming to office, this Democratic Labour Party Government found a barrage of money matters that had to be dispensed with, and I am going to quote from the first Budget Speech delivered by the former Prime Minister, my late husband, God rest his soul. I recall those who said that his body should be exhumed and riddled with bullets. Mr. Speaker, if they were trying to hurt me, I assure you they succeeded.

As I was saying, I quote from the first Budget in which there were \$26 million for the Barbados Defence Force pensions and Barbados Coast Guard expenditure, \$33 million to clear National Housing Corporation overdraft, \$27.8 million for Transport Board, \$5 million for Enterprise Growth Fund, \$8.1 million for Queen Elizabeth Hospital, \$30 million... Let me stop there. This is the sort of fiscal ineptitude that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central was talking about just now. The Democratic Labour Party can boast that Barbados has achieved many things. We were committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and we are delivering. We were committed to restructuring the economy, and we are delivering. We were committed to penal reform, and we are delivering. We were committed to improved efficiency in our Drug Service, and we delivered on that. We were committed to expanding early childhood education, and we have delivered. We promised you efficiency in water works, and we are doing that. We are committed to improved housing, and we are doing that. We promised better returns for our dollar in tourism and increased marketing, and we are delivering on that. Let us not forget that we promised to keep the Barbados Labour Party in Opposition, and thanks to this wave of self-promotion, we are delivering on that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I heard on the radio today that the Leader of the Opposition wants to abolish summer camps, where our children, including children from St. Michael North East, benefit from supervised, productive activity. Who would want to take this from our children? Then I

heard that they wish to abolish the Constituency Councils' football tournament, where again thousands of young people as well as vendors, small businesspeople, service providers and many others benefit. These are things that impact young people tremendously. Mr. Speaker, I distance myself from any attempt to be unfair to the young people of this country. In closing, Sir, I wish to support efforts inside and outside of the Barbados Labour Party to ensure that this Parliament is not used for self-promotion, and it is the duty of my party, this party, to solve problems that arise in this country. Therefore, Sir, I would support any No Confidence vote in the Leader of the Opposition. I thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Hon. S.D. BLACKETT: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, at the outset, I want to say that I turn my back on this Resolution before this Honourable House, and set my face like steel against any of the contents of this Resolution that is before this House. I want to say also at the outset that I do not want to pretend that I am any paragon of virtue. I came to public life and first put my name on a ballot paper in 2003 when I offered myself as a candidate in St. Michael Central for this party. I predicated my public life on three pillars, Mr. Speaker. Those pillars are honesty, integrity and truthfulness. Those are the pillars on which I predicated my public life. Mr. Speaker, it is said that a lie can travel a thousand miles. As a matter of fact, it can travel ten thousand miles before the truth can even get its shoes on, and last Tuesday, Mr. Speaker, an untruth was told in this House. An untruth. A blatant untruth. Mr. Speaker, it was told against a background of what appears in this Document that the Barbados Labour Party published called "our covenant of hopelessness". In an extract from this particular Document, it clearly states that the Barbados Labour Party's "politics must continue to reflect truthfulness at all times". It is a wonderful quote from a document from which the ink has not even dried.

In his Honourable House last Tuesday, a blatant untruth was told, and what surprised me about this untruth, Mr. Speaker, was that the nine other Members of that side -- because two of them are absent for one reason or another -- contrived the night before at a parliamentary group meeting that they were going to tell this untruth. I excuse eight of them, Mr. Speaker, but I believe the Honourable Member for the City is the kind of gentleman that is cut from the same cloth as I. I admire him. I like him. How could he have got up, bathed, put on his clothes, journeyed down to Roebuck Street, sat among his colleagues and contrived to tell this (struck from the record)? I am surprised at him. I am really surprised at him.

Lt. Col. J.D. BOSTIC: Mr. Speaker, on a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House

to suggest that I am part of some sort of untruth, which I believe is unparliamentary. He is imputing things to my character, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member. Point taken. Honourable Member, do not accuse the Member of telling untruths.

Hon. S.D. BLACKETT: I will withdraw it, Mr. Speaker, but the Honourable Member for the City, along with others, know that this Government took a conscious and deliberate decision that we were asking the country to make some sacrifices during this period.

5.42 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: The Honourable Member for the City along with the others know that this Government take a conscious and deliberate decision that we would ask the country to make some sacrifices during this period. We said that if the people of this country in making these sacrifices, we as the leaders are going to make a similar sacrifice. Therefore, we are going to take a 10 per cent cut in our salaries. It was not only restricted to us as Ministers or parliamentary Secretaries or Member of Parliament but it also applied to all the political appointees. It applied to our Personal Assistants and our Constituency Assistants. Sir, we are million in this together, we are all part of the political arrangement of the Democratic Labour Party so we are going to make the sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, they knew it then and they know it now that we said we were going to give us 10 per cent of our salary. Sir, some of them at the time, set their faces like steel against that reduction, that Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, let me go further. We said 10 per cent in the first year and that we would do it for a year. Sir, at the end of the first year, we said we would go beyond that for another year because we feel that we should lock hand in hand with the people of Barbados and face some of the sacrifices during this period of readjustment. I consider what occurred last Tuesday to be the high political untruthfulness and blatant and deliberate wickedness.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Standing Orders are very clear, as you have ruled already that words such “wickedness” and “untruthfulness” being ascribed to Honourable Members are unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has not ascribed them to anybody as yet.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: So, who did he ascribe them to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, thank you. This whole debate does not only surround the internecine strife that exists within the Barbados Labour Party, the kind of warfare that is taking place within the Barbados Labour Party. The people of Barbados in their consciousness deliberately went to the polls in 2013 and gave the Barbados Labour Party 14 seats out of the 30 seats, and in less than three years times they have dwindled down now to 12 seats in this House of Assembly and, Sir, they are going to go down further too. I can tell you that. Mr. Speaker, in their consciousness, the people of Barbados said, look, we think that we should allot you 14 seats and in less than three years they are now down to 12 seats and going further south.

Mr. Speaker, it is not also the leadership view that persons on this side of the aisle do not measure up to the acceptable standards of the Barbados Labour Party elite. They believe they are some Ivy League Party, who stand head and shoulders about this Democratic Labour Party, that we are some of wild boys, who have no right to grace the corridors of this Parliament. Sir, that is what they believe but, I tell you this, Sir, we do not have the surnames. We are not Mottleys, we are not Symmonds, we are not Millers or We are not Adams, we are not Toppins, so how dare you wild boys come into this Parliament. They believe they are some kind of Ivy League Party.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Not Forde, you are from our class.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is from our class. They believe that they are the landed sentry. Sir, not only that, they believe that we are not of the certain ilk. Sir, all of us were raised in Bank Hall and Bush Hall in chattel houses almost touching one another, that is where we are from. Sir, when they talk about zero lot line at Coverley, we experience zero lot line from the time we were born. We were born in zero lot line, so we are not of the ilk, we are not of the hue, because they believe that their hue is nature's passport to success. We are not of breeding, we are not of the background and they want to say to us, how dare us. How dare you, born in Marchfield in St. Philip, how dare you born in White Hill in St. Andrew, how dare you born in Bayfield in St. Philip, how dare you born in Four Hill, in Indian Ground, St. Peter, like me. How dare you born in Lenox Avenue? How dare you born in Jackmans Alley Gap? What are you doing in here? You have no right being

in here. Sir, that is what the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party and the 10 cohorts of the leader are saying.

Mr. Speaker, to be a member of this House, you have to be of the manor born. You have to be born with privilege. You have to be chauffeur driven, you have to be driven to school and back from school. When you ring the bell, ping, ping, ping, ping, the maid or the maid or servant has to present himself and say, “Yes, Miss” and “Yes, Master”, that is the class that you think that people in this House have to be from. You have to be born with status behind houses with high barred wire and razor wire, to keep out the rift-raft and keep within the ‘hyperloid’.

Asides.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Sir, you have to be of a certain class designation like the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East believes she is from but she is not, you have to believe that, so that you are from a class designation and you are referred to as Uncle This, and Auntie This, Uncle Errol, Auntie Ruth and Auntie That, all of that rubbish. They believe that if you are not from that class, you have no right coming up the stairs and entering this hallowed halls.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us keep it down a bit and let the Honourable Member be heard.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Sir, not me though.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, while all of this is going on, you have the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, who I call a pretender to the working class, walking about Bush Hall, Yard Gap, up and down through Bow Road and going as far as Bibby’s Lane pretending she is working class, looking as unkempt as possible, believe that working class people should look that way, so she is going to blend in, unkempt hair, bad look clothes and she is blending in as if working class people ought to look like that. Well, Sir, I have news for her because I was raised in Hill Road, Bank Hall and Bush Hall Main Road and I do not know of any working class people looking like that. Sir, all of our people have pulled themselves up by their own boot straps and they go into town and buy nice clothes and go to hairdressers and get their hair fix, not like the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. She is not blending in with us, she is standing out, and she is talking ‘block’ language, trying to blend in and hanging out with the boys on the block and pretending that she is some God send, some Massiah, some female Massiah, sent to rescue St. Michael North East and all of the surrounding districts and constituencies of St. Michael. Sir, tell her to keep out of St.

Michael Central, we do not want that kind of person in St. Michael Central.

Mr. Speaker, this debate like my Honourable Minister with responsibility for sports said, is not about wrongdoings. This has nothing at all to do with infelicities.

Seq 17

INSERT S18 JULIETTE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Norman Niles, The Glebe, all over the place. On Saturdays you get pudding and souse in almost every single community in Barbados. Small people are doing what they have to do, pulling themselves up by their own bootstrap, making things work and not feeling sorry for themselves the way the Barbados Labour Party wants to convey to this country that Barbadians are suffering, and then they on the other hand describing Barbadians in the worst possible way saying that Barbadians look bad, poorakey, their belly touching their backs and all that kind of derogatory language. They love telling the people of Barbados how they look bad and poorakey and how they eating Ramin and all that foolishness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also say that in this 50th Anniversary Celebrations Bajans are displaying an unbridled sense of patriotism. Every single event they are attending in droves not minding the Barbados Labour Party who want to boycott this and boycott that. They are feeling the patriotic itch and they are looking forward to the rest of the events for the balance of the year and also the grand finale. Barbadians are on board with this 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

As Minister of ecclesiastical affairs, Mr. Speaker, I want to appeal to Christians and the right-thinking people in this country because the Barbados Labour Party do not have much time for Christians nor church people especially the evangelicals of which I am a proud member - I am a member of Restoration Ministries - to keep this Government in their prayers and pray for us in the morning, in the night and at noon. I plea to the Christians of Barbados to take the Government to the Throne of Grace and ask the Almighty to protect us from our political enemies. Mr. Speaker, I want the Christians in Barbados to keep us in their prayers and protect us from the sanctified demons dressed in white.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 6.20 p.m. today.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 6.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

6.13 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken we were on Order No.6 and with that we shall continue.

The Honourable for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak to the matter of the No-Confidence Resolution brought by Her Majesty's Opposition against the Government of Barbados. Indeed, one can look at the perspective that much of what has been said has been said and repeated before, but I am not going to fool myself that every single individual has the capacity to analyse or synthesize and discard that which might be considered not useful or not usable. Sir, in education we repeat the words of recency and frequency as part of the modality of learning, that is why you would find in schools teachers might say to students, repeat for me the two times table, the three times table, and they do it every day and remember it, they learn it. Some people call it rote learning but at the end of the day it is remembered. You might say to persons, as you saw recently demonstrated at our Church Service when the Right Honourable Prime Minister repeated it from may be 45 years ago and persons sat aghast as he repeated so much of... I do not remember exactly which part of the book or Bible it came from, he would have to refresh my memory, but Matthew Chapter 5, the Beatitudes. He did not learned it in the instant but by repetition, by his repeating it constantly, and the tactic used by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East captured that same flavour.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen, Sir, in traditional media and news media, including Facebook and Twitter, that particular behaviour and we are now speaking to a public that is not sufficiently discerning. About two and a half years ago to be exact, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central spoke to this, when as Members of Government or Members of Opposition, persons with other political titles, Senators, Constituency Assistants, et cetera,

took a decision that we will surrender 10 per cent of our salaries, not everybody liked it because there were responsibilities in our communities that all of us were carrying, but we thought that it was an important statement to make to the society that we all would have made that sacrifice at the time. It had a terminal period and we are at the point of that terminal period.

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: On a point of order. The Honourable for Christ Church East Central is misleading this House. I believe too that the Honourable Member is misleading himself and I do not know which is worse. The Order that made the 10 per cent cut had no terminal period, it did not say that it was only for a year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am not in a position to rule on that. No point of order is found. I do not know. Please take your seat. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, this was an Order passed in this House, it had not terminal period.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat and let us get on with the people's business, nuh? Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, in my opinion it had a terminal period as was discussed.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, even if it did or did not, the important point is that...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that the restitution of the 10 per cent cannot, in anyone's wildest imagination, be considered to be a salary increase. I want to go back to a period in which I was very heavily involved in the Trade Union Movement when an 8 per cent cut was instituted, the Trade Union Movement and workers took it to court and we lost. The Privy Council decided otherwise, they decided that it could vary downward or upwards the salaries of members of the public service, so it was varied downward by 8 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, when the Barbados Labour Party came back to office they restored that 8 per cent. Nobody called it a salary increase then, the Opposition which was the Democratic Labour Party did not call the restoration of that 8 per cent a salary increase because it was not, you were just restoring persons to what they were previously to

1991-1992. It was a simple restoration to that point. Mr. Speaker, therefore what is about to be done is to restore all those who have been affected by that 10 per cent to their original salary point, that is all it is.

Mr. Speaker, I am a person that can sometimes become very distressed because if politics can reduce us to political savages or political savagery, then none of us need really to be in here because I do not think any one of us deserves to be called savages. I think honestly that all Honourable Members make sacrifices. I know I do. I know even with the 10 per cent salary cut that I still maintain my support within my constituency because I could not do otherwise. I believe the Honourable Member for St. George South, even though on this occasion the Honourable Member told the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that the Honourable Member can take his 10 per cent and put it in her charity, as though the people of St. George South would not want his, if the Honourable Member gets it back, to be used on them. The Honourable Member was being benevolent. The charity of the Honourable Member does not want your 10 per cent of, I can guarantee you that, the coffers of the Honourable Member are extremely full, I can also guarantee you that. Even though you are Parliamentary representative for St. George South and General Manager of the new cement factory, the Honourable Member is willing to give his to the Leader, rather than to his constituents.

6.49 p.m.

He is still there. He has not been fired yet. He is willing to give his to the leader, rather than to give his to his constituents. I support your benevolence. I support the interest you have in the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. The bottom-line is, what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said has done what she wanted done. It has stirred the bosoms of those who do not understand what is about to take place. Persons are quarreling all over Barbados, because my money -- mine - was given back to me after I surrendered how many months of it in the interest of the country. You are hearing people saying, "I now going for a salary increase." There is nothing wrong with that. In a democracy, persons can have their industrial relations discussions but they cannot be using as a spur that which was already mine and was returned to me.

As public figures, everything we do is heavily scrutinised. If you work for five cents, it is put on Facebook and analysed. If you work for \$10 000, it is analysed. What is not analysed are the legal fees of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. What is not analysed are the gifts to the Member for St. Michael North East. None of those things are analysed. We are raking ourselves across the coals because we are not decent enough to each other, Mr. Speaker. We create these fires

around ourselves. No Member of this House can go and get a duty-free car. We have to pay every single impost of the State. There are tens of thousands of Barbadians who believe that this happens and that we walk about with fat pockets, so we can easily dispense. If somebody knocks on your door, Jonesey has to put his hand in his pocket and support 'broad shoulders' and 'long necks', but Jonesey does not drink either of them. I might eat the long necks but not drink them. Mr. Speaker, the bottom-line is, what we do to each other is wrong. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East knows that it is wrong, but the effects have been felt now across Barbados.

Sir, I have an additional point, and it is that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East made an error. It is known that your pension and retirement benefits are calibrated at their highest point, so even if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South was to resign now and get his retirement benefits at the due time, it would be calculated not at this point where his salary is now, but at the highest point where it would have been two-and-a-half years ago. That is what it would have been, so using that point was particularly spurious. The Honourable Member knows what she wanted to achieve, and she has achieved it. Let us hope that now she is better able to deal and explain why you put such a mistruth out into the public domain. However, I want to move on and address a few issues.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time in my life when I worked with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas in the trade union movement. The Honourable Member became an executive member of the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) just about a year before she went to the Senate and became a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education. Sir, I resigned from the BUT at the end of September, 1995, so this is approaching 21 years that I have not been directly associated with the union; 21 years, Sir. The union worked on the behalf of teachers. They worked for what I consider to be in the best interest of teachers. Sometimes when a teacher fell afoul of the law, you had to resort to a known principle of begging the employer, or as the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union (BSTU) called it, the agents of the employer: the Chief Education Officer under whom teachers would fall, or the Permanent secretary, or whoever. When I was President of the BUT between 1989 and 1995, I did just that. One of the things that we were able to do and maintain was respect for those we had to call upon. The Honourable Member was Minister of Education in my final year in the BUT, and as she said, honestly, I never cursed, abused or called her out because I knew that the next time I would have to go to her or to the Chief Education Officer to get something resolved.

I do not know a lot of the industrial relations matters now in Barbados. We have a new set of persons who, I

believe, are learning, so I am not going to be harsh with them and I am not going to be too critical of them. I think they need to advance that learning; it is important. I believe in industrial relations. I believe in the trade union movement of Barbados. Sir, I sat as a drafting member for the Constitution of CTUSAB (Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados). I helped draft that Constitution. I worked with that body all during the early 1990s right down to 1995 before I went off to do further studies. I would encourage unions to not necessarily go back to everything of the past, but to create an arena of reasonableness, an arena of sense. Do not let our personal issues take over the environment. I have been reading all kinds of things in the newspapers - and this was raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East - including the experience of a goodly reverend or pastor or preacher who, in 1992, dealt with an issue at St. Leonard's Girls' School. We had reason to have a very mild confrontation. That was almost 25 years ago. I had almost forgotten what it was about, but was harshly reminded by that individual in the pulpit that I should humble myself and meet. I do not believe there is any person who shows as much humility as I do, because I know where I was born, I know who I am and will always know who I am. Even though I take advice, I am offended that something that happened 25 years, in defence of workers' rights, could be now used to throw against me, but I understand these things. My back is broad and I have great girth.

It is my firm belief that within the shortest possible time, the current impasse between the BUT and the Ministry of Education -- not necessarily the Ministry, but I am there as part of the policy decision process - will be brought to an amicable close, and we will be able to move on with giving light to education and educators. I promise this House to do everything decent that I have to do to ensure that this current disturbance finds rest in the graveyard of industrial relations. That is my promise, and in fact we have mobilised internally in the Ministry to ensure that this comes to an end. It makes no sense as a former leader in the trade union movement to have myself being ridiculed unfortunately and undeservedly -- it was very unwarranted - to have this continue. I believe that all good men and women seeing reason can sit together, and not necessarily smoke any pipe, because I do not smoke. I am not going to take it from the indigenous people of North America and sit around the fire and smoke any peace pipe.

6.24 p.m.

I knew what was in that peace pipe so I am not going to touch it at all. I wish to assure you that we will do our best to bring that particular matter to a close.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some environmental matters in our school. There are several teachers here. I remember as the President of BTU going back when, the

St. Leonards' issue and one or two other issues that we had to deal with and eventually, the whole place was bulldozed and the students were move to Lester Vaughn School, which was the St. Thomas Secondary School as it was called before and the whole site dealt with and it was expanded and extended and St. Leonard's Boys occupied the entire space. Sir, I remember that well, and it was an environmental issue. I remember Springer Memorial under the leadership of the former President of the BTU had issues and that was dealt with. There have always been environmental issues in our schools to a greater or lesser degree. Sir, what we have had in the last three years or four years is a coalescing of several things, some very simple, some caused by man's errors and some which we had to do deep searching to find. I do not see this as a combustion, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East calls it. Sir, these are tossed-up phrases of issues.

Mr. Speaker, Grazettes Primary, we all know what that was. There were mosquitoes in the environment and you call in the fogging people from the Ministry of Health and the building was closed. They placed the nozzle of the equipment inside of the building and over the course of the night, the malathion and the kerosene is used to create the fog and that seeped into the space. You had to move the children out and you had to do a lot of cleaning to protect all those who work there. Sir, that really was not an issue.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: We had to give a new suite of furniture. Sir, all of that had to be done. It is not about taking long. It is about educating the children in the best possible environment so that when they go back to that place, there would not be an issue. It is nto about too long or too short. When EDUTECH was around, you used to spend two years sometimes, according to the nature of the repairs to the building outside of the school, so it is not about too long, it is to ensure that learning takes place in the best environment while you do what you have to do in the place. Sir, that is the reality.

Mr. Speaker, Ellerton: Sir, I must compliment you. I know we are not the best of friends because you keep listening to the Honourable Member from down in St. James and you do not use your own judgement. I think you mean well even though you act sometimes not so. Sir, at Ellerton pigeons had moved into the eves, spread manure and down and all kinds of little mites emerge. We had to go there, clean it out and seal it. When you got rid of that, rats in a gully to the eastern side of the school building started to invade, so you had to do everything necessary to protect the environment. You had to get the people from Ministry of Health to clear the gully where they could nest. You had to put down the bait even where your parents live on the western side of the school so that they too would not have been invaded by the rats. We ensured even then that mess

wire was placed all around those open blocks, and we secured that facility.

