

---

# THE

## House of Assembly Debates

### (UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

---

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

---

#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

The House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

#### PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, Q.C., B.A., LL.B. (Speaker) Her Honour Mrs. M-J. MARA THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) B.A.(Deputy Speaker)  
Mr. GLINE A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.  
Mr. RONALD St.C TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)  
Hon. DENIS St.E. KELLMAN  
(Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)  
Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B.  
(Leader of the Opposition)  
Ms. CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.  
Hon. RONALD D. JONES, J.P., B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Ed.) (Minister of Education, Science and Technology and Innovation)  
Dr. Hon. DAVID C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.  
(Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)  
Mr. DALE D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.  
Hon. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)  
(Minister of Transport and Works)  
Hon. RICHARD L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.  
(Minister of Tourism and International Transport)  
Right. Hon. FREUNDEL J. STUART, Q.C., B.A., LL.M.  
(Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)  
Hon. JOHN D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC, M.Sc., C. Eng.  
(Minister of Transport and Works) (Leader of Government Business)  
Hon. STEVEN D. BLACKETT

(Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, and Community Development) Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, B.Sc.  
(Chairman of Committees)  
Dr. the Hon. DENIS S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A., Dip. Theology  
(Minister of Environment and Drainage)  
Hon. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.)  
(Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs.)  
Hon. STEPHEN A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.  
(Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports)  
Hon. DONVILLE O'N. INNISS, Dip., B.Sc., M.B.A.  
(Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)  
Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc.  
(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)  
Mr. TREVOR PRESCOD, B.A.  
Mr. KERRIE D. SYMMONDS, B. A., LL.B.  
Lt. Col. JEFFREY D. BOSTIC, M.V.O., B.A. (Hons.)  
Mr. EDMUND G. HINKSON, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., LL.M.  
Dr. Ms. MARIA M. AGARD, J.P., D.Ds., B.Sc. (Hons.)  
Mr. DWIGHT G. SUTHERLAND, M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), B.Sc.  
Miss SANTIA J.O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)  
*Prayers were taken by Reverend Father Mark Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning Honourable Members this House is now in session.

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Members I have with me the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.

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

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

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

Members I am not yet in receipt of the Minutes of our Meeting held on Friday, November 11, 2016, and therefore I ask for the usual motion.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes referred to be referred.

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

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

## PAPERS

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Social Care the following:

1. The Child Care Board Financial Statement for the year ending March 31, 2014.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING 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.

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

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

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### ORDER NO. 22

To resume debate on the passing of a Resolution that Parliament of Barbados congratulate Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence and hail the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible

Mr. SPEAKER; The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, of course, to give such support to this Resolution before the House today to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for piloting this Resolution. One may ask listening on from the outside why is Parliament engaging in discussion and debate to celebrate Barbados's 50th year of Independence. The reality is, this Honourable Chamber is the Place the 30 of us sit and represent the entire country and it ought to be the place where first and foremost great thanks must be given to those who have gone before us, not just in the House of Assembly alone but certainly in helping to build this country up, celebrate where we are today and to clearly indicate the way forward. Tuesday, November 15,

I think that this Resolution before us allows us to capture all three of these paradigms at one time.

I must thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his introductory comments. I think it set the stage and the tone for the quality of conversation that we ought to have in Parliament and in the country on the whole in respect of the 50th year of independence. It is a bit regrettable that in keeping with customs and practices in the House that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition did not find it fit to respond or to lead off discussions on this particular Bill on behalf of the Opposition party but left it to the Honourable Member for St. James Central, but suffice to say that is not a weighty matter to discuss, the substantive issue is that we are here to recognise and celebrate the 50 years of independence of Barbados and also to hail the efforts of all Barbadians in making the accomplishment possible, and we must certainly perhaps start at that point. We are here today 50 years since we started the crusade towards independence reflecting upon from whence we have come, and in so doing we have to thank those who laid the solid foundation upon which many of us are seeking to build today as we plan for the future.

Mr. Speaker, like the Honourable Member for St. James Central and I believe the Honourable Member for St. Philip North I was born in the year 1966 and therefore perhaps a lot of what we know about Barbados prior to that we obviously would have learnt from our parents and foreparents and generally speaking the adults in society and indeed from our writings. One thing I can tell you is that those of us who were born in and around that era must give thanks to those who provided the basis upon which we have been able to build.