Mr. Speaker, what I think is really awful is that they are persons, I will not say where they come from because I do not know, who would go and defecate in the driveway of the facility. Sri, you are aware of this. There are rascals in our society and this is what they do, and we talk about environmental issues. These are man-made issues and rodent made issues.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: It happens in the night. Sir, Springer Memorial School was affected by dust. I want to thank the teachers most wholeheartedly. I wish also to compliment a Supervisor from the Barbados Water Authority. I do not know his name but they were drilling out the reservoir to do whatever they had to do. They put up all the meshing that you could find but dust has a way still of coming out. Sir, dust affected that school and we close the first form and second form before the end of the term and shifted the fourth form and fifth form to occupy their space to the west, et cetera. Sir, school opened back and everything was clean, spick and span. Sir, as Minister in visited that site before children moved in the second day. The Parliamentary Secretary visited two after and the staff but the Supervisor of that site is a gentleman and a good soldier. I want to tell this to the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. He committed himself to do everything possible and he did. Sir, I wish you to convey on behalf of the students and teachers of Springer Memorial School our best regards. Sir, that is a man who is worthy of his hire and worthy of his pay. There are no issues now at the Springer Memorial School. Sir, it is not that we were sitting down and waiting. You acted on every issue as they arose.

Mr. Speaker, Combermere School was a little more challenging because we could not find out what was the issue and we had to bring in all kinds of people to do the work on Combermere School to find out that in one instance, that caused a major part of the issues, when EduTech was invoked ... We are not blaming the people who inspired EduTech, you blame the persons who did the work. They drilled right through a major draft PVC pipe, a vent pipe. You drilled right through, ran your wires and just seal it back in the concrete without sealing the vent pipe and those gases seeped right through that main part of that building.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have to pay attention though, Sir, to all of these septic tanks and wells at every single school because after a time, you will find that gas can build up and can affect the entire environment. Sir, that was that issue and there are still other concerns. Sir, what we did is that we brought on board all of the stakeholders,

the Ministry of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Labour, the major teachers' union in the school and created an Oversight Committee to manage the process, so that everybody knew every single thing that was happening and, Sir, they are still meeting from time to time to ensure that the lives, health and well-being of those persons are, in fact, protected.

Mr. Speaker, again, at the Lawrence T. Gay School, we brought the people with the knowledge on board. Sir, this is just acting with the best interest of all of those persons that we have under our care. Sir, we recognise based on some report that some fiberglass is starting to disintegrate and was affecting some breathing and stuff. There are a whole lot of other issues and we have started that work a few weeks ago. Sir, this is what we do. You cannot predict that these things will happen and, therefore, 90 per cent of these issues have been address because once your children and teachers are in our care, we work in their better interest and, Sir, that is the bottom line.

Sequence 22

INSERT S23 JULIETTE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and I want to state up front, in line with the concluding comments of the last speaker, that this Motion will have no support from this Honourable Member.

Various speakers have pointed to the motive behind this Motion of No-Confidence, and I certainly believe that this Motion is more about the future of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East within the ranks of the Barbados Labour Party than it is anything to do with the performance of this Administration under the leadership of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

We have been at pains to share with Barbadians the financial realities in which we exist at this time. Even as the Central Bank of Barbados only Tuesday afternoon was able to report a modest growth of some 1.7 per cent in the Barbados economy, we recognise that this growth is nothing to be able to guarantee us dealing with the kind of fiscal realities which our country faces in an ever-changing world where we go to bed at night with one arrangement in place to wake next morning and hear that the Organisation of Economic Corporation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the other large bodies which tend to control the finances of this world have made significant changes which would affect the outturn of the Barbados economy.

I believe that in a recent presentation in this Chamber the Honourable Prime Minister was able to point

out that the kind of drastic banking changes that affected the offshore companies which have set up domiciles not only here in Barbados but all over some Caribbean and in Latin American countries continue to be under threat. As a matter of fact certain strategies on the part of the Canadian Government saw the Barbados Government responding in a way that saw us having to budget for a loss in the region of \$200 million in one financial year.

Mr. Speaker, we need to remind Barbadians that this is the kind of reality under which we operate. I never thought that I would have seen a period of time where oil prices would fall from say US\$140 a barrel to US\$30 a barrel and create a greater crisis than when it was say US\$140 a barrel. The truth is that it has so affected some economies in the region that places like Venezuela, our CARICOM partner Trinidad and many other countries throughout the world have had to rejig their entire economic outlook to counteract these drastic changes.

Barbados has embarked on a complete reshaping of its economy. This, Mr. Speaker, is based on four tenets which are included in the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party of 2013. It spoke to a Barbados which was socially balanced in its policies, a Barbados with an economically viable development plan, environmentally sound practices and good honest governance. Of course, these tenets were scoffed at by the Honourable Members on the other side. Even as I speak radio St. Thomas continues to scoff at these tenets. Little do they know, Sir... and if they read the new Covenant to which they have now sworn they would see these very same words, terms, philosophies, being echoed in the four tenets which your leader, Radio St. Thomas, required that you now adhere to: A new national consciousness, a vision for good governance, a vision for a better society, a vision for a new economy and a vision for engaging the world. Mr. Speaker, if I sound like I am repeating myself it is true because on page 19 of the Covenant which we were presented with on Tuesday evening as on page 5 of Democratic Labour Party Manifesto of 2013 you would find those two references, which I just made, so it is plagiarism, it is follow the leader, and it is all of those things.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was careful in his presentation last night to point out the fact that we in the Democratic Labour Party have long had a philosophy which guides our practices. We have not waited until the year 2016 to come up with such a view. Indeed, as I said, this Motion is therefore more about the Leader of the Opposition and her final days as Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party because at their annual conference in a couple of weeks there will be the election of a new Chairman. As has been pointed out before the present leader therefore has to leave some kind of stage on which she can remerge to be political leader in a party that

all of Barbados recognises has suffered tremendously under her leadership so far.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter has already vacated spaces over there, and I want to join in conveying my sympathy to the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter and his family on the loss of Mr. Frank Arthur, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West for whom I am especially concerned about the treatment meted out to her because the Barbados Labour Party comes in here and goes around Barbados touting one standard but are prepared to savage their own women in a way that must not be tolerated in this Barbadian society. They will be judged on that, Sir.

Sir, in the presentation on Tuesday, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition made sure, and drew as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central indicated that while her net was sweeping she swept in everything on the seabed. She went through every ministry and scraped and raped and dragged. That was the result of the five-hour presentation which we had to endure. She even dare to speak about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I would not think that any Honourable Member on that side would really get up in any consciousness and speak to the condition of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because even when this country was flushed as they say with money the Barbados Labour Party Administration could not find time or could not focus in a way to significantly turn around the fortunes of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I am sure that the Honourable Member St. Philip West when he speaks will talk to the matter of water because the same thing applies to water.

7.13 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas getting up on a point of order and talking about pipes being replaced, we are not talking about half-inch pipes to people's houses, we are talking about laying 16-inch and 20-inch mains that are the backbone of the water supply system in the country. These are the mains which we are now looking to borrow money and technology to ensure that we have a water system that is reliable. Yes, some Barbadians have had to suffer as a result of some of the changes but as has been pointed out, there has been a tremendous drought in Barbados, in the Caribbean and in the region, that is the reality. Mr. Speaker, to come here and try to pretend to Barbadians that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West or the Government of Barbados is trying to foist some kind of hardship upon people by way of taking away their water...

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: They said it, Sir, that we turn

off taps in certain areas because they were Barbados Labour Party residents there. There is no street in Barbados that I have walked that does not have Barbados Labour Party and Democratic Labour Party residents. What kind of ridiculous policy would that be that we are speaking to? It makes no sense no matter how I turn it, it just makes no sense to me at all, at all, at all. I do not understand what stage we have reached by way of analysis. Someone said earlier that there was no analytical power in the Barbados Labour Party, maybe they were right.

Mr. Speaker, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I said this only a few weeks ago and I hate to have to repeat it. When I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East saying that she went to the hospital and there were some tiles missing when she looked up, I smiled to myself. Sir, the truth is that under the Barbados Labour Party there were not tiles missing, there were no tiles, that is the point. The first thing we did at the hospital in 2008, and the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and The Honourable Member for St. James South can testify to it, we had to put in place some \$40 million to put electricity in the hospital, because there were elevators lying in the corner, not because you did not like installing elevators, but you did not have the power in the hospital to power up the elevators.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital was built since 1964 and the Honourable Member is saying that for the very first time in 2008 that the Democratic Labour Party put electricity in the hospital. That is what the Honourable Member to this House, that they put electricity in the hospital, the records are there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, from what the Honourable Member is saying that is not what I understand him to be saying, but let us get some clarification because we know that is not true.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, maybe it was not electricity for the first time but certainly it felt like if they were getting electricity for the first time, because things had gotten so badly. Mr. Speaker, the kinds of improvements that have followed the recognition that this was a priority in the hospital have been spoken. Sir, the last time we spoke about the Queen Elizabeth Hospital I neglected to mention especially the donations from which we have benefited. I think at the last presentation the Chief Executive Officer Dr. James made, he spoke to the fact that we have benefited because of philanthropy and persons who have come on board, some of whom have experienced the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and are comfortable with it, some of whom have not had necessarily excellent experiences the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and that is the

reality, but some \$11 million has been counted as donations to the hospital and they continue.

Mr. Speaker, we do our part. As I had to make the clarification only on Sunday at the opening of the Barbados Registered Nurses Association Week, I made the clarification at the Pegwell Community Church that there was no \$35 million owed to the hospital or that was taken away from the hospital.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, you can see how rumour catch legs, so I go all the way to Pegwell Community Church in my constituency and had to stand up at the podium and explain again. We allocate \$145 million to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the hospital goes about its business, pays its bills, pays its workers and as we approach the end of the financial year we develop a Supplementary for the hospital to top up the requirements of the hospital. Yes, we do owe suppliers, there are no questions about that. This is something which we are working on with the suppliers to make sure that that money is dealt with. We have moved around on average of around \$170 million to \$180 million per year at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the period 2008 until now. We have had a high of something like \$202 million to operate the hospital and we have done as well, I think, \$175 million this last financial year, but still we have to deal with some of the suppliers that we owe, we recognised that.

The service at the hospital is not only about money and we recognised that too, but it is also about how do our workers, doctors, nurses, assistants, et cetera, relate to the public and to our clients those patients that we have to deal with on a daily basis. Sir, this improvement is required, it is an improvement that is required and has been recognised and the hospital in its good sense has moved to an environment of seeking accreditation with a Canadian facility. Sir, the name does not come to mind right away. The point is that by way of this accreditation we know that the standards in the hospital will improve as we seek to maintain that high international standard for which we must aim. In a lot of ways it is no more a pie-in-the-sky wish, it is a requirement to do business because more and more we are dealing with an international world, the movement of people between countries is no longer a holiday thing but an everyday thing and sickness may occur at any time and we have to be able to respond at the kind of level, both for our nationals, as well as for people who visit our country. Sir, that accreditation will see us getting there.

Mr. Speaker, when the net was sweeping in on Tuesday afternoon the Honourable Member spoke to the hospital being short of nurses or that the health service was short of nurses. I think this was echoed by the Honourable Member for St. George South after the Honourable

Member crawled up from under the chair, because during the presentation the Honourable Member went down, down and was hiding behind the Bench at one stage when I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was talking about some column or something that I am not too sure what the Honourable Member was talking about. All I could see was the shoulders disappearing, then the collar and tie went, then as the nose was about to drop, I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East told him to wake up, it is alright now, the Honourable Member was finished. It was alright now to get back up.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member spoke about the shortage of nurses. Let me tell the people of Barbados the facts in respect to the complement of nurses in our services. In the Geriatric Hospital we have something like 213 employed, with one post to be filled. At the Gordon Cummins Hospital there are 32 nurses, with two posts to be filled. At St. Lucy District Hospital there are 20 nurses, with no posts to be filled. At the Elaine Scantlebury Centre, which was moved from Belleplaine and is now part of the St. Lucy District Hospital, there are 17 nurses, with no posts to be filled. At the St. Philip District Hospital there are 74 nurses, with no posts to be filled. At the Psychiatric Hospital there are 256 nurses, with five posts to be filled.

7.31 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) there are 847 nurses employed with six posts to be filled, and within our polyclinic system there are 138 nurses employed with 15 posts to be filled. There are 29 outstanding posts in the entire nursing service in Barbados. As to the adequacy of those that are presently available, that is a different discussion, and that is always a matter for discussion between the Barbados Nurses' Association, the Ministry of Health, the QEH and any of the other entities, so there is always fluidity. Mr. Speaker, as to the training of our nurses, yes, there is always improvement to be made, and there is recognition, of course, that we have to look at a more flexible arrangement when it comes to leave for nurses to study at the Barbados Community College while they are being allowed to continue working within our healthcare system.

As I said, Sir, the net kept sweeping in on Tuesday evening so it swept up to St. John and it decided that it was going to rake in the David Thompson Health and Social Services Complex. They spoke to the fact of the cost of the complex, et cetera. The Barbados Labour Party does not have a love-hate relationship with St. John; they hate St. John, so anything that works for St. John must not happen. The Honourable Member for St. John knows exactly what I am speaking about. First let me say that any monies that were spent on the construction of the David Thompson Complex were voted for in this Parliament, and justification was given. I have my comments as far as

selection of sites for construction of buildings. I certainly have a view in terms of where we should look for building public facilities, and we have to look at these situations. I think that all Barbadians will agree, especially the residents of St. John, that we have created a wonderful complex at St. John for taking care of those who need healthcare.

I asked yesterday to see if I could get some facts. The complex was opened in November 2015, and since then we have seen a total of 7 213 persons at the St. John polyclinic. For me, that is justification enough for having that facility. Regarding the conditions under which the patients are taken care of, I want to take my hat off to Nurse Norma and Doctor Edwards who head up the team at St. John, and the wonderful ambience that they have created in terms of service. I do not like the thought of getting sick, Sir, but if I were to choose somewhere to go if I were not feeling well, I feel I would opt for the St. John Polyclinic, to tell the truth, if I could get as far as the St. John Polyclinic. The entire place is just something befitting of Barbadians; it is worthy of Barbadians. We have continued to create improvements at that facility. We are doing our family planning clinics, our community mental health clinics, or child health clinics, and of course we do our general practice. Some 3 881 of the persons seen would have been under the general practice regime.

The details are here. I have already shared them with the Honourable Member for St. John. To share them with the Shadow Minister would be a waste of time because he is not going to be convinced even in the light of seeing these figures. Unless I am persuaded otherwise, I really do not see the point of sharing them with the Honourable Member, but they are available. The facts are that more than 7 000 persons have been attended, and I have not even counted the prescriptions in the Drug Service because there is a pharmacy available. Sir, let me tell this Chamber something: The library is moving into the complex in another couple of weeks. Of course, the welfare office is there and operating, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central is aware. This may not sit well with the Members of the Opposition but the Constituency Council is operating well from that facility, and the story goes on.

The most exciting development so far for St. John, besides the basic services which were always part of the plan, is that we have entered into final negotiations with a provider to take some four units for hemodialysis to the St. John Polyclinic site. This is going to allow us to take care of as many as 60 patients per week in that facility and take some of the load off the QEH. There are many people, as we know, who need that treatment, and who can drive their cars to the facility and get their treatment. Once they have recovered sufficiently, they can then get back into their vehicles and go home. We expect that it is that kind of patient who will opt to go to the St. John facility. The required consultancy will be in place and we shall go

forward with our plans for that St. John Polyclinic. We have our eyes open. There is a completely equipped gym whose operation we have not yet finalised. The idea is to develop some kind of physiotherapy arrangement there along with the exercise facility. Remember that part of the message of the Ministry of Health is that our healthy lifestyle must include an element of physical activity every day.

From this position, Sir, I want to continue to urge Barbadians to fight with us in our battle against non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and ensure that kind of physical activity takes place. I am encouraged by what I see on mornings, either at the beach or on the streets, and I want to urge our drivers to be careful and our walkers to be even more careful. Wear bright colours please, so that we can be seen by approaching vehicles, et cetera.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. J.D.E. Boyce: Yes, and I am going to spend those five minutes talking about Barbados and health and the international arena. Once the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is not in charge, she has a discomfort level that is unparalleled. I heard words to that effect some time earlier today already. Barbados continues to take the lead in the region in respect of healthcare. There is no question about that. We have established in Barbados a Non-communicable Disease Commission headed by Professor Hassell, and I want to thank him and all the other members of that commission who do such a wonderful job in putting together programmes, along with the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health itself. We have been champions internationally in the promotion of the battle against NCDs. We have been the only country in the region to establish an inter-ministerial committee which recognises the need for effective inter-ministerial collaboration in our fight against NCDs. The Ministers of Education, Trade, Housing, Sports, Social Care and Agriculture are all involved. We have to get our foods and imports right.

7.32 p.m.

We are the only country barring Mexico in the region, who has implemented a 10 per cent tax on sweetened beverages in Barbados and this money has been earmarked to use deliberately in health care sector. Sir, countries around the region and internationally are looking at the Barbados model. The World Health Committee on non-communicable diseases have taken the Barbados model and is introducing it all around the world and next week, at the World Health Convention in Geneva, Barbados is expected to make a presentation to the Commonwealth Committee and to the Who about the whole question of non-communicable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, if you remember, the Caribbean started this thing in 2007 at the Declaration of Port of Spain. This is where the impetus started with respect to our battle against non-communicable diseases, recognising that we have essentially taken care of the battle against communicable diseases, recognising that some 80 per cent of our health care budget goes toward the treatment and care of non-communicable diseases. It seems to me, Sir, to be a very sensible approach.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, I am not going to be distracted by the Honourable Member for St. George North because he had his chance to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: You should not be because you need to windup.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, having said all of that, I believe that even the Honourable Member for St. George North is now convinced that there is no value in this no-confidence motion and, therefore, I look forward to him, like me, and indeed my colleagues on this side saying no to this Resolution and yes to Barbados' continued fight in health care, in making our economy right and being on the side of our people, our workers and long live Barbados and long live the hard work that is being put in by these Honourable Members. Sir, contrary to the opinion being put out there that somebody is sitting down and doing nothing. We must not judge people by our own standards. I am aware of no such nonsense in respect to the work of this Democratic Labour Party in Government.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore, want to declare unequivocally that I have no time for this motion. I believe the motion is really a motion in the Leader of the Opposition and she needs to carry that motion to Roebuck Street in September and let it be properly dealt with there. I know the numbers will be close.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member Christ Church East.

Hon. D. LOWE: thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I waited patiently on this moment and I am very happy that you have recognise me to take the Floor and I am obliged to you. I sat here over the last several hours and like many persons here again I wandered lonely as a cloud, wondering where this effort intended to take us and apparently the casualties of this no-confidence motion includes the Leader of the Opposition, who as the sponsor of this no-confidence motion did not see it fit to grace this Honourable House with her presence this day, and the task has now become the task of the Government..

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand, I must confess for the life of me why we have cost this country by the usage of CBC roughly around \$250 000 to televise this charade.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that with technology at the level it is, with the radio station carrying the debate live, with the debate being streamed, that it really boggles my mind, especially at a time when the Leader of the Opposition has complained that the Government does not have enough trucks on the road to pick up waste, that they are people out there with their bellies to their backs who are hungry and a list of woes that became the embodiment of this no-confidence motion and, at the same time, is quarrelling that the Government took too long to indicate whether or not it would be televised. Sir, I was reminded on Tuesday of the Empire's new clothes, where battalions gathered to observe the pomp and circumstance of the Emperor's march and as he marched back and forth I imagine, there was this snigger, this laugh, this amazement and the Emperor, of course, thought that he was so beautifully clad that he insisted and marched up and down, only to discover in the end that it was not an admiration of his garment, it was the exposure of his nakedness. Madam, when I thought that all of the Empress' clothes were off, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West came in here this evening and ripped off the rest, literally ripped off the rest of her garment and now she is somewhere hiding in a corner, after coming in here and trying to treat the public of Barbados to this no-confidence motion.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me. It is a great thing that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow bequeathed to this country the kind of educational system it has. It is a great thing that Barbadians have been educated to the point where they can as the old folk would say, decipher for themselves what is virtue and what is vice. Sir, I sleep quietly and restfully because I believe that Barbadians who would have observed and listen to what we were treated to two days ago, really understand what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask myself what was it about? It was the launching of this document in this House, That has been made a document of the House. Sir, as a matter of fact, this document was made a document of the House. I called for a document on Tuesday and the document relating to a legal educational requirements to practise law in Barbados were promised to be presented including the handwriting

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INSERT S28 JULIETTE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: but no it is alright for a Mottley to drive one, not a Lowe. Who is Lowe? Who is Denis Lowe? Well, let me tell you who I am. I am one in firm possession of my sense of authentic self. I do not wish to be validated or affirmed by title, by class or by creed. I am an ordinary Barbadian from an ordinary walk of life who by virtue of the opportunities that Uncle Errol created have risen and today I am a Member of the Parliament of this wonderful country, and I was sent here by the people of my constituency, thanks to them. I am not going to walk around and tell anybody that I have to be a Prime Minister in order to be, for it is to be or not to be. In the case of becoming Prime Minister for the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, I am of the view that the day Barbadians ever allowed her to take up reins in this country as the leader, crapaud smoke your pipe and more.

If now a person could go and dig up in the Ministry of Transport and Works and look for your registration information and they are not the Prime Minister, only God knows what they would do, they would tap your phone. You understand what I am saying. You see the dangerous road that we are on. Your telephone conversations will no longer be sacred. They will dig into your personal bank accounts. That was done already too. Are you kidding me?