While the Resolution is calling upon us to recognise and salute all Barbadians who have made this accomplishment possible, we cannot have a discussion in Parliament about 50 years of independence without reflecting upon the immense contribution of Errol Walton Barrow in that crusade. There are so many others that we can speak of glowingly but I certainly believe it must be

read into the record and certainly reflected in Parliament the contribution of Errol Walton Barrow because he certainly above all clearly from the 1950s and perhaps even earlier recognised that Barbados must accelerate the journey it was on, recognised that Barbados in the 50s and perhaps the early 60s was still a very divided society, recognised that many of the vestiges of colonialism ought to be ... from the face of Barbados, that we cannot remove or replace or ignore history but that this small island of 166 square miles ought to have a right to determine its future. While internal self-government has worked well to a point in time, it certainly recognised that we will march with a greater sense of haste and urgency towards becoming an independent country within the British Commonwealth.

I know, Mr. Speaker, as we engage our minds on a Resolution such as this, that we must never lose sight of the fact that there were many back then who objected bitterly to Barbados becoming an independent nation, and I dare say that there are some today, some who bear the same surnames and the same colour of skin of those who objected then who perhaps feel that things should be rolled back and perhaps we should go back to being a colony, but I beg to differ, Mr. Speaker. As usual Mr. Barrow and his team persevered in the face of all of it and really and truly moved us as a nation forward.

Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1966, if I may be allowed to quote from writings and comments of Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, he said the soul of this community has to be laid bare and there is no better time to do that than when we are preparing for independence so that we know what we are, who we are and where we are going. This is a very profound statement made over 50 years ago but still relevant today. As a matter of fact, I will remove the word independence and perhaps just put the future because what we are doing today as we wrap our minds around this Resolution is to have a conversation about what we are, who we are and where we are going and of course not ignoring from whence we have come. Mr. Speaker, I think that those simple words reflected upon by Mr. Barrow back in 1966 still resonate with us today.

The other point I would like to quote quickly to put it all in context and to wrap up any perspective on Mr. Barrow is to quote words from Sir Kenneth Stuart, outstanding physician, statesman, scholar, teacher and what-not in the Caribbean and in the United Kingdom in particular where he reflected upon Mr. Barrow's work. He said for creative men like Errol there can be no final arrival. They represent great continuums and are not to be mourned. When we speak of them in the past it is because the grammar of language dictates it is not the grammar of life. While that reflected upon Errol Walton Barrow by Sir Kenneth Stuart it perhaps also captured the working and the thoughts of many of those who went before to lay the foundation for a modern Barbados.

We have Mr. Speaker, to be very appreciative of those who did it before. It was not just the politicians who engaged in their debate and espoused the vision and really work towards it. As the Honourable Prime Minister and others have said we have been fortunate to have built up a strong public service over the years that have served the country well generally speaking and has helped Barbados to become the envy of much of the world over time. It is also because we have built up institutions over the years that have worked and worked well. It is also because we have had ordinary Barbadians who felt very proud of their nation and have made immense contribution to it.

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss this today let us salute and celebrate not just with those who have held high offices but ordinary Barbadians who have worked hard to build us up: Those who have worked in the hotel industry ensuring that our guests are comfortable as well, those who have toiled in the agricultural lands to ensure that there is food on the table, those who worked in the educational system to ensure that we have had over the years a quality education that allows all of us to stand up as men and women to hold our heads high and be proud of the fact that we can speak eloquently to many of the issues that prevailed in the society, and those who are responsible for law and order over the years to ensure that Barbados remains a very civilised society going forward as well. Mr. Speaker, we can give great thanks.

As I look now to the present and then perhaps peek a bit into the future, we certainly today have some, challenges, let us not fool ourselves. We all debate these inside here but in grappling with our challenges I think we have to reflect upon the fact that as a nation we ought to be a nation of resilient people. Those who went before us had their challenges but they did not throw their hands in the air and say there is nothing they can do, they rolled up their sleeves, they buckled down, they drew on all of the available resources in this nation and they got on with the task. I suspect that today 50 years after independence that level of resilient is still there but perhaps is a bit challenged by a country that sometimes is a bit too divided politically, a country that still has some class issues to frontally addressed, and a country that perhaps is not using all of the available human resource within it to really help us to not just wrestle the problems to the ground but to certainly move the country forward in a very sustainable manner.