People of Barbados understand what is happening here. There is a person with an insatiable appetite for power, a person who spends six hours to inject her ego with a false sense of self that now we have a mad ego on the loose. All of these insults they hurled. I drive a vehicle marked XG 10 that is a BMW X5 and I am going to drive it up and down Barbados as much as I want to because it is not stolen, and if there is an issue of conflict of interest, then let the Honourable Leader of the Opposition put that issue and carry it to the Director of Public Prosecutions herself. Why should she give it to the Honourable Prime Minister or ask the Honourable Prime Minister to take it? Let her take it herself, but she may not want to go to the Director of Public Prosecutions Office because she may not get out free. Wickedness, spite, all because the country is doing well again, that is what it is.

While the Honourable Member was hauling a No-Confidence Motion in here against the Government, it really was a Motion against performance. Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, I plea with you my dear sister, you have a bright future ahead of you, do not allow yourself to be painted with that brush. It is a paint that thinners do not even bring off. Do not allow yourself to be, you hear because I am telling you this, Barbadians will count on people like you in the future but if you allow yourself to become tarnished by your association, crapaud smoke your pipe too, because let me tell you this...

Mr. Speaker, I pause to extend my condolences to the Honourable Member for St. Peter on the passing of his father and I also extend my best wishes and speedy recovery to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, a wonderful Member of this House, but do you know that somebody is up there canvassing already, do you know that somebody has been dispatched in St. Michael East. You did not know that.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, if you want to purport a platform of values... You see, I do not have to come in this House and tell lies. Anything I say in here I can go outside and say. Now, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in her quest to prosecute the Government claimed that the Environmental Protection Department had not demolished a house since 2007. You all remember that, good. I want to make this document a document of the House and I am delivering mine right away. The Honourable Member said that not a single derelict building was removed since 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I hold you in the highest respect and I try my best not to border in any territory that is in violation of the Rules of this House, but I want to ask you a question: Should this House become a place where any Honourable Member should come and misrepresent the truth to the public of Barbados under the guise of parliamentary privilege? I say no. If parliamentary privilege allows Honourable Members to walk in here and just misrepresent the truth, then Mr. Speaker, I think we need to have a review of the Rules where immunity is removed because, Mr. Speaker, you would not have gotten the impression that when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke and spoke on the issues regarding the Environmental Protection Department that the Honourable Member was in doubt of what she was saying. She said it emphatically and she said it passionately.

Would you believe, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in the financial year 2009-2010 the Environmental Protection Department removed 141 derelict buildings in Barbados. Four (4) in St. Lucy; 6 in St. Peter; 6 in St. James; 4 in St. Andrew; 12 in St. Thomas; 75 in St. Michael; 5 in St. George; 10 in St. John; 8 in St. Philip; and 11 in Christ Church. The pictorial evidence of the houses in the state before they were removed and after they were removed is in the document that I presented for one particular period, but that is not all. In the financial year 2010-2011, do you know how many buildings were removed, 1 749 at a cost of \$238 148: 170 in St. Lucy; 128 in St. Peter; 245 in St. James; 11 in St. Andrew; 7 in St. Joseph; 25 in St. Thomas; 390 in St. Michael; 189 in St. George; 181 in St. John; 160 in St. Philip and 243 in Christ Church, but the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East stood up in here and

emphatically said to Barbadians that no derelict buildings have been removed since 2007.

8.03 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for an investigation as to whether or not any rules of this Honourable House were broken and if they were broken, the No-Confidence Motion should now be in the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, this is a department that has done a lot of work in Barbados, they have done a number of studies: the Bridgetown Ambient Air Quality Assessment Report, 2015. The Bridgetown Noise Assessment Report was completed in the last financial year. There was also the Monitoring of the Ambient Air Quality Assessment Reports of Oistins and Speightstown. Sir, over the first two quarters the Building Development Section processed 943 residential, 52 commercial and five residential/commercial applications. There was also a review of the health services looking at all of the regulations related to food hygiene, swimming pools, restaurants lodging houses, barracks, et cetera, et cetera. Sir, the list goes on and on, including conducting an annual cleanup at Morgan Lewis Beach under the Marine Litter Programme.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on, it is not right, it is not right to come in this Honourable House and behave with such rascality, to behave in such a way. I consider this place to be a sacred place.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has five minutes left in which to conclude.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, the issue of Cahill I want to address before I end. Sir, there is all of this nonsense about Cahill. The Government has chosen to undertake a waste-to-energy programme. The reason for the waste-to-energy programme is that (1), we are running out of physical space to build more dumps. Secondly, dumps are responsible for releasing greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Speaker, Barbados is a small island and if anybody in Barbados tonight wishes for me to bring a landfill in their community, they can write the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage and we could do that. Mr. Speaker, we decided that waste-to-energy is the universally accepted option, especially if you want to do away with landfilling in Barbados because of the problems associated with it, we have entered into conversations with a company called Cahill. We had town hall meetings. No application has been submitted to the Town and Country Planning Department to date, and a Heads of Terms was completed. A Heads of Term is a document that lays out the possible points of negotiating an agreement, it is not an agreement itself.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I saw documents being flashed about, which were promised to be made documents of this Honourable House but the Honourable House has not as yet received those documents. Now, I want to make it clear that the public asks the Government to slow down on the project and to give itself some more time to understand the technology. We have done that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and recent events in England and other places around waste-to-energy operations, plasma gasification has shown up some significant flaws.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados would have to be absolutely and collectively mad to move ahead on an option where there is global evidence that there are flaws with the technology, so I assure the public today that the Government is not going anywhere with that option, not after the fact that so many Barbadians have made their voices heard and have told their Government that to be cautious, to hold back, that they do not understand it fully enough, and are there other options that Government could explore. Mr. Speaker, I would say to all of this that this Government is a sensible Government because when the people in Greenland and Shorey Village asked the Government then to stop, to be cautious and not to move ahead, including with a court case, Mr. Speaker, Sir, they went ahead and \$100 million later there is not even a piece of garbage there, and the taxpayers now have to pay back that money. We rejected the Greenland option, so Barbadians we are not going to forge ahead on anything that would bring any disaster to this country. We are not going to forge ahead with any option that is not the safest option for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I know you have given me a signal, so I am going to take my last minute to conclude. I believe, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that at the end of the day the real contest as to who should lead Barbados will be a contest between a man of the highest moral standards and a woman still searching for hers. At the end of the day what will determine the future of this country and its leadership will be what this current Right Honourable Prime Minister has been able to lead and do in the most difficult of circumstances to hold his team together, to work with his team, while on the other side we watch the ISIS operation of the beheading of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. We witnessed wrangling back and forth. Mr. Speaker, I know that at the end of the day this would have failed because come later in the year when they go the Annual Conference, the Leader of the Opposition may well carry along her political coffin with her, because if the Honourable Member gets in there at all, the Honourable Member would come back out as a political cadaver. I thank you, Sir.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now suspended, to be resumed at 8.50 p.m.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put to the Honourable the House and was resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting accordingly.

8.15 p.m.

BLANK 31

RESUMPTION

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were on Private Members' Business, Order No. 6, and with that we shall continue. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter this Debate. First, I want to state to this Chamber that when the Opposition came to this House on Tuesday, they came in an attempt to prosecute this Government, or rather to bring a case against this Government in the form of a Motion of No Confidence. Of course, we sat and listened to the case as presented by the lead spokesperson on that side, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, and we were expecting to hear cogent, compelling and credible evidence from her in support of the No Confidence Motion. I sat and listened to the presentation and it brought me back to the days when I was at the Criminal Bar as a defence attorney, and I remembered that when you bring a charge against any person, you must bring the evidence to support it. It is also customary for any defence attorney worth his salt to recognise that at the end of the prosecution's case, there is no case to answer. I have done it on many occasions. I do recall even doing a number of cases with the Honourable Member for St. James Central, and at the end of the prosecution's case, we would enter what we call a no-case submission in accordance with the rule of Galbraith. In fact, I recall one matter we were doing together involving a woman charged with beating another woman, and at the end of the case we brought a no-case submission on the ground that the evidence did not support the charge. In fact, there was no scientific evidence to support the charge of grievous bodily harm. There were no abrasions, bruises, trauma, bite marks nor any such things.

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: No bites whatsoever, and in fact the case was dismissed. I likened this No Confidence

Motion to that case that my learned friend and Member for St. James Central and I defended. There is no evidence presented by the Member for St. Michael North East to support this No Confidence Motion. It is very flimsy. There is no evidence to support it. In fact, if I was given the charge to prosecute the Barbados Labour Party, the normal tactic is that a prosecutor would bring supporting, credible, convincing and cogent evidence. Mr. Speaker, I want to really turn this Debate to turn the case against the Opposition, and to bring a Motion of No Confidence against the Opposition, and support it with evidence.

I have listened to the Member for St. Michael North East and there have been so many allegations and wild statements about Members on this side; allegations of corruption, that the fellows on this side are akin to wild boys, that we do not respect the rule of law, and that we continue to breach the law in this country. Mr. Speaker, if they ask me to bring evidence to show that the Barbados Labour Party gave out contracts to their friends or associates of the Barbados Labour Party, I would say “yes” and that I could bring the evidence. I would say yes, because it was supposed to be a political prosecution of the Government, so I believe that I can also bring a political prosecution of the Opposition, and support it with cogent, credible and convincing evidence.

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, they will ask us to present the evidence, because the allegation is that Members on this side give favours out to friends and families. In fact, the allegation was also made toward the Member for Christ Church East. Mr. Speaker, I do recall that a contract was awarded, not in a boardroom but in a bedroom. Indeed, when we search the evidence at the National Housing Corporation, Mr. Speaker, a prosecutor would make a document and you would call it Exhibit 1 or Exhibit MA1 OR MA12. I want to make this Exhibit MA1 to support the fact that on January 13, 2003, a contract was awarded for removing the asbestos roof at Kensington to a company called Creative Building Services. It was a coincidence that the Minister’s surname was the same as the owner of the company, Creative Building Services Incorporated. In fact, the contract was awarded for \$278 000. It was the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Mr. Speaker, what makes the case against the Opposition more credible and convincing is that the National Housing Corporation at the time said that awarding this contract to the same company would be too risky. I am not telling any lies, because Exhibit MAM2 says:

9.12 p.m.

“It is evident that Creative Building Services’ quotation is too low and awarding contract to this company would be too risky and that they should go back out and

negotiate but the contract was awarded because the Minister said in the bedroom of the politics of Barbados that the contract should be awarded to Creative Building Services Inc, in fact, a company that was not even recognised or approved by the environmental department as an approved company to remove asbestos roofing.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to bring a prosecution in the Government do like what other prosecutors would do, as my learned friend from St. James Central would know, as he passed through many of the great prosecutors, and when you bring a case you should prosecute it properly, bring the evidence and support it with exhibits.

Mr. Speaker, as have said before the rule in a leading case of *Regina v Galbraith* (1981) 1 WLR 1039 says that if the evidence is insufficient to support the charge, it must be thrown. If the evidence is tenuous, unreliable and is not credible, it must be thrown out. It is a 1981 case and I believe Lord Layne gave the judgement in that case that set down the guidelines. Sir, if you apply that basis principle ...

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: There are two limbs but I am going on the first limb. The first limb is that there is insufficient evidence to support the charge against this Government.

Mr. Speaker, again, charges were made against this Government that we rake up \$20 million and paid to a contractor in breach of the law, that the Housing Credit Fund did not allow for such payment and that we were in breach of the law. Sir, again, one would believe that the Opposition Party that there were no breaches of the law over there, that they stuck to the rule of law as recognised by the Preamble of the Constitution of Barbados, the Supreme Law of the land and that there were no breaking of the rules.

Mr. Speaker, Barbadians must know that if they take a look as far back as the St. Leonards’ Project, and we want to use that basis evidence, the contractor in that case was also a member of the Barbados Labour Party and a former Minister of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor-General says that the financial rules, Section 129, that the Government of the day breached the law at the time but we are being thrown missiles over here that we are not in keeping with the law and that we are breaching the law but we are turning the prosecution now against the Opposition. I know that my learned friend from St. James Central would understand that the jury of public opinion wanted to be satisfied, or were expecting to be satisfied on some of satisfactory evidence. Sir, if you produce this, which is documentary evidence, it is not circumstantial evidence, it is really direct

evidence, it is weighty evidence in fact, evidence of some weight, and then a receipt for \$75 000 that was paid to the same company, when the Minister carry the same surname of the man who owned the company and the cheque then was placed in a purse in the same political bedroom. Sir, what foolishness are they telling me at all.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central troubles me all the time. I am in possession of receipts... I come here today to take on the role of a political prosecutor and I want to ask this question. If the Honourable Members on the other side is familiar with a particular law firm that works for Al Barrack. I am in possession of some receipts. Sir, they like to paint us over here and paint us with a brush but, Sir, a good prosecutor would normally tease out and ease out the evidence but, of course, you have to take your time in order to ensure that a verdict of guilty is returned by the jury of public opinion and, Sir, the jury is out on the no-confidence motion. In fact, one man said to me that there is no motion in the no-confidence motion produced by the Opposition, that it is motionless.

Mr. Speaker, I was so surprised by my friend the Honourable Member for St. James Central, who was the core prosecutor in this matter and who spent so much time in the criminal courts practicing and would come here to present a case but halfway through the case collapse.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move on...

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: You want the receipt and you want to see how much was paid? Sir, I want to touch on my Ministry but the Honourable Member for St. James Central said that I leave behind a putrid legacy at the National Housing Corporation. Sir, that is what he said but if what I disclose here is not putrid, I do not know how to describe it. Sir, then the Opposition came in here and presented a document called the Covenant of Hope and in that document is a wall of values and I laughed on it. Sir, that wall of values is as farcical as the wall that Donald Trump is going to build in Mexico. Sir, it is farcical.

Sequence 33

INSERT S34 JUIETTE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: and curse the same contractor for getting \$20 million for building high-rise apartments so that Barbadians could live in them. This is the same Opposition that paid \$80 million to a contractor for building that building up there in Newton, the Newton Business Park. This is the first time in the history of

Barbados that \$80 million was paid to a contractor, one Hafeez Karamath and the man has not finished the job. I am wondering if Hafeez Karamath is the same person that I know that a police raid was carried out at his home in Trinidad and they found guns, cocaine and all sorts of things. This same person was awarded a contract by the Barbados Labour Party for \$80 million. The building was not finished and the man got \$80 million and out and gone, yet we are hearing talk in here about no respect for the Rule of Law, a lack of governance and transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to this Parliament that there is no supporting evidence to support a prosecution against this Government. There is a prosecution and there will be a successful prosecution of the Opposition.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to talk about transport. I spoke to transport in the Estimates for about four days. I am saying to this Chamber that the Opposition has no moral authority to speak on any housing policy or against this Government on its housing policy from 2008. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East likes to get up and talk about why units cannot be conveyed and why I cannot get the units conveyed. She is all up there by the academics walking about.

Mr. Speaker, they talk about criminality, but do you know what was the worst form of criminality? When they had this divestment programme of the units up in Church Village, I remember, the then Minister of Housing gave the man the contract in the bedroom. Do you know that there was a meeting and that the same Opposition hoodwinked the poor people of this country and took \$5 million in deposits from them and have not convey one unit? In fact, at the time the National Housing Corporation had a meeting with the then Attorney-General who is now the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and they had no authority to convey because the majority of the estates were not vested in the National Housing Corporation in accordance with the Crown Lands and Vesting Act so they could not convey them. They had \$5 million from pensioners and we had to come in and passed the piece of legislation that gave title easier and in fact eased the process.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: I am going to get there now because I am going to talk about criminality because I am saying that you cannot give what you do not have. It is like the Honourable Member for St. Michael North trying to give somebody common-sense. You cannot give what you do not have. What is the Latin phrase for it?

Asides.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Democratic Labour Party have presented our case on this side and each Minister has defended our cause on this side.

Mr. Speaker, nothing is working in Barbados. Everything is broken according to them. If you go outside the hospital is broken down, if you go outside the ambulances are broken down and everything is broken down. There is nothing good in Barbados at all, but when they get in power all of a sudden there is a magic wand... In fact, the former Honourable Member for Christ Church South along with John King and the former candidate for St. Lucy were there together...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, wind up please. Your time has expired, so wind up on this point.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not giving in to the Opposition. This No-Confidence Motion is farcical, it is reckless, it is frivolous and it is vexatious. Mr. Speaker, I close my case.

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

Hon. D. O'N INNISS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in the debate on this Resolution before us. Much has been said on the Resolution but what concerns me is the failure particularly of the Opposition Bench to stick to the substance of the Resolution, as a matter of fact to the wording of it, and obviously the net has been cast far and wide but I would rather stick to the Resolution itself because I believe this is indeed a serious matter.

A Motion that expresses no confidence in the Government of the day is indeed a matter that ought to be taken very seriously and is being taken seriously by the Government of the day. I believe that the mover of the Resolution, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who I have not seen present for the day but who may be in the precincts of Parliament, takes it as a serious matter and likewise should her subjects or rather her colleagues on the Opposition Bench and therefore ought not to be treated in a very frivolous manner. Of course, the Government must be commended for moving with great haste to entertain full debate on the matter, and therefore I would just add a brief comment to what is before us.

The Resolution, of course, in the Preamble to the actual Motion would have reflected upon the state of the economy over the last three or so years. One of the statements is that the Honourable Minister of Finance in his 2015 Budget reflected that the objectives of the said home-grown fiscal adjustment strategy were to restore and stabilise foreign exchange reserves so as to be able to

protect our foreign exchange rate. Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that that has been achieved.

We really have to be a bit more objective in our discourse on these matters before us because at the end of the day we must be mindful that there are about 280 000 individuals in this society who are depending on us in this Honourable Chamber to guide and direct the affairs of this economy and this society and therefore all that we say and do in here must bear great relation to the hopes and aspirations of the society of Barbados.

9.41 p.m.

Undoubtedly, we have been faced with several challenges over the last couple of years in this economy and the State has certainly sought, from the Government's end, to address many of these issues. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that has loomed large is with regards to the foreign exchange reserves of this island and the need to protect the foreign exchange rate. I believe that both the Opposition and Government have really accepted that in a small open economy like ours that maintaining the parity of the Barbados currency, vis-à-vis, the United States of America dollar is very critical. The Government is being charged certainly with creating a bit of dislocation in our quest to achieve a foreign exchange rate stability and we can all say that has been done. Mr. Speaker, the Government has also committed to reducing the fiscal deficit to sustainable levels. I believe we have been able to bring it down from about 12 per cent down to 6.5 per cent today and of course laying the foundation for returning Barbados economy to a sustainable path. Sir, that also is ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, a number of other points jumped out at me in this Resolution relate to, for example, one paragraph that says the National Insurance Scheme continues to be used as a means of financing Government's mounting unsustainable deficit, et cetera. Now, Mr. Speaker, at the end of a debate on a Motion of No-Confidence in the Government, one must be able to decipher not just what the Government has done right or wrong but also what the Opposition Bench would do had they been faced with the circumstances as the Government.

Mr. Speaker, we were faced and Barbados continues to be faced with a situation where we have quite a bit of funds in the National Insurance Scheme that, really and truly, if you place it on the foreign markets, as hitherto was done quite a bit, you would probably be lucky if you could yield 0.5 per cent interest on the investment.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Government in Barbados, neither the Barbados Labour Party nor the Democratic Labour Party has ever defaulted on any of its debts, we have always honoured our debts, including debts to the

National Insurance Scheme, but there is this perception that goes out there that is rather unfortunate that when the National Insurance Scheme funds are invested in Government related projects that you are placing the future pension and other benefits that the National Insurance Scheme pays out at great risk. Sir, that really needs to be debunked, there are some issues that need to move beyond that partisan political divide and step into the realm of reality and what is the best interest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, the National Insurance Scheme is quite justified in investing not just in Government's Paper but also as we have seen in providing accommodation for public officers. I think sometimes they do charge Government quite an exorbitant rate of interest on the loans but it is being put to good use and they are getting a good return on their investment, therefore any accusation that the funds of the National Insurance Scheme are being placed at great risk by investing in Government Instruments is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we must also note that the funds of the National Insurance Scheme have been used to invest in public enterprise in Barbados. If I am not mistaken, in recent times they have invested in the Club House at the Apes Hill Golf course, which is nearly finished. I commend them for that as well. I do not hear anybody criticising them when they invest in private enterprises like this in Barbados, it is the right thing to do, so that if there is one thing that jumps out at me in this Resolution is the condemnation of the National Insurance Scheme investment strategy, it really and truly is not something that we can lay claim to here.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the accusation, of course, as to the severe reduction in disposal income resulting in wage freeze, et cetera. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that there are some things in the Resolution that are quite factual. I represent the constituency of St. James South which is predominately a middle-class constituency with about 25 per cent or less of working-class people. Sir, undoubtedly in the last couple of years they too have had, like all of us, to hold strain, life has not been a bed of roses and it is because of the macroeconomic environment and the policies that we have opted to pursue as a Government which has resulted, perhaps in many instances, to a lesser take-home pay. Sir, we have all been asked to make sacrifices but at the same time there must be consistency, and to some extent there has been, in the explanation as to the rationale behind the sacrifices that people have been asked to make.