Mr. Speaker, I would like in the few minutes remaining to reflect on a few things that I think we ought to address, some that are very tangible and some perhaps that are less tangible but certainly also set the stage. Let us look at politics, Mr. Speaker, because it is not just about from whence we have come, it is where we are going as well. Mr. Barrow in 1966 had his own vision and he announced it and he took us forward to a point. I think the task now falls to us to ask ourselves about the future of Barbados and

not just to the next 50 years, let us disabuse our minds of that. I certainly will unlikely would be alive 50 years from now and 50 is a number. The reality about it is that we have to ask ourselves where we want to be five or ten years from now. Sir, 50 years is 50 incremental years, it is not just a fixation of time but let us ask ourselves where we are going to be as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, first, it may not be the priority area but I feel strongly about it and I say it here in Parliament. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to represent the people of St. James South who I consult with widely and hopefully they would allow me to continue to do that here, but there are a couple of things I think we need to address, (1), the institution of Parliament and the leadership of the country in governance. Mr. Speaker, I hold the view that the conversation in this country going beyond this has to be about Barbados moving from where we are now, to becoming a Republic and hopefully maybe within the British Commonwealth, I do not know, but I feel strongly that the journey has to continue now to the point where the Queen is no longer the Head of State in Barbados, that Barbados becomes a Republic with its own President or however styles. Mr. Speaker, to me, that is the natural next step from whence we came in 1966.

Mr. Speaker, of course, there are those who would ask how does that benefit the economy or the people, but it creates a greater sense of pride in nationhood. There are those who would say that if we do that the British are going to stop coming here. Sir, I have never met anybody from the United Kingdom who concerns himself as to whether the Queen is Head of State of Barbados or if we are Republic with our own President, that is simply not the case.

Mr. Speaker, it sends a strong message to this country and to future generations that we are in control, that we are proud enough and that we have reached that point in our journey where a Barbadian can now be the ultimate leader in this country and not someone located thousands of miles away in Buckingham Palace or elsewhere. Sir, this is no disrespect to the Monarchy, they have represented a sense of stability over the years and such like. I think we have always been proud to remain in the Commonwealth and perhaps we will remain that way, but certainly as Parliamentary representative for St. James South I can tell you that I stand here and take a stance that Barbados must move towards becoming a Republic and that I hope we can do that by November 30th, 2017. I do not think there will be a big issue about it because both parties have agreed in principle to that case.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that as we look upon the future as to where we are now and where we are going that there are a couple of other matters that we have to address in terms of governance in this country. Sir, a lot of the

institutions that we have exposed and have dealt with over the years we have not yet, to my mind, had enough of a serious conversation about their importance, relevance, structure, and what we should do going forward. I think this conversation today in Parliament allows us the opportunity to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we have the Legislative, the Executive Arm of Government and the Judiciary. Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to wrap our minds around issues such as if the current structure allows us to really achieve what we want to achieve going forward as a nation. Mr. Speaker, let us be frank. I ask the question, when I look at the current system of Government in Barbados, indeed, the Eastern Caribbean, the Executive Arm comes out of the Legislative Arm of Government and so it shall remain. The question is, given our limited size and what-not, to what extent should there be a limit on the size of the Executive Arm of Government, vis-à-vis, the Legislation Arm to ensure that there is stronger checks and balances in our system.

Mr. Speaker, these are not matters from which we have to run away, we must ask ourselves these questions, given the size of successive Cabinets in Barbados and look towards the future. Also, given the fact that a majority sit in the Lower House, to what extent, truthfully, is the Legislative Arm of Government in control of providing a real check and balance in our system of administration. Sir, these are matters that must cross the political divide. As we look towards the future, we have to ask ourselves on these matters. They are not tough questions, they speak, to my mind, about a future Barbados that is really moving towards a Parliament that is a lot more engaging, creating bigger checks and balance over the Executive Arm, an Executive Arm of Government that recognises and certainly works most assiduously in a manner as though it is accountable as well to the Parliament regarding those checks and balances.

Mr. Speaker, we also have the other arm, the Judiciary. There have not been any real conversations in here over the years about the Judiciary. Sir, the beauty about having a debate like this that allows -- I cannot say for the whip to be off -- us an individual Parliamentarians in speaking not just about the last 50 years and about where we are going, we too have to have a conversation about the structure, functioning, the appointments of, the accountability of, checks and balances, et cetera, regarding our Judiciary. The reality about it is that the system as presently exists seems not to be lending itself to a Judiciary that provides the highest level of output as is required by the nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a criticism of any judicial officer who holds any particular office, I am speaking about a system. Sir, as I look towards the future I would like to see a judiciary in this country that is a lot more

scholarly in its work, that is a lot more productive in terms of the turnaround time for decision-making, one that seems to have a greater level of accountability to the country, while at the same time maintaining a strong level of independence. Mr. Speaker, we have, in this conversation which will not end here today, to continue to address these matters going forward.

Mr. Speaker, outside of the realm of Government, Barbados has been blessed over the past 50 years with the growth and development of a private sector but what troubles me today and as I peek into the future is that the private sector in Barbados needs to be more energised and innovative. I have always said this and will say it again, the private sector in Barbados is ripe for privatisation. It may sound a little strange, it is not meant to be hilarious, but we cannot have a private sector that is dependent to this large extent upon the Government for more than just providing the best regulatory environment, it must be a private sector that is very entrepreneurial in nature. It must be a private sector that is prepared to take more risks. It must be a private sector that is prepared to invest and reinvest in itself. It must be a private sector that looks beyond the shores of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, when our Founding Fathers in modern Barbados were having the conversation, they recognised the role of the private sector but it was at a stage in our economic and social development when the State had to take the leading role. I think our economic development going forward has to be one that is private sector led where the State's role is to provide the best regulatory environment to ensure that there is equity and fair play across the land in much respect, to help provide that human resource that is necessary for a very vibrant private sector. Mr. Speaker, the private sector too has to unshackle itself and recognise that they have to get out there and lead in many respects.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe, quite frankly, that the growth and development of the private sector will also be aided and assisted by the State revisiting its role in the services and goods that it provides. Over the years and across the political divide we have had instances where the State has had to relieve itself of some of that pressure and to get the private sector involved. Sir, more of that needs to take place, but not in a willy-nilly fashion, it has to be well planned out, it must be based on some philosophy, common understanding, principle and clear policies, so that the State is not seen to be just selling off the family silver and giving away things, but as I look towards the future, as I look at five years from now, not 50 years, I would like to see a public sector that is reduced not just in size but also in terms of its sphere of influence across the land and that a lot of that work is picked up by a very vibrant enterprise. Over the last 50 years, let us be frank, the State has had to take the leading role in the provision of much of these

activities because the private sector hitherto was perhaps a bit too conservative and averse to risk. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, where I stand now in this position as parliamentary representative for St. James South as well as Minister of Commerce, Industry, International Business and Small Business Development, when asked about where we ought to go towards the future with private enterprise in Barbados, because it will inform the kind of policies that we create as Government to make it happen. I want to see a private sector that is far more innovative than it ever has been. We have latent skills in our society that need to be shaken up and brought to the fore to make this happen. We need to stop being consumers of other people's ideas and start creating our own ideas and sharing them with the rest of the world, Mr. Speaker. We are only limited by our fear somewhat, and we need to shake that fear. There are so many young people in Barbados who have ideas, Mr. Speaker, but when they exist in an ecosystem that does not encourage them to dare to be different and does not encourage them to really and truly take their ideas to make an effort at least to become a reality, then we have a challenge.

Mr. Speaker, that is why in my Ministry, for example, we are currently looking at a project that will take some University of the West Indies students, in particular, and put them onto a fast track entrepreneurial programme, where we can say, "It is not just about getting your degree; it is what ideas you have, especially in the natural sciences, that allow you to come to the fore." Why can we not develop some pharmaceuticals here? We talk about the prevalence of diabetes and hypertension and all the chronic non-communicable diseases in Barbados, in particular, which affect primarily those of African descent, but still we are waiting on Eurocentric researchers to provide us with solutions. I am saying that we have to be bold enough to say to some of our young, bright minds at the Cave Hill Campus or wherever in natural sciences, "Come let us provide the environment where you can do some research; where you can work 24/7 without fear; where we can make an investment in you and your ideas." Some will succeed, some will fail but it starts a process of really creating that culture of innovation. A small example of a project like that can be translated across the entire country, to where in five years or so Barbados becomes the innovation hub of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, there are things happening in information communication technology already, but they are so quiet and not at the pace that I think it ought to be taking place around here. Our private enterprise therefore has to work with Government to create the kind of resources you need to make such things happen, but too many of our companies in Barbados do not invest in research and development. Their belief seems to be about buying something, putting on a markup and selling it; about buying somebody else's idea and somebody else's

technology. Mr. Speaker, I am saying that some companies in Barbados are involved in some niche areas where they must make more of an investment in research and development. Do it on your own. You do not always need to have a handout from Government to make it happen. If the State is providing the educational system that allows you to have that human resource, make use of it as well. Mr. Speaker, we also have to recognise from the private enterprise side that we need to have more of an export thrust.