Mr. Speaker, I can only say upfront here now that as we have not just settled down but have started to show a growth in the economy, I would expect that those who have made great sacrifices would now start to feel a little ease. I would not want to say that we must be reckless in our

future activities because I am deeply afraid that many of the structural deficiencies in our economy and in our system has not yet been frontally addressed or addressed in a sustainable manner that gives us that level of comfort that should the world economy take a tailspin again, that Barbados would not find itself back to square one. Sir, we must not be hasty, we must be very rational in our actions and such like.

Mr. Speaker, I am disputing the fact that there have been challenges. I have constituents who tell me, and I witness their challenges in meeting their daily expenses in being able to pay their utility bills as they perhaps would be hitherto accustomed to. I talk to young people who remain deeply troubled about their university education, for example, and the policies that we have pursued. I am not going to bury my head in the sand and say that these things do not exist, they do, but at the same time we must be consistent in our explanation as to why we are doing it and certainly to give hope for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other issues raised in this Resolution, which gives me a bit of a trouble, is that there has been an escalating rate of failure among Barbadian businesses. I do not know where the evidence is on that score, quite frankly, that is why I say in these debates you can do a bit of a rabblousing but that at the end of the day our constituents and this society is looking for us to bring sustainable solutions, and where we make strong statements we must be able to bring the evidence. From my end, I have certainly seen a growth in the number of enterprises being incorporated in Barbados, which puts a lie to the issue of the failure of businesses. Mr. Speaker, it is not that there have been business failures but as the same time perhaps on the other end there have also been many instances of businesses being started. Sir, in a prolonged deep recession this is where individuals move from the position of being employees and seek to create their own enterprises and we have found that entrepreneurial spirit among Barbadians coming to the fore in the last couple of years in particular.

Mr. Speaker, what I found has been missing somewhat in the prosecution of Government, vis-à-vis, this Resolution is for the proponents to really reflect upon what has been stated in the Resolution and to speak to it. Sir, let us be fair, if you are going to bring a charge against me or if I am going to bring a charge against you and I put it in writing, I must be able not just to regurgitate verbatim what is in the charge but I must be able to give evidence to it and to defend it as well. I know we have here the accusation that the Government proposes to dismantle the Catastrophe Fund which is managed by the National Insurance Scheme that was established to mitigate against the losses of Barbadians to natural disasters. Mr. Speaker, I would not be part of a Government that is so reckless as not to put systems in place to asset our citizens in the event of a

natural disaster where they have not been able to take care of themselves. Sir, there is a lot of myth about this Catastrophe Fund. What perhaps is not getting through is that in the midst of disaster nothing that has been great like Hurricane Tomas and one or two other activities that might be deemed minor in the grand scheme of things, the Government has not been able to access the Catastrophe Fund because of the administrative structure and the legalese around that Fund, so you have a couple of million dollars sitting in a fund but you cannot access it in times of disaster. What is the sense in maintaining that structure?

9.54 p.m.

You have a couple million dollars sitting in a fund but you cannot access it in times of disaster. What is the sense of maintaining that structure? Therefore, I believe the Government's proposal is that you not just close the Fund but simultaneously bring a new structure that is perhaps a lot more nimble, and allow us to be able to respond in times of disaster. That in itself is perhaps not entirely accurate. We also have the accusation about the Government subjecting Barbadian citizens to compulsory fingerprinting at the ports of entry. When this matter first came up, I must confess, I was somewhat in the dark about it. I cannot remember everything, of course, that is discussed at Cabinet verbatim, but the truth of the matter is that there is a lot of hue and cry about fingerprinting of our citizens at points of entry. I witnessed a Barbadian who likes to call the call-in programme, *Down To Brass Tacks*, and who criticised the State heavily when that matter was put out there in the public domain. It was said that you could get fingerprints and create 3D images and affix them to somebody's hand and the person could go and do criminal activities. It was also said that fingerprinting makes Barbadians feel like criminals. We have always associated fingerprinting with getting a Police Certificate of Character in our context. Mind you, this is an individual who cannot get an unblemished Police Certificate of Character anyhow, but be that as it may, I encountered the individual one day and I said, "Boss, do you know that every one of us who enters the United States of America are subject to fingerprinting?" I have heard politicians in Barbados castigate the State and Immigration Department about this fingerprinting matter, yet take no objection to standing in a line at Miami, Kennedy (JFK), Heathrow or Gatwick airports to be fingerprinted once entering those countries. It is not just for foreigners. Every American citizen or resident entering the United States is fingerprinted, as is done in other jurisdictions around the world.

We have to be careful about the message we are sending, and some things, I keep saying, must go beyond the realm of political partisan rabble-rousing. We are living in a different era than we were ten, 15 or 20 years ago, and therefore we cannot take security lightly. We cannot sit in

Barbados and say it will not happen here. None of us thought that we would have had a deep and prolonged recession around the world. None of us thought that we could face situations as our ancestors faced back in the 1930s, for example. No-one in Venezuela today, a great oil-producing country, thought even two years ago that they could be subjected to blackouts 50 per cent of the time each day, or that their public servants would be subjected to only two days of work per week, or that you would not be able to get basic things like toilet paper. We have to really and truly step back and perhaps take a more sober approach to many of these issues, because at the end of the day, this is a society and an economy that we are leading. While we can have our differences of opinion from time to time on some issues, we must not allow them to be so misguided in our quest to assume certain positions.

One of the other issues in this Resolution, of course, is that "the Government of Barbados, contrary to their stated commitment to provide freedom of information to be transparent and accountable, has acted in a high-handed and contemptuous manner by refusing to disclose the particulars of certain Memorandum of Understanding or agreements," et cetera. I read this statement, and at the same time I listened to and witnessed documents from Government departments being referred to on the Floor of Parliament, and in some instances perhaps being made Documents of the House. Really and truly, if the Government, Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party, felt that information such as this should not be made available, I do not know it would end up on the Floor of Parliament. It is not the information you get; it is what you do with it, and one of the things that troubles me in Debates such as these in this House of Assembly is when we attack private citizens in the conduct of their private companies' affairs. These are individuals who are not in any position to come in here and defend themselves. Because we have a level of immunity in here, it does not mean that such must be abused. If you wish to cite the conduct of a private individual or a private company vis-à-vis Government policy, or the conduct of a particular Minister or a group of Ministers, that is one thing, but to stand and castigate private citizens who cannot defend themselves sends a rather dangerous signal. I do not believe that is what Parliament ought to be about. We really have to raise the level of discussion in this country beyond such petty personal issues and agenda, and stick to some broader policy matters.

We also have in the Resolution this matter of the "various Ministers of Government have failed to address appropriately or at all and/or to update the people of Barbados on matters of critical concern including, but not limited to, levels of crime, industrial unrest, the stability of the National Insurance Scheme and the condition of the healthcare system while at the same time presiding over an imbalance of fair reporting on stories or events at the

country's only free-to-air television station and access to it." Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Commissioner of Police puts out statistic on crime in Barbados on a frequent basis. I do not know if it is for a Minister to get up and always pontificate on these statistics, but I can say that every quarter or so I see statistics in the public domain; not on a Government file that comes to me but in the public domain. In so saying, let me also take a minute here to commend the Commissioner of Police and his staff for the excellent work that they have been doing in quickly apprehending some of the criminals in this country. I know I hear the comments about crime and disturbance and so on, but I do not think we thank the police officers when they are able to do their jobs in such a quick manner.

In terms of the issue of industrial unrest and the accusation that it is at unprecedented levels, et cetera, I do not know that the evidence is there. Let me also say that those who reflect upon the annual Christmas Day or New Year's messages from the unions would know that the unions clearly pointed out that it would not be business as usual, and that they would create a very disturbing industrial climate in Barbados going forward. I do not think anybody should be surprised at this issue.

Regarding the issue of the condition of the healthcare system, let me say that it is all right to make blank statements about the healthcare system. I think one of the Honourable Members on the other side spoke to the things you cannot get in the QEH, medication, waiting times, and so on. If you play back the tapes of Parliament five, ten, 15 or 20 years ago, you would probably hear the same statements. We like to get in here and make some grand and inflammatory statements, but oftentimes we cannot present the evidence or offer alternatives. One of the challenges which this society continues to face is the issue of adequate and sustainable healthcare financing in Barbados, and I commend my successor in the Ministry of Health because they have gone out there with their several town hall meetings and put the issue in the public domain. These are the challenges we have been facing in terms of pressure on the QEH and the polyclinics, access to consistently high quality healthcare, the technology in healthcare, the litigation involved in health care which is helping to push the costs up, the issues of continuing professional education; all these things combined. What I am not hearing coming through in discussions like these is what the State should do to ensure that we are able to maintain, and wherever possible, improve upon the level of healthcare in Barbados.

I was very disappointed, I must say, when I heard the comment that the St. John Polyclinic was a waste of time and taxpayers' money.

I think that is a very unfortunate comments and one that really and truly, whilst it cannot be struck from the record, I would suggest that those who heard it disabuse their minds of it. I think the Minister of Health was able to do a bit of that today.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the National Insurance Scheme and the stability of it, really and truly that stability is measured in terms of the financial health of it. What we have not said on this Floor in terms of the confidence in Government is that prior to 2008, the National Insurance fund had not been audited for six years. Sir, you tell me you have such a major fund that impacts on the life of every citizen in this country and you do not have it audited. Sir, it speaks to one of the fundamental issues that grapples this society, this economy and this Government and certainly the Opposition had you been where the Government is today, which is the issue of the standards of service across the public sector because all of these Government departments that receive funds must adhere to the highest level of standards when it comes to financial management, and for almost six years the National Insurance Fund was not audited. Sir, up to now I do not think we have caught up with it. We are at the year 2004 and this is 2016 and, Sir, we had to bring in an accounting firm to bring them up to date. Sir, these are important funds that should always have their accounts current, and this speaks to the issue of governance.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose that some of the statements may very well be qualified but if you are going to say that you do not have information on the National Insurance Scheme let us be honest and say that for seven years, whilst the Opposition held the reins of Government they did not ensure that the funds were appropriately audited.

Mr. Speaker, the final point I will make in terms of the Resolution spoke to the issue of the Barbados Water Authority and the challenges with water across the island. I think that the Barbados Water Authority and Minister in charge of water in particular have frontally address these issues not just indicating what were the main causes, which in this case was the fact that we did not have any rainfall. Sir, anybody can drive around the island and see the state and if the rain is not falling, you cannot get the potable water you want on a consistent basis, combined with the fact that we have so much leakage in these pipes that are perhaps, more than 100 years old. Sir, I believe that a no-confidence motion in a Government gives the Government the opportunity to either indicate what is being propose or to reiterate what has been done. I think in this case, both the Minister in charge of the Barbados Water Authority and the Authority itself have done an excellent job in explaining to the public how the matters are being addressed.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the challenged position of the economy, the State has still been able to find some resources to build the desalination plant, under the mains replacement programme, create new wells and I am sure that in a matter of few months a lot of these things will become things of the past. Sir, at the same time, citizens must do their part. Sir, one of the issues we have, even in this issue with Barbados Water Authority is the fact that we are constantly told that Barbados is a water scarce country but yet still in our private lives, we behave as if it is not.

Mr. Speaker, there is much, therefore, that lies in this Resolution and if you take it paragraph by paragraph, it ought to provide the opportunity, not just to put a lie to the accusations that are being made but, at the same time for the State to explain what is being done to address the concerns being raised. Sir, I for one am not dismissing the Resolution because I take the view that the Opposition benches originally occupied 14 of the seats but now it is 12 of the seats in Parliament and therefore you represent a significant portion of the population and you have a right to defend your constituents and put your case just as the Government has the right to put the other side, so I am not dismissing it at no point in time at all.

Mr. Speaker, one of the matters that has to be addressed in any motion of no-confidence in the Government is what are we doing in our respective Ministries. Sir, I will not spend the few minutes allocated to me any rebel-rousing and petty partisan politics. I have been tasked with the Ministry of International Business Commerce and Small Business Development and if the accusation is being made that I have not been performing as part of the a Government well then in the five minutes left, I will just reflect on a few things. Sir, certainly in the international business and financial services sector everybody knows the immense pressure that we continue to be under as a domicile, as we call it. Recently, we have had the Panama papers leak and I keep saying all the time that when you sit back in a quiet moment, you ask what is this all about. Where is the illicit activity and where is the criminal act. I am mindful that developed countries in particular, in their quest to find someone to blame for their own failings, sometimes pick on small jurisdictions like ours and make it look as though we are tax havens. Sir, the simple question is what is being done from Barbados' end. I keep saying that we continue to focus on the fact that we are not a tax haven. We are a low tax, well regulated tax treaty based domicile that offer businesses of substance. Sir, I think we will continue to succeed where others will falter by the wayside because of their own failings.

Mr. Speaker, it is a moving goal post. Sir, every time you seek to be highly compliant and you improve on your regulations somebody comes and say that you have not done enough that you need to do more. For example, earlier today in the UK, the British Government's Prime Minister

Cameron, would have held the Anti-corruption Conference and the solution they have come up with is that the shareholders of private companies must now because part of a public register.

Mr. Speaker, I met with the British Foreign Secretary two week ends ago at the British CARICOM Meeting in The Bahamas and I said to him quite frankly that it defeats the purpose of having a company if anybody can come and see who are the shareholders, except it is a public company. Sir, whilst I can understand the feelings of the Government that they need to have this information that Tom, Dick and Harry can walk in and see who owns the entity, you are actually putting private citizens' lives at risk. You are putting the lives of high net worth individuals and their families at great personal as well as individuals by doing such.

Sir, in Barbados, we have created the Corporate Trust and Service Providers Act, 2016, which now means that service providers must keep those records in terms of beneficial shareholders and all the corporate governance issues in their own place to be inspected by a competent authority going forward. We have created the Foundations' legislation, we have done amendments to trust and other pieces of legislation. We have done major amendments to the Companies Act and, Sir, only today, the Cabinet of Barbados approved for the creation of real estate investment trust, as a new product within the international business and financial services sector and expect that as soon as the Attorney-General and his staff in the Chief Parliamentary Counsel do their work in the next couple of weeks, we will be able to come to Parliament with that as a new products as well.

Mr. Speaker, apart from the financial services sector, on the side of commerce and industry, we have recognised that we cannot sit in Barbados and believe that the world evolves around us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up.

Hon. D. INNISS: Sir, I am going to speak to it in detail on the weekend at the BIMEX Conference. I have just returned from Havana, Cuba, with a delegation of Barbadian entrepreneurs who have recognised that is a market that we need to pursue, with 11.5 million people, 3.5 million tourists and growing and we have not sat back here and waited for other people to lead. Sir, as a Government, we have got up and gone into the market place and have sought to find opportunities. I am saying that the prospects look very good, just as we did recently with trade missions into St. Lucia, Grenada and Guyana. Sir, certainly from the Government's end, we are getting up, going out there and finding new finding new

opportunities and new markets for a lot of what we want to do in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore believe that when you take this Resolution and you really dissect it and respond to it, you need to appreciate that it is not one that we can sit in here and give full support to.

Sequence 38

INSERT S39 JULIETTE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: This is what it says: I will go over it because I have some hard-headed people here dealing with. Item No. 17, this is what it says: Deloitte in their review of the financial submission has concluded that we have not seen any substantive issues that would preclude moving forward to the next stage of the process. We believe that there was room to negotiate around some financial inputs like soft cost and VAT and commitment and legal fees. We therefore advised the Committee to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I will make it a document of the House again. You are going about here talking a bunch of nonsense about we give this body this and this body that and the next as though we did not go through a legitimate process to evaluate what it is that we are doing in regard to our procurement processes in this country, and I am not going to stand for it.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Why you do not shut up?

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: You do not want to challenge me tonight with the ... mood that I am in, trust me. You is a dilapidated old house, rotten with termites and everything on it, man.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: You do...now...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member please address the Chair. Honourable Members please direct your comments to the Chair.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Termite infested, man.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling you tonight, Sir, that I am tired of this rubbish and I am going to put an end to it. I hear in here that you said that the construction cost moved from \$38/40 million to \$60 million, another lie again. Mr. Speaker, I have another document that I will give to the Speaker to make a document of the House. Sir, this document indicates an evaluation by Design Collaborative of the Cooper Kauffman quantity. You know what it said: The original construction design was three floors. The building up there is four. The building had to have a new sewerage system. In addition, we put in a daycare centre, an entire new fitness centre, a female lounge, a male lounge and the list goes on, yes for people like you.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this is what Design Collaborative have said, there were no ...fees accounted for. You had to furnish the entire building. In addition you had to put in kitchen equipment, lockers, storage racks, fuel pumps and a tank hoist, and specialist service installation of an additional \$9 million, so the construction cost originally therefore went to \$43 million legitimately, so when you get in here and try to ... and say the cost went from \$30-something million to \$60 million when you know that the construction cost moved from \$38 million to \$42 million in a legitimate way and the \$60 million is actually the financing cost over the 16 year period of time...

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member St. Philip West were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. Speaker.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, I am going to say this. I do not like big men and women getting in here and attempting to manipulate information in a way that sends a message to the public that is not true and I am not going to stand for it. The fact of the matter is that the \$60 million is the financing cost over the life of the loan which is 15 years which include commitment fees, legal fees and your profit margin over 15 years. That is not the construction cost. That is why I have to get up in here and defend these matters, and I am not going to let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, let me go back because them out there forgot that there had something called a Special Audit of the Barbados Water Authority you know.

Mr. SPEAKER: Them out there.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: The Honourable Members on the other side, Sir.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: There was a Special Audit Sir, which I have and I will make it a document of the House. This Special Audit is dated July 12, 2012. It went from 2008 to December 2012 and nowhere in this

Special Audit is any question of any infelicity or impropriety with respect to procurements in regards to the headquarters or any of the matters that I raised under you Sir and before you.

Mr. Clerk make that a document of the House too.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: The reality here is this. The impression is being given as though this Minister and his team have engaged in this sort of open-handed level of not allowing the processes to work appropriately, that we are singlehandedly giving this project to this body and the next body and so on and so on, and it would seem to be out there that we are singling out people to give projects to, but I will tell you something, Mr. Speaker. These are the projects that were done under this Minister: For the first time in the history of Barbados the Barbados Water Authority now has an ICT infrastructure that it never had because it could not be put in place when it was at seven different locations around this country. They could not do it, you had to have a centralised ICT infrastructure and cabling system to do it. As a result of that process, Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Water Authority now has a new customer information system, a new management information system, a new work order information system, a new document information system, a new financial management system and a new inventory management system, and I am supposed to say that no work has been done with that institution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time there is a SCADA System now that is monitoring our pumps, our reservoirs, and many of our distribution networks. All of that is done under this Administration so I am going to defend them, it is my duty.

Mr. Speaker, they said that we singled out X, Y and Z. Let me show and tell the public why that is incorrect again. This is the distribution of all the projects under the Barbados Water Authority over the last three to four years. Contract 1, Inter-American Development Bank Water Mains Project. Package A: Who got the contract? Brathwaite Construction, Arthur Construction, Franklyn Construction and Ajax Construction. Package B, for Ionic Water Mains; Williams Industries. The Smart Metre Project, that I hear another one of those acolytes on the call-in programme talking rubbish, is a Canadian Government to Barbados Government project so therefore it is an EPC contract where the Canadian Commercial Corporation chooses a Canadian company to act as their procurement entity. They are the people who chose WMC and WMC would choose their local partner. That is not a Minister's job. We do not get involved in that, and those chose Innotech, not David Estwick.

10.31 p.m.

The Inter-American Development Bank, Sir: institutional upgrades, water and sanitation. Two new package plants are on order and by the middle of this week into next week the first set of package plants are coming here in Barbados, and those are package desalination plants. Who got the contract, Sir? William Industries and InnoTech got the contracts. Sir, that is not a decision taken by this Minister because one of them was dealing with IDE's Desalination Plant, Israel, the largest desalination company in the world, it has done 4 000-plus desalination plants worldwide. Sir, the second entity is Osmoflow from Australia and has done over 100 desalination plants worldwide. These are not my choices, Sir, so I will stand up any place at all and face anybody anywhere and defend the Barbados Water Authority and myself.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Philip Water Augmentation programme...

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is going fast but I must say that the Honourable Member has misled this Honourable House on a number of matters. First, the Honourable Member said that the information technology that the Barbados Water Authority has must be used under one roof. In today's society, Mr. Speaker, you do not have to be under the same roof in order to ascertain the various technology. Secondly...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am not going to permit you to have another speech, you have already had yours. If the Honourable Member is explaining what he understands it to be, you can explain what you understand it to be at some other time. No point of order is found, Honourable Member. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, we brought the St. Philip Water Augmentation Project under a public-private-partnerships, that is a joint-venture partnerships between Potable Water Supplies and William Industries. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I went through those deliberately because statements were being made out there as though we were being selective and were giving all of the work to one person. Mr. Speaker, I can identify a spread from Brathwaite, Arthur, Franklyn, Ajax, Jada, Williams and also InnoTech that happened under the Barbados Water Authority. Mr. Speaker, let me go back to two other things.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: I will not even respond to what the Honourable Member for St. George North wants to say.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House when the Honourable Member said that the Minister does not sign off on contracts. Mr. Speaker, all Ministers must sign off on contracts for the Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the Honourable Member did not say that. No point of order is found, Honourable Member. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: If you used to sign off on all, well, then, that is your business, I do not sign off on all contracts, that are nonsense.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member does not understand that the Financial Management and Audit Act of 2011, which replaced the audit and financial rules of 1971, speaks to central Government operations, it does not speak to private companies, it does not speak to statutory corporations, unless you yourself has had a policy adjustment that asks for the entity to so adopt. The boy is lost, Sir. The Honourable Member is lost, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the few minutes left and speak to the Barbados Water Authority and the immediate challenges that we are facing. I want to say to the people of this country that the Barbados Water Authority and this Administration empathise with the challenges that they have, we understand how difficult it must be with regards to not being able to have a continuous water service on a day-to-day basis, but I want to move outside the politics to bring in a concept called reason and understanding because, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same drought that is affecting Barbados and the Caribbean is now decimating Africa, animals are dying on the street, people are selling off their herds and the entire agriculture sector in this country is being decimated.

Sir, we are in the throes of a three-year serious drought. What that means, Mr. Speaker, is that the fresh water that is in the ground, because of the prolong drought, is diminishing. It also means that as long as that water is not being replenished and you are abstracting that water at the same rate, it will disappear, Sir. As a result, the challenges I have had on the north have been that we have had significant challenges maintaining pumping at Trench, at Molyneux, at Whim, at Ashton Hall, and pumping at the wells in St. Joseph. One of things therefore that has occurred is because of that, the fresh water column on top of the salt water column is so small that if you do not shut down the pumping down then we would destroy the wells. Sir, it is not rocket science.

Mr. Speaker, because I cannot make the rain fall, I wish I could, the only thing I could therefore do to mitigate is to look to see where I may have untapped pockets of water, but I have to be mindful, not knowing how long this drought would prolong, that even those areas that I abstract without any precipitation will themselves become undermined, so in order to protect this country for the future I must mitigate for the long term and must build in a redundancy in our water system once and for all. The way I have decided to do this, Mr. Speaker, is by moving us as we go into expanding our abstraction from brackish water, because the Barbados Water Authority has engaged Williams Industries and the present desalination plant in Spring Garden will be expanded to pull out an additional three million gallons of water.

Mr. Speaker, if the rain does not fall that brackish water will move towards salt water, so that the only long-term solution to mitigate is salt water desalination in the final solution, that is the only reasonable logic that can stand. Sir, I understand logic well, as a result that is why this country is going to six million gallons per day at desalination plants. Mr. Speaker, because desalination water is more expensive than pumping water from the aquifers, the next strategy is that I have asked the Barbados Water Authority to coordinate the distribution system in such a way that desalinated water will go to those commercial entities that now pay the highest unit cost for water, so that the Barbados Water Authority would not be using high cost water for residential purposes and getting the lowest price for it.

Mr. Speaker, I have recently had to sit with Bank Breweries Limited because they expressed a fundamental concern to me, because as they are now expanding under Ambed, they are moving to using large quantities of water in producing the Presidente' Beer and other beers for the Latin American and the Caribbean. As a result, it means that I now have to make sure that these supplies are well established.

10.50 p.m.

It meant that I now have to make sure that these supplies are well established. As a result of that, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Barbados Water Authority to now look on the south side to place one of the desalination plants so as to make sure that the business corridor on that side will always have a supply of water, irrespective of whether we go through a sustained drought similar to the one that we have had. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy with the progress of those projects, and I am very happy that for the first time we have now placed a new well and a main from Sweetvale going straight to Castle Grant. For the first time, many people down there at the higher ends of St. Joseph got their taps filled with water. We told them that we have to create sustainability because when you put

down the wells, you have to now attach them to the electrical system. The wells were working off generators, which failed, so the last two times that we had outages from Sweetvale to Castle Grant, thereby affecting St. Joseph, was because the generators failed. Now the new switch gear is in Barbados and has been connected and approved by GEED. That problem has been solved.

Mr. Speaker, the point I am making here, Sir, is that the solution is established, and I am saying to you, do not mind the talk. Those are the types of permanent solutions which that side should have created years ago when they understood that the main connections between Golden Ridge and the same Castle Grant were no good for the last ten, 15 or 20 years. They did nothing about it. Therefore, I have to create a bypass while I am working on it. Mr. Speaker, I am confident therefore of what the Barbados Water Authority is doing with respect to solutions. In the final two minutes, I will refer to the St. Philip Water Augmentation Project, Sir. Anybody travelling to St. Philip would have seen a new water main laid down going to Bushy Park. Sir, that new water main from Bushy Park became important because, on order to pump water from Groves, St. Philip, and carry it up to Oughterson, Parish Land and Dodds Prison, Bowmanston in St. John had to supply the water from coming down District "C" hill, so what you first had to do was connect the main. After this, you now had to do the normal thing, which was to flush it, test it and evaluate the flows. All of those are the things which the Barbados Water Authority was doing last week, Sir, so I am confident that in a matter of two to three weeks, once that main coming down District "C" hill is shut off, the supply of St. Philip will be coming from St. Philip and not from St. John. What that means is that the additional capacity reserve in Bowmanston in St. John will now be enhanced, and Bowmanston will now be able to supply St. John itself and parts of St. Joseph. It is no mystery.

To get in here and make talk about turning off people's water here and there, I am not getting involved in that rubbish. Mr. Speaker, in St. George, Groves well, another secondary supply is being developed now as we seek to carry a second main, not from Bowmanston but from St. George itself directly to Golden Ridge. Sir, that will be done in another two to three weeks, based on the information that I have. Sir, I cannot be part of any No Confidence Motion that seeks, therefore, to suggest that there has been incompetence somehow in regard to that institution and its leadership, and the Ministry, by extension. When all that work has been done for the first time, I will not allow that to happen. It is my duty and responsibility to therefore defend the institution, not to talk and "skin teet" in here. Mr. Speaker, I therefore by extension stand very proud and very thankful and happy that the people in St. Joseph and the people in St. John and St. Andrew will very soon be getting the support and

supply from the Barbados Water Authority, Sir. I stand behind that promise to the people of Barbados, and I therefore cannot support this No Confidence Motion based on the attacks on my Ministry and the institutions of my Ministry that I support. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the behaviour or the antics that we have just witnessed is synonymous with the behaviour I saw on April 19, 2010 when I was cornered outside, together with the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, and thereafter it was the subject of a matter which came before the Committee of Privileges, to which we have had no response up to this day. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Members on that side would not put themselves in a position where they would be cornered by that Member.

Aside.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: In all that he has said, he has not responded to the charge of the Government. The Honourable Member has defended the Ministry, but not the Members over there.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have some order please.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: In all of his ranting and raving, he has not defended the Members over there. Our charge, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government has failed to adequately or at all address in the short or medium term the existing crisis which is plaguing one in every four Barbadians across at least eight parishes in this island with respect to their access to potable water in their homes, their businesses and all public facilities, especially schools, thereby placing at risk the public health of the citizens and visitors of this island, Mr. Speaker. When you go back and look at their 2013 Manifesto, in synch with their abandonment of the north and the people of St. Andrew, it says they "will expand water supply in the south and the east of the island". The problems are in the north, so to that extent they are doing exactly what they said they would do: stifle the people in the north. He comes in here ... (words struck from the Record)

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the use of the term "ranting and raving" is not acceptable.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: I withdraw the words but his behaviour...

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, it is getting late in the evening. Let us not waste time with these semantics. "Ranting and raving" is not acceptable and is

struck from the Record, and even if you reformulate it, it is still struck from the record.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: In terms of the problem with the Barbados Water Authority, we just saw in this House -- the few of us who are privileged and those people watching on television -- we are privileged to see the real problem with water in Barbados.

10.49 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with water in Barbados is that gentlemen who is the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. I was Minister responsible for water. Sir, did you hear what the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was saying just now. He said he did this, he went to this and that he consulted with this body and that body. Sir, that is not the Minister's function. Sir, Barbados has always been a water scarce country and that is well-known but the problem we are having in Barbados is not the fact that no rain is water. We do not have the levels of surface water we have had in the past. It is a problem of redistribution because the Minister has not been allowing the engineers and the technical staff at the Ministry to do their job, that is the problem. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is the problem in this country because we had a similar problem and if they were ever serious about solving the water problem in this country, they could have addressed it because when they came to office there were certain things that were left in place. We would not have to talk about Ambev taking over Banks Breweries and that he has commissioned a desalination plant in the south. Sir, that is nonsense. There was supposed to be a desalination plant in the north ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, again, you cannot refer to what he has said as nonsense.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sir, I withdraw the word "nonsense". I would like to say rubbish but I cannot say that either.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed to say I would like to say rubbish but I cannot say that either.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sir, I withdraw that.

Sir, this Minister comes in here and shouts at the people at this side but he is shouting for himself. Sir, nowhere did he say anything at all representing anybody over there. It is selfish, it is representing his Ministry but he is micro-managing his Ministry. He is the problem with respect to the redistribution of water in Barbados. the problem is any dry tap or any lack of water, the problem is question of redistribution and instead of having somebody like the former General Manager, Mr. Denis Yearwood as a consultant, you are having people as consultants who know

nothing about water, people who are telling the engineers and his technical staff... Sir, I never went anywhere near any of the wells in Barbados when I was Minister responsible for water. I always told the people in my Ministry that I am just passing through but, Sir, he is not passing through. Sir, I was Minister of water for a full term but the engineers and technical people within the Ministry are being told what to do for the first time. Sir, this never happened before. The problem with water in Barbados is the redistribution and it lies right there.

Mr. Speaker, coming in here, having a few drinks before and shouting, you cannot influence anybody. Sir, if you want to bully somebody, you should bully them at home. You are not dealing with little children.

Mr. Speaker, the water problems we are having in St. Andrews, St. Lucy, St. Thomas, St. Peter and all those places, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us keep down the asides, please.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. As soon as we get rid of that problem then we will not have any problem with water in Barbados. Sir, to think that when you come in, we have a serious problem with water, you know that there were plans at the time for a desalination plant in the north but the Honourable Member for St. Philip West thinks he is some Fauntleroy of excellence so he can come with this big gigantic idea of putting up a big structure in Wildey for \$30 million that will end up at \$68 million and that money could have built two or three desalination plants, and we would not have any problem with water. Sir, having done that, he comes in here 'pow'ful' as ever and coming to make people believe he has this knowledge that nobody else in here has. Sir, nobody can do that to big people because gone are the days when you have people in these Chambers who could not read and write and if I were the Speaker, that behaviour would not be entertained at all. Mr. Speaker, that is no reflection on you, it is more to do with the way how I would have handled this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I had to make a slight diversion from what I wanted to say because of the tantrums of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. Sir, with respect to this matter before the House. The Honourable Members on the other side have attacked the Leader of the Opposition but the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has done such an excellent job in her presentation that it is not necessary for us to go into any details. It is one of the most excellent presentations that we have ever seen in these Chambers and that cannot be denied.

Mr. Speaker, that presentations was so excellent that all the Honourable Members on the other side sat back and were in a daze. They did not move, they did not get up, and all of us on this side had to speak and it was only coming towards the end that I decided to hold back because certain things that the Honourable Member said they had to respond to.

Mr. Speaker, you listen to them, one by one but the Prime Minister has not spoken. I am sorry that the Prime Minister did not speak before me and that the Minister of Finance, my very good friend. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West and I have a lot in common. Sir, they were so cufuffled by the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West that they could not get up.

Mr. Speaker, you know that you could use getting up in all sorts of derogatory terms but you know when you cannot get up, that you cannot get up. Sir, that is the reason why we had to speak. Sir, it is only today that they are speaking. It took them two days to speak and whatever they drank, did not have the same effect on the rest of them as it had on the Honourable Member for St. Philip West but they got their energy.

Mr. Speaker, we have technically brought this matter before the House but this is in response to what the people have been telling us in the streets and we have not included everything here. Sir, if you would hear the things that the people were telling us. Sir, people were telling us that those wicked brutes put the money gained on themselves, it will get worse in the next 20 months, these people want getting rid of.

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Mr. G. W. PAYNE: certain things to be exposed because any restructuring plan must take into consideration the policyholders and the investors in CLICO. All that has happened with respect to this Barbados Restructuring Plan is that you have brought something to Parliament but nothing has happened. You have had certain timelines and those timelines have gone and you got to go back to court now for new timelines. The Judicial Manager was appointed in 2011. The Judicial Manager had made certain recommendations and those recommendations went through the door, and I cannot understand how the Judicial Manager could come back and then agree with these restructuring plans. When you realise that in 2015 alone \$14.2 million has gone to the company which has been set up by the Government in this restructuring plan and nothing has actually been done, it is a real shame.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Eight million have been paid out with respect to professional fees and that is only for 2015. That has nothing to do with 2011 when the Judicial Manager was appointed or for 2012, 2013 and 2016. I am not saying that it is \$8 million for every year but if you multiply that by all of those years you could end up spending money on administration cost and at the end of the day the people who were getting their pensions whose pensions were stopped would never be able to get their pensions while in the case of certain professionals, Thompson Associates, \$3.3 million was paid out.

This is so serious that in some countries... I believe that this Administration has been trying to protect the former Prime Minister. With due respect to his wife who is now a Member of Parliament I have nothing against her but I believe that it is her presence that has stopped this Administration from moving for a full inquiry into the affairs of CLICO, and the time has come because nothing is happening. You do not want to go back to court for a new timeline, I hope the Minister of Finance knows that. It was \$52 million that was supposed to be put at the disposal of the company NLICO. This money has not been paid.

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Nothing has been paid by Government and if this thing continues we would be in a situation where the assets of CLICO will be diminished year by year, the liabilities would be going up and in the end the exercise would be a worthless exercise. We could have liquidated, sold out and if Government wanted to make certain payments, whether through the National Insurance Board or what, they could have made those payments but this is a serious, serious problem, but let us get back to White Hill. I am sorry because I wanted to spend the whole 30 minutes on White Hill.

Mr. Speaker, you had a national catastrophe in November 2014 and I invited the Honourable Prime Minister at the time... I think that the whole of Barbados should pay a visit to White Hill. It is a serious thing. You have people living under sheets of galvanize. The road collapsed. The Honourable Minister told me that when he went down there he could not believe what he saw and that is the reason why he stated that the road should be abandoned. I could accept that but then when you come back having accepted the fact that you made that error and you decide that you are going to rebuild and then you desert the people again... The people have other problems not only the problem with the respect to roads you know. A shuttle has been put in and that shuttle does not work. The other thing that the Minister of Transport and Works has to do is to tell the people at the Transport Board... You cannot

ask people going to town to pay for a shuttle. You are going to Hillaby just about 100 feet away and you have to get a shuttle to go right around so you have to pay \$2.50 for the shuttle to get to Hillaby and then you have to pay another \$2.50 to get to town. Those people are living in hell.

Talking about water. When the water does come on it is very brown. Do not even talk about relocating all of the people because it is too expensive and in any case in the lower part there is no problem with the soil in that area. You should admit by now that it is this Government that is creating this problem because those people that should have been relocated... Enough land was allocated in Farmers and you took the land...

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Well, if enough land was not acquired all the ministry had to do was to acquire more land so that everybody who wants to be relocated... You cannot say that you are going to relocate the people and because of the fact that you are relocating the people that you are abandoning the road because that is a main hub to the Belleplaine area. I believe that the Honourable Minister has done a lot of things with the decisions in ignorance because he is not aware of the importance of that link.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, before I go the question of the abandonment of St. Andrew is in keeping with the former Honourable Prime Minister, the Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow thinking that he would like to see a day when there would not be a cane blade anywhere in St. Andrew. He wanted to relocate everybody out of St. Andrew, and I wonder if this is the thinking of Members on that side because of the way they have been treated.

Mr. Speaker, I go back to the Honourable Attorney-General. You had plans in place when he came to office, but he is a guru, Fontistoroy of Excellence. I would have loved when I went into the Ministry of Housing and Lands... When I went into the Ministry of Housing and Lands I had to get a White Paper prepared, the Honourable Member for St. George North could tell you that. He had everything there, a similar plan with respect to what they did in St. Joseph, the Eric Holder Complex. The only thing is that we were calling it the Sir Frederick Smith Complex. It shows that we were not looking at the politics. I made all of those plans a document of the House, but the Honourable Attorney-General could come just with one swoop, he is closing down the Belleplaine Court, no consultation with the representative, nobody, and then after this decision is made he is organising a town hall meeting

and the town hall meeting is not with the Honourable Attorney-General but with a junior police officer who went to Belleplaine, St. Andrew to insult the intelligence of the residents of St. Andrew and then when the people decide that they were going to come with a petition, then talking about the people wrong to take this petition to the Governor-General. It matters not where they were taking it, the people were venting their anger. Ignorance is no excuse sometimes but when it is coupled with arrogance, it is a serious thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I thank you.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the abandonment of St. Andrew... The Honourable Prime Minister has already promised me with his eyes the last time that he would make the Cabinet available...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Prime Minister I know that you normally keep your promises. I am on your side.

Thank you.

11.21 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, the night is far spent and I will just rise to indicate that I do not intend to support this Resolution before the House, this Motion of No Confidence in the Government. I have full confidence in the Government and that confidence was reinforced by every speech I heard from this side today and on Tuesday night. Mr. Speaker, this the third No-Confidence Motion which this Government has had to face, the first formal No-Confidence Motion we faced in 2009, that was against the late Honourable Member for St. John who was supposed to be responsible for all of the problems which began to surface at CLICO International Life Limited. On that occasion, the No-Confidence Motion was defeated and I went on record as saying that given what the No-Confidence Motion was claiming, the only appropriate punishment for it was laughter. That No-Confidence Motion was defeated. Of course, the only tragedy or the only casualty coming out of that debate was an attempt to sully the reputation of the now Honourable Member for St. John by linking her with some supposedly corrupt transaction and a document was actually made a document of this Honourable House by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who was then Leader of the Opposition.

The second No-Confidence Motion, of course, was against the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs more recently. That too was defeated because it had merit, and here we are now, having claimed that the late Honourable Member for St. John was unsuited to hold the position that he was holding at the time and that the Honourable House should have no confidence in him, having claimed that the present Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs is unsuitable to hold the position he is holding, we now hear that all of us on this side are unsuitable for the positions we now hold and that the House should have no confidence in this Government.

Mr. Speaker, of course, none of this surprises me because as early as March 2008, just two months after we were in office, we brought Estimates to this Honourable House which we basically came to office and found. We did not have time, really, to make any substantial modifications to the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure which we came and found in January 2008. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure are laid in March, we came in in January, the Cabinet was sworn in about a week later and so there was really no time, so that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure we brought here were essentially the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the previous Administration. Sir, I had to sit in this Honourable House and listen to the other side saying that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure were wrong and that they could not support them. Sir, if they could not support their own Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in March 2008, I was not optimistic that we were in for any smooth ride in terms of the confidence of the Opposition Party during our term of office.

Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised about this No-Confidence Motion. I have said what I felt about it already. I have said what I think about its motivation and that thinking has not changed. Whether the economy is growing or not growing the Opposition will have no confidence in the Government. Before we even had a downgrade of our Bond rating the Opposition had no confidence in the Government. In nothing that we have done since we came to office have we been able to secure any explicit statement of support from the Opposition, it has always been grudging support because to this very day the Barbados Labour Party has not accepted the verdict of the people in January 2008, so here we are facing this No-Confidence Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be very long, because if I had sat in here on Tuesday and had heard any disclosures that could be characterised as breaking news, I would have felt that the Government had to do some serious introspection, but everything that I heard in here on Tuesday is what I have heard continuously since we came back to office in February 2013 and since we were in office from January 2008. I have heard nothing new in this debate

that would lead me to believe that the Government has fallen from grace. We cannot fall from grace with the Barbados Labour Party when we were never in grace in the first place and therefore the Resolution cannot qualify for my personal support.

Mr. Speaker, I sat in my seat for the better part of the five hours for which the Leader of the Opposition spoke in this debate. In fact, onlookers asked me how I could sit here for just upwards for five hours, with my hands under my chin, and listened to every single word that fell from the lips of the Leader of the Opposition. I felt I had to do it, not because I expected any earth breaking disclosures from that Honourable Member. I felt I had to do it because when you listen to people long enough, you have a chance to see right into their souls, if a soul exists, and if somebody is speaking for five hours and you listen closely enough, you get a good sense of what is it that you are dealing with. Mr. Speaker, I sat for that five hours and I listened and I roamed the parched wasteland that is the soul of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. If ever a soul needed some kind of irrigation, that soul needs irrigation.

Mr. Speaker, this quest, this tortured quest on the part of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to render herself acceptable to the people of Barbados should really be the subject of highly specialised and professional investigation, everything the Honourable Member has done in Barbados since taking over the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party has been designed to get some traction with the people of Barbados and every initiative taken, up to now has failed, so as I sat and listened on Tuesday, I saw a Leader of the Opposition in a tortured quest, I repeat, for some kind of moral high ground that would make her acceptable to the people of Barbados at last.

11.33 p.m.

I listened to all of the moralising that you could expect to hear from somebody in that tortured quest to occupy moral high ground; ground which they had never occupied in their lives before. As the Honourable Member spoke, I asked myself, "Is this the same Honourable Member who was Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs when the Crab Hill Police Station was built? Is this the same Honourable Member who nearly caused the Auditor General to have an apoplectic attack when he investigated Crab Hill, when every single rule was broken and violated, and every single process corrupted in order that a company called Jose Y Jose, a company specialising in the transport of waste, should get a contract to build a police station?" It put the Auditor General to the trouble to say that the company, having got that contract, could not even read the plan to lay out the police station correctly. When all was said and done, the police station had to be

completed by somebody else and ended up costing twice as much as it would have cost had the correct procedures been followed in the first place.