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

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: I am going to come down now, Mr. Speaker. There will be other times to get in details on that. Mr. Speaker, there is the third arm relating to Government, the private sector and labour. Let me make this clear in the few minutes remaining. Barbados cannot move forward in a positive and sustainable manner if we have a reckless labour movement. I am satisfied that workers in this country have the best interests of Barbados at heart. This is our 50th Year of Independence and we need all hands on deck, not just to celebrate over the next couple of weeks but to really ensure that this country can get back to punching above its weight and doing well. Mr. Speaker, we are faced today with an industrial relations climate, particularly in the last couple of days, where I am told that there is a little bit of frustration at the ports of entry. It is not just about people visiting Barbados, but when Barbadians are challenged in receiving goods that they want for the holidays, we know where to cast the blame.

Let me make my position clear on this particular issue that is before us today, Mr. Speaker. I am satisfied that the Public Service of Barbados has acted according to the laws of this country. I am satisfied that the utterances which I am hearing from the labour leaders today is recklessness. Let me make my point. I am a politician. I am also a politician, but questions must be asked. I believe there is a case in the court of Barbados today, sitting somewhere in the judiciary, fuelled by one of the unions, where officers have been accused of superseding others. We need to ask ourselves who was responsible for that, because there are some characters in some Government departments who use their good offices to ensure that friends and families are placed in key positions, sometimes even without the approval of their superior officers. Mr. Speaker, this particular case I am very familiar with, because I know that if the Ministry did ask for the particular skillset to be placed in that department, and the Personnel Administration Department sent back down a recommendation or placed somebody in the position who did not have the skills, two or three months later the same Ministry said, "We need this particular skill in here." That is when the final decision was taken.

Mr. Speaker, I called the President of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) on the weekend and said to him, "I want an opportunity to speak to your members at your office at the NUPW Headquarters," because this is now a political matter. This is not about any administration; this is pure politics and I am a politician. He said he cannot allow that. I said I am going to ask permission for the police to hold a public meeting outside the NUPW Headquarters, if that is what it takes. The truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not going to sit here as we celebrate our 50th year of Independence and have Barbados brought to a screeching halt by a bunch of irresponsible trade union leaders who are purely about practising their partisan politics. I told the individual at the substance of this matter, "I have constituents who have been asked to revert to their substantive positions and on no occasion did the union come to their rescue. Do not tell me that because you are president of a union that you must be treated so specially." Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, these said officers are public officers, and you can look at the fact that when they hold these offices they do not go to work too often, they do not produce. Our forefathers must be very embarrassed at what happens these days around here. The individual, as far as I am concerned and all my evidence points to it, is not qualified for the position, should never have been placed there, and as a matter of fact I ask here for the Minister of the Civil Service at some point in time to say who is the person that placed him in that position in the first instance. My father is not alive to do anything for me. I have to paddle my own canoe.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, let me say that where we are now is based on the strong and sterling contribution of those who have gone before us, and we celebrate all of them; those who have come into Parliament, the ordinary man in the street, the mothers who have had to struggle to raise their sons and daughters, those in the clergy of the church who have helped to keep the moral compass in the right position and the teachers who have sought to teach our children. We must be very grateful and appreciative of all that has gone before us. We are at a critical juncture in our economic, social and political development, and this is the time when we have to ask ourselves exactly where we are going to be maybe five years from now; not just 50. That is why I say let us revisit the institution of Parliament and its structures, its effectiveness. Let us revisit the relationship between the Executive arms of Government. Let us be bold enough to unravel what is happening in the judiciary and get it right. Let us give our young people in particular greater hope and aspiration. Let us have a private sector that is far more innovative, for more entrepreneurial than we have ever had before, creating opportunities for young people in particular. Let us also have a trade union movement that is far more responsible. One that conducts itself as their own forefathers did in terms of engaging around national development, not about petty individual partisan things.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: I am satisfied that Barbados is poised to do much better in the immediate future.

I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: I want to join this debate in this Lower House, in congratulating Barbados on achieving its 50 years of Independence. I also want to express my appreciation and my gratitude to all Barbadians who have contributed significantly to the development of this country over the past 50 years and indeed before. Those who are here with us, civil servants, our forefathers and, of course, our existing Members of Parliament present and past Members of Parliament.

I also at this time wish to recognise the work done by the trade union movement, together with both political Parties pre-independence. It is indeed, Mr. Speaker, through our struggle for workers' rights we were able to be an Independent nation. I wish to spend a few minutes dealing with our struggle and pre-independence.

Mr. Speaker, despite the laudable efforts of the Democratic Labour Party, at the end of 1937 to 1966 period, the main movers for reform in this country, part of 1966, were the Barbados Labour Party and what some writers called its Siamese twin, the Barbados Workers Union. It was a partnership between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers Union that fought the fight of pre-independence.