I ask myself, "Is this the same person who is trying to climb onto this moral pedestal and trying to give Barbadians the impression that, all of a sudden, she has now been washed in the Blood of the Lamb and is now whiter than snow?" We heard today that no matter no how much white you may clothe the Honourable Member in, all the white can be seen as doing is clothing a demon. I listened to the moralising, and again I asked myself, and I have been asked since by public officers who are still angry about it, if this is the same Honourable Member that was intimidating public officers around the time when Barclays Bank and CIBC were merging, and who did not allow an opinion coming from the Solicitor General's Chambers to get in her way, so that the revenue could be made to sacrifice \$87 million in property transfer tax and stamp duty. I ask myself whether this is the same person. There are still public officers today, including one who spoke to me as recently as yesterday, who want to know what all of this moralising is about when every tactic was deployed to ensure that that Honourable Member had her way and that the country was made to sacrifice \$87 million in property transfer tax.

I am not impressed, I was not impressed, and I will never be impressed. Of course, there was mention, and that did not surprise me either, of Cahill again. I have said all that I had to say on Cahill, and I do not have much more to say tonight, but I will say this: I have listened to this Debate ever since it started, and I have listened to the impression conveyed that plasma gasification and nitrification and all of that kind of thing was first brought to the notice of a Government of Barbados since the Democratic Labour Party came into office. Mr. Speaker, do you know that as long ago as 2005 a Barbadian who went to school at Harrison College, who got a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of the West Indies, who went abroad and did a doctorate in Physics, and who is really into this whole plasma physics and so on, communicated with the Government of Barbados as long ago as 2005? There was communication with that Barbadian over the use of plasma gasification in Barbados and the use of plasma for the generation of energy. Also, because of the failure of Greenland and the fact that the solid waste problem in the country was as serious as it was, there is documentary evidence that there was exchange of communication with that Barbadian who is into plasma physics and who put on the table for the Government the use of plasma gasification as a solution to the solid waste problems of Barbados. He actually put in the proposal, and this is why I laugh at these things. I do not speak until I have to, and I will not say much more on this either, but in the proposal as well was a suggestion that, with a plasma plant here in Barbados, we could bring waste from offshore

into Barbados as part of our CARICOM-CSME arrangements. That was on the tapis. That was being discussed between the Government of Barbados in 2005 with this Barbadian. Therefore, it is not any Cahill that brought this to any Government's attention. It was a Barbadian who went to school at Harrison College, who went to the University of the West Indies, and who went and studied Physics abroad.

I listened to all of that. I have learnt to keep a cool head when I hear these things, because I do not allow these things to get under my skin. I speak when I have to, and when I speak, I bring the facts and the facts are irrefutable, so I do not have to worry about those things. I expected to hear about it. I am indebted to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East for having said what he said, but the truth is that, as I have told Barbadians, and I say it again tonight for the record, you cannot have a plasma plant in Barbados by stealth. It cannot come to Barbados like Nicodemus under the cover of night. You have to make an application to the Town Planning Department and certain procedures have to be gone through. An environmental impact assessment would have to be done, and consultations would have to be done with the Barbados Water Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Department. All of these things would have to happen, and the Town Planner would then have to make a decision, and if the applicant is not satisfied with the decision, he will have a right to appeal before a panel, and the panel would make a recommendation to the Minister. That is the procedure. None of that has happened, and therefore for me, it is not an issue.

11:38

Sir, you throw it out there, you a few people to run with it. I got a petition sent to my office, I think I was told by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas with whole set of signature and the overwhelming majority of the signature were written by the same person. It was the same colour ink and it was the same person. The people at my office had a good laugh and they asked what it was. Sir, anyhow, that issue had to brought it.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and I have always enjoyed a reasonably good relationship and I would not really stand up here tonight and say what I said unless I could substantiate by fact. I would not make public that letter because I treat the confidentiality of these things in a particular way. I am just trying to suggest that it was engineered protest designed to create alarm, confusion and to give the impression that something amidst was about to take place in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, when you come to this no-confidence motion, I am not fazed by it. I heard reference made in the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East's speech

but that too had become part of the stock and trade of speeches coming from the other side. Sir, CLICO had to be mentioned and it was just mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and reference is made to my pal. Sir, I have to make these things clear. I have said that the former CEO of CLICO has been a friend of mine for many years going back to the 1970s and let me say this for the records tonight in the Parliament of Barbados. I prefer to have the former CEO of CLICO as my friend than the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I trust him more than I trust him more than I trust the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I think that there is a core of personal integrity in him that I am still looking for in the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. Sir, that is how I feel. I have never asked him a favour and he has never asked me one because I do not conduct friendships in that way. Sir, my friendships do not create privileges, they impose responsibilities. I never put myself in a position where if I call a friend and he looks on his Caller IDD, he has to ask himself, I wonder what he wants now. Sir, not me. I would ask a stranger a favour but when I call my friends, it is to have a civilized conversation with them. He has never asked me a favour and I have never asked him one and we have enjoyed a good relationship. If I have had to work against him in the courts of law, he would have to stand up and be cross-examined by me as I would cross-examine a stranger but when all is said and done, he and I have enjoyed a good relationship going back to the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, he cannot get me to in any way try to influence his fortunes from where I sit. I believe in the rule of law, and the rule of law must take its course but the one thing you will not get me to do is to say that I do not know the man because it would not be true. I have a higher regard than I have for the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. I do not mind how much reference is made to him, that cannot shame me.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East stood up in this House a few years ago when we were celebrating the 375th Anniversary of this Parliament. I have tried to understand what it is that we are dealing with. The Honourable Member said and truthfully so, that she is a third generation parliamentarian. Now, I know that statement that evening angered almost every rank and file of the Barbados Labour Party because at the reception downstairs my ears were bent with it. Why is she always trying to pull rank on everybody and trying to behave as though she is better than everybody else. I heard it but I had to make the point to those who complained to me that it is true. The Honourable Member is a third generation parliamentarian. Her grandfather sat in this House, her father sat for a short time in this House. I do not think he ever really enjoyed politics but he sat in this House and at the appropriate time he took his leave of it and the Honourable Member has been a member of

Parliament, the Other Place and this place from 1991. The fact that the Honourable Member is a third generation parliamentarian is a fact but I think it is that same status of third generation parliamentarian that is one of the Honourable Member's biggest problems in politics today.

Mr. Speaker, the first generation was of a grandfather who was a member of the Electors Association of Barbados, a Party that looked out for the interest of the merchants and the planter class in its day. It did not enjoy a lot of electoral purchase in Barbados and, therefore, changed its name to the Progressive Conservative Party in the hope, apparently, would have given it a greater purchase. Sir, that did not happen and then it changed its name again to the Barbados National Party, again, in the hope that would have given it some purchase in the elections in Barbados but that did not happen either.

Mr. Speaker, after the 1966 General Elections, that was the last Election that the Barbados National Party fought, that conservative party in Barbados folded up and the overwhelming majority of its members had to find somewhere to go. They were not going to walk away from politics and they all ended up in the tent of the Barbados Labour Party, so a Party that was under three different names promoting conservative causes in Barbados once its existence came to an end, its members ended up in the Barbados Labour Party. The dominants surnames in Barbadian conservatism

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INSERT S49 JULIETTE

Friday, May 13, 2016

Hon. F. J. STUART: Delay the House anymore on this debate. As I said, if I heard anything at all said in the debate that I regarded as breaking news I would have felt myself under an obligation to stand up here and defend the Government on it. The Government has been commendably defended by every single Minister and Backbencher who spoke in this debate, and our settled conviction is that there is nothing of any serious merit in this No-Confidence Motion, and therefore it does not have our support.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, it is late in the night, in fact, I could almost say good morning to you. Perhaps we have taken up too much of the Barbadian public's time over the last two days, too much though only

from the point of view that I think by now Barbadians have realised that they are being managed or mismanaged by a Government that no longer deserves their trust.

Mr. Speaker, I sometimes do not know with what sentiment to approach the Honourable Prime Minister's addresses to this Chamber. He is very eloquent but it worries me that the Honourable Prime Minister goes on the one hand from being completely silent, on the other hand to laughter. There is no in-between for this Honourable Prime Minister. One minute you do not hear a peep out of him but then the next minute a vote of No-Confidence should be punished with laughter. He repeatedly said he was amused at this and amused at that. Parliament is clearly a place for the amusement of the Honourable Member. Unfortunately, the people of Barbados are not amused by not a single thing relating to the circumstances in which they find themselves today.

Sir, nobody in St. Joseph can afford to be amused. They cannot afford to be amused because as people, as I speak, start to think about tomorrow, simple things that the rest of Barbados take for granted, getting up and turning on a pipe to catch water in a kettle to make tea for a baby, they cannot do. Performing their ablutions, getting the morning ritual bath to go off to work, they cannot do. My constituents have nothing to be amused about.

I wish that they could be amused at the Prime Minister's attempt to cast modern-day political institutions in Barbados using the old traditional approach of conservative and so on. I do not know how the Honourable Prime Minister... The Prime Minister pretends to be a student of history. He pretends to be a student for the most part. How do you characterise a political party as being conservative when that political party passed perhaps the most important piece of legislation in the history of this country, perhaps even surpassing adult suffrage, by compelling plantation owners to sell to the tenants on those plantations the land on which they resided for 10 cents a square foot. Does that sound conservative to any right-thinking person in this country?

Nothing at all about the Barbados Labour Party in our stewardship of this Government and of this country smacks of conservatism, but what we have, which is the very opposite or the antithesis of conservatism, is a Government who, or perhaps I should say, chooses to bury its head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich and do absolutely nothing about the ills that beset our society.

I was sorry I was not in here to hear the Attorney-General speak because I understand it was not a speech that suited this Chamber, full of argumentum ad hominem, calling people conveyancers and all kinds of things and Queen's Counsels without Degrees. I wonder why he sits in that chair because for the most part until the 1970s there

would have been no Queen's Counsel with Degrees. The Attorney-General did not know then, and I am quite sure he does not know now, that as I speak a Barbadian has been shot and killed in The Belle within the last two hours. Every single where in Barbados you go now...

You see I am sure that the Honourable Prime Minister would want to laugh at this too because when we brought the No-Confidence Motion on CLICO it was to have been punished with laughter. He would laugh at this too, but you know Barbados is now the laughing stock so it should not surprise any of us. Gun violence in our country is now rampant, and the judicial system has ground to a halt, but the Government instead of grappling with the issues that need to be grappled with, their only recourse is to tell us that Barbados has risen like a phoenix. Sir, the only problem is that nobody at all in any of the constituencies that we serve can see any evidence of a single element of improvement of their lives.

Going into the period of 2013 perhaps in the lead up to the campaign we used to ask a question all of the time: Is your life better off today than it was five years ago? I cannot recollect a single Barbadian who could say that his life was better off. We have been beset with business withdrawing from our country, companies have gone bankrupt, people are losing their homes, people have lost their jobs and the middle class now is a figment of our imagination. We no longer have a middle class. Perhaps the hallmark of this Democratic Labour Party Administration is that they have joined hands, wrapped themselves in the flag and decimated the lives of the middle class in this country, but the Honourable Prime Minister would want to laugh at that because that somehow could possibly be funny.

There are young men and women who have had to abandon the notion of a tertiary education. It was a wonderful thing when at age 13 you ask a child what do you want to do and he or she would almost invariably say I want to go to the university. It was not I want O'levels or I want CAPE, it was I want to go to university because we had so told Barbadians to stretch their imaginations into the future that they were dreaming of reaching for these things. Now, we have young men and women, late teens, who no longer have the ability to predict what the next year will hold. They cannot plan on an university education and consequently they cannot plan on a job career, but this Administration does not understand that when you out the light that flickers in our teenagers eyes called the dream, all you were doing is providing fodder for the senior side of the Barbadian society, you are providing fodder for the drug lords and you are providing fodder for the people who want to engage in illegal activity. Instead of those young men and women being able to put their intellect into positive pursuits they will sit on the 'block' and plot and scheme how to use their intellect to break into our homes to

commit violent crimes, but the Right Honourable Prime Minister alternates between silence and laughter, that is his pendulum: silence and laughter.

Mr. Speaker, regrettably I was not present for... In fact, regrettably the only speech I was able to hear in the debate was the Right Honourable Prime Minister's speech, but if the speech of the Right Honourable Prime Minister is anything to go by as a gauge for the contributions on that side, then they should not oppose this Resolution. When we on this side say aye, they should also say aye. The symbol of saying aye is to put your hands in the air. Mr. Speaker, is it not remarkable that every single thing that this Administration has done since they came to power has been nothing more than throwing their hands in the air and allowing Barbadians to be buffeted by the winds. There is no element of being proactive, they have built white elephants called low cost housing that people with low incomes cannot afford. The Barbadian economy certainly cannot afford it but it suits them to be allow us to be buffeted by these winds, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados that we see today is the Barbados that not only we do not recognised, our Caribbean brothers and sisters do not recognised it, people in the international community no longer recognised it because we lost our moorings in 2008 when this Democratic Labour Party came to power. Now, the Right Honourable Prime Minister likes to talk about facts, facts amuse him. People in the public cannot see his face but I am seeing mirth and merriment on his face because no doubt he too feels that this should be punished with laughter. I heard the Right Honourable Prime Minister talking about some alleged corruption. I am embarrassed that an attorney-at-law cannot recognise corruption when he sees it. How can somebody who did not work for CLICO International Life Limited send in a bill for \$3.3 million and that not even be considered as being corrupt, but that was a laughing moment for the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Barbados has lost its way and somehow or another we keep relying on what we call the inbred resilience of Barbadians to bear up through this, because there is the idea that Barbadians are strong and that given time we will be alright, that everything will work out okay, but I say, Sir, tonight to this Honourable Chamber that everything will not work out okay, the people who are dying as they go about their daily basis, not from heart attacks but from bullet wounds, nothing has worked out okay for them; the people whose house values have plummeted, nothing has worked out okay for them; individuals whose properties are being sold out by the banks because they cannot afford to pay their bills; the members of the middle class who instead of saving for pensions have been forced over the last eight years to dip into their savings just to supplement their

spending power. Mr. Speaker, I know people of my age group who had been working and accumulating assets for themselves and their children to see them into their retirement age, all of it has gone, they have been forced to dip into their savings just to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, Barbadians cannot be expected to bear up under this strain without the positive intervention of the Barbados Labour Party. The time has come... Sir, I am really happy that the Government has spoken in this debate. I honestly worried that they would have repeated that fiasco as they did the last time we brought a No-Confidence Motion where they said nothing, but that was their brief. I am sure I hear it now in the Cabinet Room that it will be punished with laughter too.

Mr. Speaker, do you know something? There was no laughter tonight because to a man they have recognised they have been weighed in the balance and have been found wanting and that unlike the last occasion they recognised that Barbadians will not stand for that foolishness anymore. They have been elected to this Honourable Chamber and have been given the opportunity to be steward and if there is one thing that a steward must do is to give an accounting to the person on whose behalf he or she acts. Mr. Speaker, they did not deem the last No-Confidence Motion to be appropriate or important enough to give an account of their stewardship but we see now, just two years shy of an election, that they are anxious. Mr. Speaker, they are keeping us here, the last time they wanted to done the debate. I think we were out of here by 2:00 o'clock but over a two-day period they have recognised that the voice of the Barbadian is being heard.

I think every father tells his son that when a lady tells him she is done with him, that she was really done with him ever since, that she is just getting around to telling him now. I want to remind the Government that the people of Barbados have reached the turning point, the tipping point if you may, and so when the election comes do not be surprise at the result that your party is no longer the Government, because it will be nothing more than the people of Barbados saying to you by the ballot box that which they had already resolved to do two, three or four years ago. I know where my constituents stand, my constituents, Mr. Speaker, are feeling depravation, a sense of hopelessness, our road infrastructure is now nonexistent, they have no water, there is slippage, it is almost as if St. Joseph does not exist. I know where my constituents stand and the Democratic Labour Party will find no solace there. I would venture, Sir, that across most of the constituencies in this island the Democratic Labour Party will find no solace either.

Mr. Speaker, what do we do? Sir, I have a simple solution, the Democratic Labour Party should throw their hands in the air, laugh hard, hard, hard and call the

election, because for the people of Barbados joy will come in the morning. I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the hour is late and I believe that it falls to me as the mover of this Motion to have the penultimate speech for a motion critical of the Government, that the Government retains the last word, according to our Standing Orders. Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances, with no other Honourable Members other than the last Honourable Member desirous of speaking, I rise therefore to speak. Therefore I would like to start off my speech by thanking all Honourable Members on this side. All Honourable Members who spoke on Tuesday and who spoke tonight have spoken with a conviction that their duty as representatives in this Honourable Chamber is a serious duty, that they recognised that they have a responsibility to reflect what it is that they constituents are feeling, what ordinary Barbadians are expressing and what they are enduring and literally all of them have done so, speaking to the Resolution and speaking to the experiences and indeed the expressions of Barbadians as we rub shoulders.

12.30 a.m.

Sir, before I go any further, I believe it is also my duty to say to you that it is not easy for persons to undertake a task when they know. We have said from the beginning this is not about the numbers; this is about giving voice to the feelings of the people of Barbados. Therefore, we have brought these matters here, expecting the Government to address them because this is how the people feel.

I want at this stage before I get further into my speech, and I know that there will be another opportunity in our Order Paper for it, to express condolences to the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, whose father passed on Tuesday evening during the course of this Debate. It can never be easy to lose a parent, regardless of one's age, and I therefore express condolences to him in this time of his sorrow and need. I believe also at the same time that we lost an international icon in the form of Mr. Tony Cozier, and once again, his work has been an example of global excellence within the broadcasting sector in the area of cricket. I want his family to know that all of us -- and I know the Minister of Sports spoke -- and that Barbados is saddened by his passing, because he was a giant of a broadcaster, and every word painted a picture long before real time television was available to each and every one of us.

Having said those things, Sir, I want to come back to the Resolution and to express my great regret that the

Government has not found it possible to collide with the terms of the Resolution. I say so with all sincerity. There are people who feel that this Debate is about a one-on-one sparring match. It is not. There are people who feel that this Debate was even about Barbados Labour Party-Democratic Labour Party. It is not. There are Barbadians who are in acute difficulties in terms of being able to make ends meet, and it bothers me that as I listened over the last two days to every speech, that I think there was only one Member on that side who collided with the Motion of No Confidence and the terms. Even though there are aspects of what he said that we disagree with, at least he sought to address it. I believe that was the Honourable Member for St. James South. All of the others virtually spoke as if the Motion had no relevance to their speech. That is regrettable, and it tells me that the Government is out of touch.

We happen to be in here not in our own right, but as representatives of thousands of people who have elected us, and in the circumstances I ask why it is that at the end of this Debate, at the end of two days, we still do not know or have any further enlightening as to what is going to happen at The Grotto. The Minister of Housing spoke. We still do not know. We still do not know what is going to happen at the houses at Parish Land. The Minister of Housing spoke. We still do not know. The Minister of Tourism spoke, and he has not been able to address the issue.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Forgive me, Sir. The Minister of Tourism spoke and we are still no closer to knowing how it is that we have increased tourists but reduced earning power since 2007. These are the issues that we are worried about, and as I spoke just now... Mr. Speaker, please forgive me because my dear friend and brother, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, has shown the Bussa-like spirit that I have come to associate him with and has joined us late in the Debate, and I want to welcome him. Sir, in relation to the question of the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Education spoke but we are no closer to allowing parents to know how much longer they will have to face a work-to-rule and have to pick up their children at three o'clock because of an impasse between the Minister of Education and the Barbados Union of teachers (BUT). If there is one person we know who has influence over the President of the BUT, we have discovered that it is the Prime Minister. Therefore, I trust and pray that this matter can be resolved to the satisfaction of the parents because it is a real inconvenience, and I hope that it will come to an end.

Sir, the Minister of Health did not in any way address adequately the issue of the overruns at the St. John Polyclinic, and in circumstances where there is equipment at the QEH not working effectively, we all accept that our professionals there are of a certain quality, but they must be

given the resources to do their jobs. When we spend more than double the price at the St. John Polyclinic to build one polyclinic, \$30 million to do an original \$13 million job, no wonder the equipment at the QEH is not being repaired and/or replaced in an adequate manner. We heard the Member for St. James Central and at different times the Member for St. Andrew make the point that they have no benefit of these kinds of services in their parishes. At the same time, however, we can glibly accept that the St. John Polyclinic has more than 100 per cent cost overruns.

We heard the Member for St. Michael Central speak, and against the background of the high incidence of children wandering and the high incidence of unacceptable issues pertaining to children, I will make this point as I have done before. This is a matter in which there is no politics. The Prime Minister has said it, and I want and hope that we can meet on it, because what has been happening to our children in the last two years is unacceptable. This country and this society beyond this Parliament have to find a way of us making sure, even as we negotiate these difficult financial times, where both parents may be out of the house trying earn a living, that we find a way of making sure that children do not fall through the cracks. I would have wanted to hear the Member for St. Michael Central focus on these things instead of where he cast his voice today.

I wanted to hear the Member for St. Philip West. I do not know how to describe the Member for St Philip West. I think that we would have been better served if he had spoken at three o'clock rather than later tonight, because I think his exuberance took him over. He did answer the questions but we disagree and have continued to disagree on the issue of Andrew's. However, at least he attempted to answer the questions and I am grateful. He answered for his Ministry. Andrew's was not our choice. It was Bulkeley. For our Cabinet, Bulkeley was the choice, and we wanted to do also a sugar museum at Bulkeley. We recognised that it was a straight road virtually down to the Port and that it would have a double capacity usage so that you have a sugar factory and a sugar museum. Technicians may have advised one thing, but it was our judgement that Bulkeley was still the better place, because we felt we could get double usage from the Bulkeley side.