Mr. Speaker, I in no way during my presentation or the few minutes that I am on my feet in this Lower House, will seek to minimise or devalue the importance or the work that was done by the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. I in no way will seek to devalue his work, but it is important to understand where we came from, like the Honourable Member for St. James South said, and what happened pre-independence. It is important to understand the role that adult suffrage played in us achieving our Independence. It is important that our generation, those born after 1966, and it is important that our children and our grandchildren really understand the history of pre-independence because if you do not know where you came from, you do not know where you are going.

Sir, there are still with us in the Caribbean some colonies who are still comfortable, like the Honourable Member for St. James South said, in reporting to the Queen and England. We must not take what we have achieved for granted, and it speaks to the self-confidence of our leaders back then. It speaks to the will and the courage of our

forefathers and our great leaders, those whom we celebrate as Heroes in this country. It speaks to their presence then and their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, this whole aspect of Independence and when we follow the history, and I will do as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said, "Do not rewrite history", I will try not to, Sir. It is written in a number of books the work that was done by Sir Grantley Adams, the work that was done by Sir Hugh Springer. We know part of 1966, one political analysis would have written, the late Pat Emmanuel would have said that "The early Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers Union cooperation worked for the social economic endowment for the working people with first, small and second, larger success." Mr. Speaker, he went on to cite a number of developments that would have occurred in our legislative and custom malpractice. He spoke to issues like wage agreements, workmen's compensation, holidays with pay, factories supervision, shop operating hours, higher pensions, free and compulsory education. I wish to pause here because we spend a lot of time and sometimes rightfully so giving credit where credit is due, Mr. Speaker. When we look at the history, and it was said by Sir James Tudor that we must credit T.T. Lewis, who was a white poor man in this country, for free secondary education. That was said by Sir James Tudor. He also went on to say we must credit Errol Barrow for free school meals. These were the gentlemen, back in 1951, who were both part

of the Barbados Labour Party who fought under Grantley Adams and won that 1951 election. During that election there were these two innovations that came to the fore that saw the Barbados Labour Party returned as the Government of the day in 1951.

Sir, whereas we credit the father of Independence for free education, we must also give credit to Sir Grantley Adams, back in the 1950s, for free secondary education and also free school meals because it was under his stewardship and his leadership those two innovations came to the fore. I will not rewrite history because it is written, Mr. Speaker. It is good to know where we came from to know where we are going.

Sir, when we speak of the whole aspect of the whole 1937 riots, when we look at the 1937 riots, it was Clement Payne's and Grantley Adam's vision and passion to break free from the oppression of the plantocracy in this country, and to encourage the masses to seek a better life. They are some of the men who should be applauded and lauded for their efforts leading up to Independence in 1966. We just did not wake up and have Independence back in 1966, despite some pundits may want to believe that, but there were workings and efforts by great leaders, Samuel Jackman Prescod and despite the radical nature of Clement Payne, Israel Lovell and some of the other 'Garvenites',

these people played a major role in ensuring that we attained adult suffrage which was critical to Independence. So democracy, when we summarise the history -- we can summarise the history by saying that under Grantley Adams the fight for adult suffrage, the achievement of adult suffrage as well as the whole aspect of democracy, that is why he dubbed the Moses never to be forgotten in this country, because a lot of work was done by Sir Grantley Adams.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a moment please.

*Madam Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair at this time.*

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank You Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is said that it was the political aptitude of Sir Grantley Adams that set Barbados on a path to Independence from Britain. Why I chose to spend a few minutes on Sir Grantley Adams is, you will hear the pundits speak about him saying that he was not a real socialist and he was not radical, but you needed people like Sir Grantley Adams and Samuel Jackman Prescod. Those were the persons whose sort of style was not in keeping with demonstration or agitation. These were the guys who tried to coerce the merchant class and the plantocracy back then, to ensure that the workers would benefit more from legislative intervention more so than riots and agitations. We must applaud the work of Sir Grantley Adams as we celebrate our 50th year of Independence.

I want to go on record in this House to say that Sir Grantley Adams, his political attitude set Barbados on the path for Independence because he was not a radical socialist. He was a conservative socialist, in my view, if that is a political term.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let us join together as a Parliament and applaud not just The Right Excellent Sir Errol Walton Barrow, but applaud all the other pioneers who would have fought for the rights of the working class people in this country.