In relation to the Attorney General, Sir, I started in my speech expressing how disappointed I have been of the Attorney General, because I have known him perhaps longer than I have known most people in this Chamber. We were contemporaries at school.

12.27 a.m.

Sir, what bothers me is that the speech was the most in appropriate speech of an Attorney-General that I have heard. Sir, I say so with all sincerity because an Attorney-

General does not use the word "criminal" or "thief" or all of the other words he used in his speech lightly because the Constitution of Barbados recognizes that he is the Chief Legal Advisor of the people of this nation and his behaviour is becoming more and more of concern. Sir, that is the truth and I am not going beyond that. Sir, if I were a member of Cabinet on the other side, I would be worried that my Chief Legal Advisor is behaving in this way. Sir, I say with all sincerity that I go to Baxter's Road on a night to get fish. Mr. Speaker, you should be aware because some of the people come from your constituency who sell down there and in the last 10 days two people have been murdered within a matter of less than a quarter mile of each other. Sir, two people have been murdered and this has nothing to do with the murder tonight that the Honourable Member St. Joseph, regretfully has spoken about or the other shooting that we are told took place in My Lord's Hill besides the murder in the Belle. Sir, all of these have happened with 10 days or 11 days, all of them involved masked men and before the Attorney-General gets into this Chamber and gives us the assurance that the police will take care ...

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, people are genuinely frightened and the vendors are worried that their income is going to significantly drop. Sir, when we were in here Tuesday night speaking, Colin was shot four times around seven o'clock or 7.30 p.m. Sir, this early o'clock and at that time you may still find children going home from late sports events. Sir, what was even more worrisome is that the lady who was shot in Barbarees Hill was not even the intended victim. Sir, an island of this size cannot accommodate that kind of bedlam.

Mr. Speaker, I know that whatever else may divide us in here tonight in the same way that we are not divided on children, we cannot be divided on this random violence that is taking too many of our people and also causing too much fear, especially in our urban communities. Mr. Speaker, we know how the outcome is going to vote in here tonight even with the courageous act of the Honourable Member for St. Michael East coming, we know it but this is a genuine plea for us to draw brakes and recognise that yes, an election will come, yes there are things we are going to fight on, yes there are things we are going to divide on but there are some things happening in Barbados now that if we do not stem them, all of them will come to (3:44) rule the day. Sir, I say so because none of us will want to reap the consequences of it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the Prime Minister that it is not about plasma gasification coming by stealth. Here is the issue, you all have signed documents, the document that the Prime Minister signed Part A says it is not justiciable, in other words, you cannot sue on it, Part B, you can sue

on. I have said that the four Ministers went off like popped kites because I did not know the Prime Minister had signed and I really now have to express that and to say that I still think they are wrong in signing before going to Cabinet but the reality is that the Prime Minister signed six months before this.

Mr. Speaker, this document, however, says that it immediately become justiciable, the Part A, which puts the burden on the Government of Barbados to do all of the regulatory things such as pay for the environmental impact assessment, Sir, provide access to the land was Part B, that once the four Ministers signed the Incorporated Terms Memorandum, the whole thing becomes binding, so as much as members may want to talk glibly in here, these people have rights against the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, what is more, how does a Prime Minister say that nothing will happen by stealth but then have a Sanitation Service Authority pay almost \$1 million in legal fees to a person who happens to be his campaign manager. Sir, how does that happen? Mr. Speaker, I have not given notice to call name...

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I am not saying that you are responsible for the payment of fees because I do not think the Prime Minister was, and that is the truth but the Minister responsible for the Sanitation Service Authority can speak on everything else in this debate but does not tell us as he tells us that plasma gasification may not now be the thing, all of a sudden he has an ear listening to people but does not tell us that with his knowledge almost \$1 million was paid in legal fees.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, for a plant that we do not know if it is going to happen but we have people who cannot get enough money from the Welfare Department. Sir, I can carry you down Roebuck Street and Greenfields now and show you people who have been trying to get benefits from the Welfare Department and cannot get them. Sir, it is a fact. There are even people in Black Rock, I suspect they may or may not be known, I think they are on the other side of the road, so the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central should know them, who cannot get access to benefits from the Welfare Department. What is even more is that the Government then comes in here, pursuant to the obligation to provide Cahill with access to the land and acquires 28 acres of land that the Minister of Housing denied on the front page was for Cahill, when we know that the Cabinet decision says that the 28 acres was to come from B.C. Cozier and it was to be given to Cahill for the plant.

Mr. Speaker, how many millions of dollars will the Government have pay for those 28 acres from B.C.

Holdings Limited, so you have the millions of dollars in liabilities for the land, worse case to worse case, I suppose the Government can find another usage for it but you have the risk of liabilities of contract, under English law, and English courts, which the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would tell you is multiple times any price and costs that you would face in this jurisdiction, and then you have the million dollars. Sir, I am saying to you that there has to be a proper explanation even if not tonight to the people of Barbados as to the full cost and liabilities expended in relation to this mad, mad, project.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East speaks but people cannot get garbage collected across Barbados but he is consumed and forgets his responsibility to the constituents across Barbados. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South speaks and does not address the issue of the Graeme Hall Swamp and the South Coast Sewerage Project and the matter of the flow. Sir, these are matters that affect the well-being of the people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I am not surprised at the cavalier, callous and contemptuous attitude, particularly ...

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INSERT S54 JULIETTE

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Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Without the Government is handling the water crisis, then I say to you walk with us for justice. If you do not have confidence in this Government and how this Government is running the affairs of this country, then I ask you the people of Barbados to walk with us for justice because this walk will be a walk for justice, to fight against unfairness, to send a message to the Government that this is not an isolated debate, this is not a one-on-one match, but that this is a serious cry from a people that we want our country save from the mismanagement, the incompetence and everything else that has gone with it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member continues to mislead the House by indicating that there was an increase of salary in relation to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. There was no such increase. The Honourable Member has not been able to produce anything to this House to say that there was an increase of salary to Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member please continue, no point of order found.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The money is still more than they were getting last week, last month and last year.

Sir, when this issue was raised in this Honourable Chamber on Tuesday and we said we want no part of it...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member please wind up, your time has expired.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, when this issue was raised in this Honourable Chamber on Tuesday and we said we want no part of it, we saw a behaviour on the part of the Government that I could not believe and it is a veritable implosion instead of standing for the people. I say to the people of this country we will walk for justice next Thursday, the 19th of May at midday and we ask people to wear white. This is not about blue or red or yellow, this is not about the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party, this is about Barbados. Sir, not only is it about Barbados, it is about the walk and not the talk that you heard from the Government in here.

Sir, I would ask Honourable Members and the private sector to give persons an extended lunch time but we will speak to that tomorrow. In the circumstances, Sir, I want to thank you for your forbearance and would like now formally to move yet again that this Motion of No-Confidence in the Government of Barbados stands and that it finds merit with those in here who have a conscience and who want to stand in the breach for Barbadians.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to take the opportunity to make a small contribution to this debate being the last Honourable Member to speak. It is very late. We have one reporter in the Gallery whom I know, I believe, well enough to know that he is accustomed to being out late and therefore would be alert enough to record at least a little something that I would have to say on this particular occasion.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: No, I am not begging for press coverage. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I am told took three aeroplanes to get here.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I was about to say that I understand he was in St. Kitts and he flew from St. Kitts to Antigua and changed planes and that plane went to St. Lucia and he changed planes and then came to Barbados, so the heroic acts of taking three planes and getting back here and giving the impression that he was somewhere far away in some far-flung land in Malaysia or something like that... Anyway, I am happy that he got back to Barbados safely and that he was able to join us. I am even more happy to see that my colleague and comrade friend for many years, a lion of the Pan African Movement, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, was able to come into the Parliament and join us if only for a few moments this morning if you really check it.

I want to address just a few things which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East raised in the debate, but I wanted to say in doing so that it is clear that even at this early hour in the morning that the Barbados Labour Party soundly lost this No-Confidence Motion, they would not only lose by the vote but they clearly have lost by the attempt to rattle the Government and to confuse the public who are not confused by anything that is going on and to give the impression that they are ready. In fact, they did not even try to give the impression that they are ready to assume office. They are trying to say that they should get office because they feel that we should not be in office. I do not know that is a reason to put a party that is in Opposition in Government. I thought that it was in the system we operate in and most political competitive democratic political systems that the Opposition or alternative Government is ready and prepared, has proposals, has ideas and so forth and so on and therefore can on their own merit be considered to be ready to assume office. Mr. Speaker, they have not demonstrated that in this debate, they have not demonstrated it before this debate and they are unlikely to demonstrate it after.

I am not going to go into the thing about the House divided among itself, that is known to the public. Donald Trump and Paul Ryan, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, met today and came up with a wonderful press statement that they are going to fight to work to bring unity to the party because they want to defeat Hilary Clinton. That is the only thing that is binding them. They do not want a Clinton or a Democrat to be in the White House. They hate each other's guts. Mr. Ryan cannot find a way to support Donald Trump publicly. In fact, he said he is not willing to endorse him.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are so many factions over there that would suggest to us and anybody who is even remotely interested in following Barbados Labour Party politics, why I would not know, that there are several factions over there. A lot of it too is generated by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the person who is currently leading the party, so we would not get into that.

I mean I can go and pull public documents. Affidavits are public documents. I do not go into these things. I do not hunt around courts and stuff but I can pull documents that have said very clearly in their content by Members of that party alleging that their leader created acts of potential criminality. These are things that are sworn. Some of them are sworn by attorney-at-law so you cannot think that it is a mock stick thing. It is serious thing when you swear an Affidavit. I do not know because I was not there. You do not know Mr. Speaker, because you were not there. I am not going into the details of the allegations they have made. I invite any member of the press or public to go into the Registry of the Supreme Court of Barbados and withdraw the documents like other people have withdrawn them and see what they have said of their own leader. What concerns me on that particular little part of it as Minister of Finance and guardian of the public purse that in one of those documents an accusation is made that public funds voted by this Parliament and sent to the Barbados Labour Party's account was withdrawn from that account by the Leader of the Party and placed in an account to which there was no official signatory from the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, that is not the Treasurer or the General Secretary who are potential legitimate signatories or actual signatories, that is an extremely dangerous allegation to be sworn in an affidavit to have been made at a meeting in which they choose to select a leader of a party.

Mr. Speaker, why it concerns me, because I do not know what they say about their leader, whether it is true or not true that is a matter for them, what concerns me as Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs is that that money was voted by this Parliament. Sir, a subvention goes to the Barbados Labour Party and one goes to the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, if it is a fact, needless by way of allegation, that the taxpayers of Barbados money was withdrawn and was put into any account and utilised either for personal, professional or other uses, it is fundamental breach of the financial rules of this country and I am saying tonight that as Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, I may very well have to ask the Auditor-General of Barbados...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: I know you want me to do it. I know you want me to do it. He is the only body who gets jetlagged on LIAT. I know you want me to do it but you are not leading me into doing anything. I am saying very

clearly that I may very well have to ask that an audit be done to find out where the taxpayers' money may have gone. Sir, those allegations did not start with me, I did not make them up, but they have been put on the public record and are there for anybody who wants to go into the court and pull them out. I am seeing it is a very serious thing.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: We are getting around to stuff. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North who gets in here and makes a lot of snide remarks and try to give the impression that everybody other than himself is corrupt, that there is something about Sandals, that he wants the Sandals Agreement. I am not going to tell him I want the Agreement for the prison, I am the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: No, I do not have it, I have never seen it. I do not know where it is. I know that the Honourable Member for St. James Central does not have a copy either. I know that every January we pay \$27 million, I think it is, in service of the loan for the prison. I have never seen that Agreement, that Agreement was not brought here by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and he was Honourable Attorney-General. In fact, the Honourable Member did not even know what currency the Agreement was in, the Honourable Member said at first that it was United States of America currency, then said it was a mistake, it was Barbados dollars. The Honourable Member then said that the loan was Canadian. The Honourable Member did not know what currency it was, I did not blame him because it did not originate with him, he inherited it, but everybody wants the Sandals Agreement. Every time the Honourable Member for St. Michael North speaks he talks about the Sandals Agreement but the Honourable Member has never got up and said they are going to bring a copy of the deal that led to the \$750 million prison.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, there is a \$750 million prison, yet we do not have a copy, neither the Barbados copy nor the United States of America copy. Mr. Speaker, what amazes me about the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, because the Honourable Member makes these things about me and says that everything is done in secret in this Government, could you imagine that the Honourable Member resigned from a Cabinet? I do know if the Honourable Member resigned, if he was fired, if he had jumped or was pushed, but the Honourable Member left a Cabinet in Barbados and under highly suspicious circumstances.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, not that the Honourable Member was a participant in any maleficence. I do not think that is his character, so I will not put that on him, but I know enough to know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North left the Cabinet or was removed from the Cabinet, whichever one, nobody in Barbados was ever told why he left the Cabinet of Barbados, but I know it had to do with or I understand it had to do with the Fair Trading Commission with the liberalisation of the telecommunication sector and which information was made available to whom when they should not have gotten that information.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: The Honourable Member is there sitting looking at me, the Honourable Member knows I know exactly what is going on, and what it has to do with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, but it will come out in time.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: No, I am not guessing at all, it will come out in time because in the same meeting that led to the allegations that money was swapped out of the Barbados Labour Party accounts into a private foundation account in that same meeting, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North who got up in here and never professed any confidence in his Leader, said that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has done him a lot of wrongs but that he had gotten over those demons.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is not the first person to speak about demons, the first persons who spoke about possession of demons was the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter who unfortunately is not here today. We know why and we express our condolences to him on the passing of his father, but the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter said in a Press conference that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that before the Honourable Member can be considered electable to the office of Right Honourable Prime Minister she should rid herself of the demons. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North also said that the Honourable Member did him some grievous wrongs but that he had gotten over those demons.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading this House. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Honourable Member is searching for something to find to say about me. At no time at all have I ever used the words attributed to me just now by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, thank you for the elucidation, that is not something that I can rule on. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, as I said, an affidavit is a very serious thing, when a person swears an affidavit and have it witnessed, you have to assume that they understand, especially if the person is a lawyer. You have to assume that the person understands that they are making a serious document and that they are making statements of fact.

Asides.

1.12 a.m.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: ... I know that it is said at Page 3 of the affidavit sworn by the Honourable Member for St. James North at Paragraph 14.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: This is a blatant and serious breach of the Standing Orders, and really I am shocked and surprised that this has been going on. Mr. Speaker, you have ruled on this issue many times.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Honourable Members. Honourable Members, let me hear the submission of the Member.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: The matter is sub judice and is not debatable in here. You ruled that way, Sir, as recently as the Estimates Debate when I rose, again on a Point of Order, when the Honourable Member for St. James South attempted to bring the issue before the House as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what is the Standing Order to which you refer?

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Sir, you should know the Standing Order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You should know them too.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: You have ruled on this Point many times, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down. I will find it for you.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member, I found it. Let me help you. The Standing Order 28 (3) says: "Reference may not be made to any matter on which a

judicial decision is pending in such a way as might, in the opinion of the Chair, prejudice the interest of the parties thereto.” Just yesterday, there was a reference by a Member to the matter before the Tribunal, and that Member was permitted to continue until, in the opinion of the Chair, it was felt that it might prejudice the interest of the parties. I have heard nothing said by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West which, in my opinion, can prejudice or is likely to prejudice the interest of the parties. As a matter of fact, he has not even referred to a specific matter, but if the time comes when he gets there, I assure you that I will stop him as I have done in the past. I do not care which Member mutters and says what and talks about one rule for this and one rule for that, I am accustomed to that. It does not matter. I will rule fairly against any Member of this House. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand why they are getting a little agitated, because when words are put to paper, when they are put to print, and when they are placed in serious documents like sworn affidavits, then one has to understand or appreciate that the persons making the statements believed what they said when they swore those statements. They believed it to be true. In that statement, it says at Paragraph 14 -- and I will not call the Member's name but it was the Member for St. Michael North of whom they were speaking -- that the Leader of the Opposition had done “some terrible things to him in the past”. He, however, said he had got over those demons. That is what was said, so he is trying to pretend now that it was not said in the meeting, when in fact it was said and it was corroborated by other statements. That is just the statement from the Member for St. Michael North.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. R.St.C. TOPPIN: On a Point of Order. I repeat that I have never said the words that the Minister is referring to. I have never said them. That is where the ruling should have been different just now, because it affects what is happening...

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you cannot tell me how to rule, and secondly you are saying you did not say them, while he is saying you said them. I was not there. I have heard Honourable Members of the Opposition stand up and say that this thing was said in a Cabinet meeting and this thing was decided in a Cabinet meeting, and I heard no objections from the other side that it could not be said. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the Honourable Member.... Yes. It is not me who said that you said it. It is your colleague who said that you said it. Your colleague also denied that he said, since we are into denials, that, at Paragraph 28, “I deny that I asked Ronald Toppin what he had to show for 18 years in

which he was a Member of Parliament (MP).” He denied he said that too, but he really should have said it, because in the 18 years up to then that he was an MP, he did not have too much to show, other than to come in here and try to make snide remarks about corruption and potential corruption. I am not going into the affidavit. I do not want to go too deeply into that. The public can go, the media can go and get it. The same way they rush into the court and get affidavits about the former chief executive officer of CLICO, some of them come in here. You are talking about what is sub judice? Some of them come in here and refer to the case of CLICO with the Judicial Manager, which is before the court, pending decisions. They came in here and quoted the Judicial Manager's Report and the affidavits that were filed in the court in that case. They now want to object. They were the affidavits filed by the Judicial Manager in the courts in support of the evidence which they presented as their research from the forensic audit. The Member for St. Andrew came in here and talked about it.

Aside.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: They are not going to march on that. They tell one part of that story but do not tell the next. However, when you come in here and you have to read from things that they said about their leader, they are now trying to pretend that they did not say them, but they are in the record. They are in the public record. They cannot save me. Not me. I am not the person who is being accused of taking money out of the Labour Party account. I am the Minister of Finance, and I am saying that I am going to have it investigated, because a report was also done by the treasurer of that party. It was called the Barker Report, which confirms some of the sworn statements that are in these affidavits. All happening in the Barbados Labour Party.

I am not going to go into all of the other things that have been said in here. I am going to just leave that alone. As I said, I have given enough information for people to go and do their own research and find out what was said.

1.16 a.m.

Sir, I am not going to go into all the things that the Honourable Member St. James North said about the Honourable Member for St. Andrew because some of them I really think are quite egregious to be honest with you. He should not be a member of the Parliament, he should be a member of the prison but, Sir, I am not going to get into that.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central talked about putrid, that is the word he used but I am not going to get into any putrid stuff.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINKLER: He said he should not be in Parliament, that he should be in prison, that he is a crook and all of that but I am not getting into that. Sir, that is not for me. I am not getting involved in that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go on because if you destroy your own leader in those terms as well as each other, if you feast on each other like that, how do you expect other people are going to reflect on you. I told you already that I want the Honourable Member for St. Michael North for all of the 18 years he has been in here to be at least honest enough to say to the public of Barbados why he left the Cabinet, what drove him to leave under those circumstances. He must tell us, he must explain what it had to do with the Fair Trading Commission, what it had to do with the liberalization of the telecommunications sector, what it had to do with Cable and Wireless and why is there a link between what you had to do and the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that caused you to say that she did some terrible things to us. Tell us that and we will meet and talk about Sandals. I know you are not going to tell the public because you want to keep that as a secret but do not worry, the time will come.

Mr. Speaker, this salary increase business. I think my colleagues have dealt with that quite appropriately. Sir, the Prime Minister always make the point, and I agree with it, that you cannot lead people from behind, you have to lead them from in front. There is not everything that you will ever do as Government, in politics, or in Opposition that will please everybody. If you are looking to please everybody in politics, whether it is your constituents, whether it is the public, whether the private sector or whether it is civil society, you have a problem. There is a saying, I know not what the keys to success are but I know the key to failure is trying to please everybody because you will never be able to please everybody. Sir, I have come to understand that even more clearly and vividly in politics.

Mr. Speaker, when me and the rest and my colleagues, I read the Ministerial Statement and I came to the Parliament and I said that we needed to do some stuff to help the Barbados' economy. We were going to do some additional measures including retrench some workers. Sir, unfortunately, we did not want to do that but we had to take that decision. We said that we were going to do an attrition in the Public Service and we said we were going to do a five per cent cut across the board of all State agencies and Government departments and we said in solidarity, that the members of the parliamentary group, including the Senators and/or political appointee would take a 10 per cent salary deduction. It was voluntary, nobody forced us to do it because many years ago, under a previous Democratic Labour Party, we adjusted salaries downwards

by 8 per cent, so-called the eight percent cut. It was not supported by the then Opposition. It was not supported by the unions and a legal case ensued, which went all the way to the Privy Council. We were told that we were unconstitutional and that we broke the law, and the Privy Council in favour of that decision. The Barbados Labour Party Government that came to office and restored that 8 per cent decided that they were going to amend the Constitution of Barbados to prevent any further adjustments in salaries. When this issue came up of looking to see how we could help the Barbados economy by cutting expenditure, we had many discussions with the unions and with other stakeholder, and the private sector as well but predominately with the unions and one of the issues that came up during those discussion was why do we not look to adjust salaries downwards. It would be cleaner because you would not have do severance, nobody would get laid off, and you would raise the money more assuredly than if you do a retrenchment.

Mr. Speaker, the unions were not particularly in favour of it even though some people in the unions, I will not call their names, said they would look at a 6 per cent cut, that would not have been enough but they said they would look at it. Sir, what came up as the stop factor in all of that was that you could not do it because the Government did not have a two-thirds majority, you would have to amend the Constitution, so it could not be done.