Madam, the trade union movement -- I heard the Honourable Member for St. James South being very critical of the present trade union movement, but I am not going there with him because in my view, in celebrating 50 years of Independence, the hard work put into this country by the trade union movement, we can hear today because of a little impasse, we can hear a Member of this Lower House get up and strip the trade union of its rights, in this Resolution, to represent workers. That is how political Parties were formed. Political Parties were formed, Madam

Deputy Speaker, out of the right to represent workers, out of the right to protect workers' interest, out of the right for social justice and empowerment of people, enfranchisement of people. That is how political Parties were formed back then, and Sir Grantley Adams, again, was at the forefront of it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I spoke about the style of Sir Grantley Adams and I spoke about the style of Samuel Jackman Prescod, who I said were not radical socialists but I believe that transformation came through tapping into the marginalized liberal element within the empowered merchant class, and that was done by these men.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have just given a brief history. I did not rewrite it. It is written. This is known to some who were born pre 1966 and known to some of us in this Lower House who were born after 1966. Indeed I was born in 1969. I gave a little history.

I also want to transition to our celebration in the 50th year of our Independence. We all know that the Barbados Labour Party governed this country for 24 of the 50 years, from 1976 to 1986, and 1994 to 2008. Madam Deputy Speaker, we see no reason why this oldest political institution should not have been included in the planning of the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker, no one on this side, no members of the Barbados Labour Party can say that they were approached to say to be a part of the planning for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, none of us. I say, Madam Deputy Speaker, our celebration of 50th years of Independence should not be partisan. I say our 50 years of Independence should include all political Parties, all activists groups, all people within the society who think they have a contribution to make. More important, when we as leaders are supposed to set the tone for whatever transpired during the 50th year of our celebration. Indeed the tone was set and it was not such a good tone, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker, whereas the Democratic Labour Party chose the Planning Committee for the 50th Year Celebration, I can attest to being left out. Yes, I was included in one aspect of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, but in the constituency that I represent, the good people of St. George South who sent me to this Lower House to represent them, the Broken Trident came to the constituency of St. George South on three occasions and on all three occasions the Representative, the Member of Parliament for St. George South yours truly, was not invited to take part in the 50th Anniversary Celebration as it relates to the Trident being in the constituency for which I represent. Yet we are saying it is not partisan. I will assure you that if any Member of the Barbados Labour Party's team in this Lower House was part of the Planning Committee that would not have happened.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Trident went to my school, Ellerton Primary. I was not invited. The Trident went to the only Anglican Church in St. George South. I was not invited. Madam Deputy Speaker, whereas I cannot speak for the others, I can speak for myself and I ask this question if it is not partisan and if we truly recognise the work of Sir Grantley Adams, why could the Trident not go the 111 Roebuck Street? Why could it not go opposite Hill Supermarket? Why could we not spend some time with the Broken Trident celebrating the work and the foundation that Sir Grantley Adams would have laid in this country for Independence? We were ignored, Madam Deputy Speaker, but yet you will come and give us a little invitation here and little invitation there, but where it really mattered 24 years of governance in this country under the Barbados Labour Party the hard work of Sir Grantley Adams, yet we cannot see the Trident at 111 Roebuck Street. Yet it is not supposed to be partisan.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I will not dwell there because I am not here to spend my morning criticizing because are supposed to be celebrating the 50th year of Independence. I want to say we have come from 1937 and before to 1966. We have come from 1966 to present. Madam, where do we want to go and what is happening in our country at this time. We have seen over the last 8 years, well within the last 4 years, the abandonment of free tertiary education. We have seen, Madam Deputy Speaker, workers sent home from NCC, the Transport Board and Beautify Barbados. We have seen, Madam Deputy Speakers, worker unfairly dismissed and today as we speak employees in the Customs are fighting for job satisfaction and better working conditions. We have seen today workers at the Psychiatric and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Polyclinics also calling for better working conditions.

This country today, Madam Deputy Speaker,

Is dealing and grappling with onerous taxation policies by this Government in our 50th year of Independence. This country today we are seeing a decline in investments. We are seeing investors complaining of the ease of doing business in this country. Today workers in a democratic system of Government fear victimization for speaking their minds. Today, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Trade Unions and its leaders are being disrespected. From whence such treatment can be meted out to Unions who have served workers in this country long and faithfully. Treatment, two No-confidence Motions, being brought against a union leader. We refused to put the Trade Union leader on the National Union of Public on the Severance Payment Tribunal Board when it was recommended by the National Union of Public Workers, in writing, that said union leader should serve on the Severance Payment Tribunal Board, but, Madam Deputy Speaker, this Government in its 50th Year of Independence chose to put

who they want to put and want to blame the excuse on a clerical officer.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in our 50th Year of Independence the Honourable Member for St. James South spoke about this issue with the union leader, but we are reverting union leader without a reason. I am saying when such treatment can be meted out to a union leader or its leadership or its people, then it is time that the public sit up, it is time that the public takes notice and guard against such infringements of justice and fair play in this country. Madam, the National Union of Public Workers' leader is being victimised in the 50th Year of our Independence by this Government. In the words of ...