Mr. Speaker, I distinctly remember that when that talk started to circulate, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph both at a Press Conference in the office of the Barbados Labour Party but also in this House made it abundantly clear not to ask the Opposition about it because we are not going to do it. He said it was not the policy of the Barbados Labour Party and that they were not supporting any salary cut.

Mr. Speaker, we decided that it was not on the cards and that, unfortunately, we would have to adjust the wages bill by having to send home some people. Sir, it was quite unfortunate, we did not want to do it but we had to in the circumstances. Sir, nobody takes pleasure in sending anybody home contrary to what some people feel, that you have a carnival, you hold a party and jump up and down but nobody likes that. Sir, we did it and we take the responsibility for it. The Opposition said they were not supporting that either. We decided as a Cabinet and as a Parliamentary Group that we would take a salary cut as a show of solidarity because, at the end of the day, the amount of savings you would get from the salary cut was not that significant at 10 per cent, but to show some sensitivity in relation to what we were asking Barbadians to go on. Mr. Speaker, we had additional measures too, consolidation tax, tax on credit unions, a whole set of stuff was put on, so we adjusted the salaries. Sir, before we brought the paper here, the Honourable Member for St.

Michael North East indicated in a Press Conference at the office of the Opposition that the Barbados Labour Party would only support a salary cut... They were putting a condition. We said let us all together voluntarily as a Parliament act in solidarity but the Leader of the Opposition put conditionalities on the cut and said they would only take a salary cut if you end the David Thompson Football Tournament, close down the Constituency Councils, stop the summer camps and a whole long list of conditions attached to cutting the salaries. There was no solidarity with no workers. It was all politics.

Sequence 58

INSERT S59 JULIETTE

Friday, May 13, 2016

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: For the salary reduction, it was done in protest and with conditions attached but now that the salaries are being restored they are now pretending that the... You know that the Honourable Member for St. James Central wants to give the impression... You know that just before the Government changed there was a salary increase.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: What upsets me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the Honourable Member for St. James Central...?

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I do not want the Honourable Member for St. James Central to give me anything. I am not quarrelling with you. I leave you to Mr. Bulani. Leave me out.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the Gideon level of hypocrisy of the Barbados Labour Party as a party in relation to this matter. When the Honourable Member for St. James Central was a Member of the Cabinet and they had a salary increase, he ran to the paper and carried all of his bills, a big spreadsheet of bills, saying look all the things that a Minister does got to pay. He had all kinds of things down there, child support, and said he needed his money. He protested vehemently when the suggestion came up that they should not take the salary increase. Now he comes in here with his colleagues and the Leader of the Opposition trying to make us feel that we have done something horrible.

We said that we would do this in solidarity with the workers and with the people of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, since that time we have restored the consolidation tax but

you do not hear anybody saying that the tax has been restored and that people's salaries including the middle class salary has gone up. Last year we brought down the income tax rates for people in Barbados, more salary gone up. We have restored and removed the tax on credit unions as we had promised we would do when the period comes to an end but nobody talks about that. Mr. Speaker, because in the whole package we have restored the salaries of parliamentarians as with all of the other things that have been restored or removed, when we were told that we were playing gimmicks with the public of Barbados by cutting our salaries, we are now being told that we are insensitive. It is political gimmickry when you cut it and now it is insensitivity when you restore it, but you cannot win, you could never win. Do not care whatever you do, you can never win.

The next point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is in relation to the BAMC loan. I think the Honourable Member for St. Philip West dealt with it but I have to make this point because I heard the Leader of the Opposition make a very serious charge. When you sign loans on behalf of the Government of Barbados with financial institutions, there are very serious legal obligations. In fact, those loans come by way of Resolutions to this Parliament and that BADMC loan... In fact, I sent for the file to read it because I know better than what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was trying to suggest, which is, that the Government, either through the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Agriculture, was taking the money from that bond and using it for purposes that it was not intended. That is a very serious charge. That is a very serious thing to put out there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I made the point that the Minister himself just made, that I hope that he would clarify it because it is a very serious issue if it is not, so we would be welcome for the response to give us the information because we do not feel that we should have to get it from the side of the road. It is a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member in posing the question made the statement: That it was to her certain knowledge that the cane producers in Barbados did not get their money or were not getting their money and wanted to know whether or not the money from the Ansa Bond was being used for the purpose for which it was intended.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of elucidation. I made the point and I remember...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute. Honourable Member, are you prepared to give way?

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: He does not have to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am making the point, Mr. Speaker - I take my seat, I like to follow the Rules - that that bond up to BDS\$73 million is divided into the following - and all of this would come to Parliament by Resolution shortly. In fact, my getting the file basically has halted them preparing the Resolution, but it is going to come by Resolution - Class A Series 1, \$32 million as follows: Class 1A US\$10.25 million; Class A 1B BDS\$10.950 million; Face amount: Class A Series 2 BDS\$22.5 million or US equivalent new; Class A 2A US\$2.7 million; Class A 2B BDS\$17.1 million; and Class B BDS\$18.5 million or US equivalent reduced from the BDS\$41 million or US equivalent.

Mr. Speaker, I saw an article written by the now junior economic spokesman of the Opposition, the guy that says he is running up there for Minister Jones to deal with him.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: No, no, no, it is not small things because I saw an article in which the similar suggestion was made that these resources were being used for purposes other than what they were intended and that we took the money and used it to finance the BAMC and I am saying to this Parliament for the record that the Class A 1A and 1B proceeds are, according with this Agreement with Ansa Merchant Bank "to provide working capital to support BADMC", so the money which is spent by BADMC was money that was legally contracted for this purpose. That, Mr. Speaker, I think, takes care of that particular matter. The farmers, I believe, have gotten their moneys. They were able to pay off whatever debts they had and that is that.

The next point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, in relation to this Resolution and the allegations which have been made relates to the issue of the economy. I am not going to go over that because when we had the Estimates I went through all of this, we spoke about deficits, accrual accounting and about cash accounting. We spoke about all of these things in the Estimates. The Leader of the Opposition came here and repeated the same thing that she said and I can give the same response for the next hour but I am not going to do that.

What I am going to do, however, is this. The Leader of the Opposition asked about the foreign reserves. I said in this debate in the Estimates when I wrapped up that the

Barbados Labour Party Government borrowed BD\$1 500 million; \$200 million every year for five years or a US\$100 million every year for five years to prop up the reserves between 2000 and 2005, so when you hear them talking about they left \$2 billion in reserves, almost half of that was borrowed. That has always been what has happened in Barbados.

1.45 a.m.

We have borrowed money to shore up the reserves. Mr. Speaker, last year we analysed our reserves position and we saw the reduction in oil prices, therefore translating to less foreign exchange being used to pay. We looked at the market conditions and said if we go to market we will have to pay a risk premium, because we do not have the investment grade. We could have gone if we had wanted to, but we took a decision that we would not go. We had two major maturities, well, one maturity that went out and one loan to service, US\$53 million or BD\$106 million for the BZ/W loan in July. Mr. Speaker, we paid it in full and on time, we did not go to the market and borrow to roll it over, so that is \$100 million out of the reserves.

Mr. Speaker, we had US\$32 million or BD\$64 million for the Credit Suisse loan in December, so that in the space of six months, in a country that supposedly does not have any reserves, one which is doing so badly on the front of reserves, we were able to pay BD\$170 million out of the reserves to service those loans.

Mr. Speaker, if we were having such a crisis with reserves, would we have been able to do that? Would we not have had to rush to the market to borrow money to roll over those loans to ease ourselves? In fact, had we done that, our reserves would not be down \$95 million, they would be up \$170 million. Sir, when you hear all this talk about reserves and that our dollar is going to be devalued if we do not do anything, you have to ask yourself why is this hysteria being created in Barbados, so all of that can be thrown through the window.

Mr. Speaker, points on the deficit again, we do not need to go through all of that. The Barbados Labour Party Government, all of them over who were in the Cabinet of Barbados, except the Honourable Member for St. James North and the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown... Well, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown was a Democratic Labour Party Member at that time, but the Honourable Member for St. James North was, whatever.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The point is that as Members of the Cabinet they took the decision to take Barbados from cash accounting to accrual accounting. We changed the

laws, we changed the Financial Administration and Audit Act to the Financial Management and Audit Act. We changed all of the rules. Barbados is now to do its accounting and reporting of its deficit on an accrual basis. When we have gone through all of these changes, you are still having people -- and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is right -- standing up telling you that your cash deficit is 7.4 per cent, 6.9 per cent, or 8.2 per cent when we are doing accrual accounting.

Mr. Speaker, the accrual deficit to the end of the last financial year is 4.7 per cent which is the lowest our deficit has been in five years, and we intend to bring it down even further. We are not saying that we are over the hill, that we are out of the woods, that everything is hunky-dory and that we do not have any issues, we do have issues. They get up every time and talk about tax returns. In the space of one year the Government of Barbados paid \$200 million in tax refunds. Between April last year and March this year \$200 million came out of the revenue, because revenue is reported net of refunds. Had we not paid any refunds for last year the revenue would have been up by \$200 million, while the deficit would be down by a further 2 per cent, so that we would be at 2.7 per cent, rather than 4.7 per cent. Sir, we paid tax returns, we paid the VAT, we paid income tax, we paid corporation tax and we continue to pay them.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Yes, we still have some to pay, we have not paid all and we will continue to pay them. I do not get a return, I have to pay them every year. In fact, I can make this point very quickly. It was discovered that there has been an error, wherever it was found, that Members of this Cabinet have actually been charged or levied increase taxation on their salaries.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, nobody over here has rushed to kill them. One of the things I keep saying is that I do not understand, I never used to owe the Inland Revenue Department, I used to always get back money and as soon as I start to work as a Minister, I owe every year while the money keeps going up while nothing has changed. Sir, I often wondered about it, I never explored it, I just pay it because they said that I owe it, only to discover that there has been an error in the system that has allowed taxation to be attached to certain elements of the pay of Ministers that under the law...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, nobody over here is causing any confusion about it, nobody is grabbing at it, every week nobody is confusing the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs or the Barbados Revenue

Authority asking for their cheques to be returned. In fact, nobody has asked for it and so we have lived without it. Mr. Speaker, when people are talking about this deficit or accrual problem, we know where our deficit will land and we intend to have that deficit brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, I think those are the points I want to clarify because there is not a whole lot in the presentation of the No-Confidence Motion. Sir, having failed to convince anybody that this Government is so incompetent that it should be thrown out of office, they have now decided that they are going to do another march, so that we had the garbage march and now we are going to have the walk with us for justice march. Mr. Speaker, you always telegraph when these things are coming, you just have to listen to the call-in programmes, especially when "Wickham" is on. You can hear from yesterday how he was whipping up. There was then one caller calling in and saying they think that they should march. Sir, you could hear when the thing is coming, you know when the advisors have advised that a march is necessary.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, the last time they had a march, the Honourable Member for St. James Central was not in the good books of the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member came out and spoke very vehemently about why the garbage tax should not be protested against. Of course, having said that, somebody called him and asked him if he wanted to destroy his political career in the Labour Party. He promptly put on a Manchester United red shirt and went to the march, and when he arrived, the DJ put on the song by Carew called 'Snakes In The Grass'. He slithered in there like a grass snake, like one of those little snakes you see in St. Philip in the cane ground, and joined the march. His heart was not in any march, so "we are going to have another march now. We are going to mobilise all these people because the Leader of the Opposition cannot wait to get into Government". Cannot wait.

This No Confidence Motion is all about winning Government. We are not going to punish it with laughter. We debated it, we decimated it, and in a few minutes, we will defeat it on the Floor of the House, and get back to the business of the people of Barbados. We are not going cap-in-hand to the Chinese for any loan. In fact, when Almond was bought by Butch Stewart, the Chinese were very disappointed and they wanted us to identify a project. We identified another project in Sam Lord's, and they are very excited to be part of that project.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I am going to let you go home now because I cannot imagine... If the

Member for St. Thomas is incapable of containing her enthusiasm for speech, I cannot imagine what it is like to wake up and hear her talking at two o' clock in the morning.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: The Honourable Member would not be a pretty sight.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Sir, I am not going to contend with that. The tourism is growing, the economy is growing. They do not like the fact that the economy is growing, and they want to confuse that. Nothing that this Government does will please them, but we are not here to please the Opposition. We are here to help the people of Barbados, and that we will do, Mr. Speaker. However, I want to issue this warning just as the Member for Christ Church West issued that warning. You have to be careful when you have a leader of the party so anxious, so devilishly anxious, and desperate to get their hands on power in Barbados. To what end, I cannot understand. Mr. Speaker, I know, like the Witches of Salem, that the witches and warlocks have made a pact in Barbados. I am not like some people who say, "I do not believe." I know that the witches and warlocks have made a pact in Barbados. They want Barbados for their own, and I am saying to the innocent Members of the Opposition who are not or may not be aware of what is going on, that an unholy alliance has been formed in Barbados, led by certain people in this country to change our values, alter our moral fabric, undermine our ethics, and tamper with our Christian beliefs.

When the witches and warlocks meet, they have an appointed hour at which, at midnight, they intend to take over Barbados, and we have to be very, very careful with them. They are all over the place, blending in as they are with the regular folk, pretending that they are one of us, adorned in white gowns, white outfits, walking around, parading, pretending that they are interested in the welfare of the ordinary people, when they only want to seize Barbados and suck the blood. They want to suckle - as the witches call it -- on the people of Barbados. I issue that warning. The Member for Christ Church West issued that warning too. She has been a victim of the witches and warlocks because she would not participate in obsequious genuflection to the head witch. I am saying this: The Member for St. James Central is my friend, and I know he has come up in a Christian household and environment. He might have strayed a little bit but we can help him back on the straight and narrow. It is not a joke. It is not a joke. Be very careful whom you play with, yes, be very careful of the witches and warlocks. Do not just be a "just-in-case"

politician. It is not worth it. Hold your position. No, no. He has a position.

Somebody told me only today that he is so far down the pecking order that he has lost his beak; but you stay with us. Stay with us. You keep the faith. Do not get sidetracked. The people's Government and the Government installed by the Almighty is in office and will continue to work assiduously to help the people of Barbados through these difficult times. Better times are coming. The economy is growing. Stay with us, we will stay with you and ensure that better times will come to Barbados, as we keep those people, who want to get their dirty paws on the Treasury of Barbados to divide it among their friends, out in the cold. Mr. Speaker, with those very few words, I want to express my lack of support for this useless Resolution, a Motion of No Confidence, which wasted so much of the Parliament's time, which costed us \$150 000 in food and drink and police protection and lights, plus \$100 000 for broadcast, while carrying up the deficit of Barbados, thanks to the Leader of the Opposition and her party. I want to apologise for the people of Barbados that the deficit has increased a little bit because of this wasteful time that we have spent here, but stay tuned. We resume normal business next Tuesday, I believe, as we get on with the work of the public of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and was not resolved in the affirmative.

A division was called for.

The bell was rung.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and was not resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Mr. R.St.C. TOPPIN, Ms. S.J.O. BRADSHAW, Mr. D.D. MARSHALL, Mr. G.A. CLARKE, Ms. C.Y. FORDE, Mr. T.A. PRESCOD, Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS, Lt. Col. J.D. BOSTIC, Mr. E.G. HINKSON, Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND, Mr. G.W. PAYNE.

Noes: Dr. M.M. AGARD, Hon. F.J. STUART, Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE, Hon. R.D. JONES, Dr. the Hon. D.C. ESTWICK, Hon. M.A. LASHLEY, Hon. R.L. SEALY, Hon. S.D. BLACKETT, Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE, Hon. D. O'N. INNIS, Hon. C.P. SINCKLER, Hon. S.A. LASHLEY, Hon. D.St.E. KELLMAN, Mr. J.D. PAUL, Her Honour M-J. M. THOMPSON.

CLERK: Mr. Speaker, 16 Members voted against the Resolution and 12 voted in favour.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Resolution has not been passed.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that we have come to the end of Government Business for the morning, and I beg to move that the Sitting be adjourned until Tuesday, May 17, at ten o'clock in the morning.

HON. A.D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until May 17, 2016 at 10 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MR. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

Ms. S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that it is late in the morning, but I do want to thank all Honourable Members on this said as well as on the other side, in particular the Member for St. Michael East, who has taken the time out to come here tonight. We all know that he is not feeling well, but I do appreciate the fact that he was here to lend his support to this very important Motion, and I hope that all persons who are listening will come out to the march and the walk on Thursday of next week.

MR. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting.

2.08 a.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 6, Mr. J. D. Paul, take-slips House C 31, Sequence 1-2, about 3.15-3.25 p.m.. The source carries two reporters' versions of the same passage of Mr. J. D. Paul's speech, from 'A lot of these issues have been addressed...' to '...they should give back the money', either side of the take-slip 'House C31 Sequence 2, 3.25 p.m.'. The second version, which runs on into the rest of the speech, is printed here and the first (about 1,170 words) has been left out. Please confirm.

Q3. Order No. 6, after the point of order by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, about 4.40 p.m.. The speech that follows the Attorney-General's point of order is labelled 'Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY', but it continues Dr. M. M. Agard's speech (anti-corruption laws not proclaimed, campaign financing, the United Nations convention) and the next speaker refers to 'the contribution of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West'. About 1,000 words may carry the wrong speaker label. Printed as in the source. Please confirm.

Q4. Order No. 6, Hon. S. A. Lashley. One paragraph of Hon. S. A. Lashley's speech has been turned into a speech heading in the source: the label reads 'Mr. Speaker, I only want to refer to one of the programmes that we currently have, the YES (6' and the text begins '06), which between the period April to September 2014...'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Take-slips throughout. The source carries typists' notes printed as headings ('INSERT S18 JULIETTE', 'INSERT S23 JULIETTE' and so on to 'INSERT S59 JULIETTE', one spelt 'JUIETTE', and 'BLANK 31'), and several take-slips appear as text paragraphs ('House C 31 Seq 1 3.15 p.m.', 'Seq 17'). Printed as in the source.

Q6. Take-slips about 4.00-4.25 p.m.. The take-slips 'House C 31 Seq 8' appear twice (4.13 p.m. and 4.23 p.m.), and 'House C 31 Seq 13 4.02 p.m.' follows slips timed 4:33 and 4.55 p.m. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Division on the Resolution. The Clerk reports that '12 voted in favour', but the Ayes list names only 11

Members (the mover, the Leader of the Opposition, is not listed); the Noes list names 16. Printed as in the source.

Q8. End of Sitting. The Leader of the House moved that the Sitting be 'adjourned until Tuesday, May 17', but the heading reads 'SUSPENSION' and the record says the question 'that the Sitting do now suspend until May 17, 2016' was resolved. A short speech by Ms. S. J. O. Bradshaw then follows, ending 'MR. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting.' Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Thursday, 12th May, 2016 at 3.00 p.m., with Mr. Speaker, His Honour M. A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Father Reverend Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 3rd May were confirmed and those of 10th May deferred, and the Speaker extended sympathy to the Member for St. Peter on the death of his father. Hon. S. A. Lashley laid the National Sports Council Annual Report for 2011-2012, and Standing Orders were suspended.

The House resumed the debate, under Private Members' Business, Order No. 6, on the Resolution of No Confidence in the Government moved on the Tuesday by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley. Mr. J. D. Paul called the Motion mischievous and trivial and defended his conduct over Sandals. The Attorney-General, Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, called it a launch of the Opposition's 'covenant with the people'. Dr. M. M. Agard, Member for Christ Church West, said the argument was only about the extent of each party's wrongdoing, called for 'a revolution not a Resolution', and urged the proclamation of the anti-corruption laws and a commission on campaign financing; on a point of order the Attorney-General said the anti-corruption law was on the statute books but not proclaimed.

Hon. S. A. Lashley, who paid tribute to Tony Cozier, Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. Thompson and Hon. S. D. Blackett opposed the Motion. After a suspension, Hon. R. D. Jones argued that restoring the 10 per cent salary cut was not a salary increase, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce and Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe followed. After a further suspension, Hon. M. A. Lashley and Hon. D. O'N. Inniss spoke, Mr. Inniss keeping to the wording of the Resolution and its preamble on the economy.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick quoted a Deloitte review and a Special Audit on the Barbados Water Authority and the St. Philip Water Augmentation Project. Mr. G. W.

Payne replied that \$8 million had been paid in professional fees in the CLICO matter in 2015 alone, and withdrew a remark at the Speaker's request. The Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, said this was the third No-Confidence Motion his Government had faced and that he had full confidence in it, and Mr. D. D. Marshall said the Government no longer deserved the people's trust.

After midnight Miss Mottley replied as mover, offering condolences to the Member for St. Peter and saying the Motion was about giving voice to the feelings of the people rather than the numbers; Hon. S. A. Lashley denied on a point of order that Ministers' salaries had been increased. Hon. C. P. Sinckler spoke last. When Mr. E. G.

Hinkson submitted that a matter was sub judice, Mr. Speaker, citing Standing Order 28(3), ruled that nothing said had prejudiced the parties. Mr. Sinckler warned of 'witches and warlocks' seeking power and said the debate had cost \$150 000 for food, police and lights and \$100 000 for broadcasting.

On a division the Resolution was lost, the Clerk reporting 16 votes against and 12 in favour. On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce the Sitting was ended until Tuesday, 17th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.; Ms. S. J. O. Bradshaw thanked Members and invited the public to the march the following Thursday, and Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting at about 2.08 a.m.