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I never said the current President of the NUPW as asked to revert to his substantive post in the public service without a valid reason. I never said anything either that could be construed that the gob is victimising the goodly public officer.

Simply put, Madam Deputy Speaker, I made it clear that the rules regarding the public service of Barbados in the appointment of these positions have been followed and that the individual did not have the qualifications to be appointed to the post, that the public service has found someone with the requisite qualifications as required by the Ministry, and has happened to hundreds of other public officers who have not been defended, in this case, had to revert to their substantive posts. So therefore no one can say that it has happened without a cause. You need to ask how he got there in the first place, the role of his father.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member you did not need to say so.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: thank UOU, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam, I say to the Democratic Labour Party Hitler is dead, kill local fascism. Hitler is dead and we need to kill fascism. We need to stop oppressing people in this country as leaders, Madam Deputy Speaker. Charles Morris, Madam, the leader of the National Union of Punic workers, Peter Scott and the list goes on.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we can call other names, George Belle, Peter Scott, oppressed by the Democratic Labour Party.

I say again Hitler is dead, kill local fascism.

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: I am a little concerned...

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what do you rise?

Hon. D.O’N. INNISS: On appoint of elucidation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I do not know that the Honourable Member has been granted permission to call the names of individuals like that. We have established procedures in Parliament that if you wish to call the names of individuals whom you assumed have been victimised you should ask the Speaker’s permission, because Maria Agard too is victimised.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of elucidation.

Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam, while we celebrate 50 Years of Independence in this country, we have been set back 20 years in development under the Democratic Labour Party. I just listed a number of areas that this Government is grappling with. When we analyse the real impact to this country’s development, this country has been set back 20 years in its development.

I ask, Madam, what is the Democratic Labour Party’s philosophy? What do you stand for? What do represent as a political institution in you 50th Year of Independence? Having abandoned free tertiary education that was the corner stone of the Democratic Labour Party?

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party can boast of a philosophy. We have just produced a document which speaks to who we are and what we stand for. I ask what the Democratic Labour Party’s philosophy is. What do you stand for? What do you represent as a political institution in your 50th Year of Independence? Having abandoned free tertiary education that was the corner stone of the Democratic Labour Party?

Madam, the Barbados Labour Party can boast of a philosophy. Madam Deputy Speaker, we have just produced a document which speaks to who we are, what we stand for and what we will fight for, our “Covenant of Hope”, Madam Deputy Speaker.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes left.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you. In summary, this document, Madam Deputy Speaker, speaks to better governance, to the empowerment and enfranchisement of our people, to the inclusion of people in our decision-making and to a high level of transparency in how we will govern this country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we believe in this 50th year of independence that there are certain things that ought to

be obvious and should be given to our people. We believe that every young person in this country should leave secondary school with certificates or with a skill. Madam Deputy Speaker, we believe that it is time in the 50th year of our independence that the Barbados Vocational Training Board be built out in terms of its capability and capacity. Too many young people are leaving our schools in our 50th year of independence without skills. We know very well that all cannot become doctors, lawyers or astute businessmen but we need to build out the vocational training skills in this country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we must protect in our 50th year of independence our National Insurance Scheme and restore its stability. We must prepare for a rainy day. Our National Insurance Scheme needs better management, and we will offer that. Madam Deputy Speaker, this country must transition - we spoke about it in the Green Economy Scoping Study but it is worth mentioning - to a clean energy society starting with our public transport.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in our 50th year of independence we should be having more efficient public transport in this country. We have outlined in our “Covenant of Hope” what we as a party stands for and what we will do to empower our citizens in this 50th year of independence.

I want to say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that most of what we have articulated in this document called the “Covenant of Hope” speaks to respect for our citizens in this country, that is where we have to start. Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to leave you with the words of Nelson Mandela which go like this: For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

I am obliged to you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to say a few words on this important Resolution. Let me start of course by expressing appreciation to the constituents of Christ Church South who have given me the honour of representing them in this Chamber. Madam Deputy Speaker, of course it is in pursuit of this very important work that we have to be sure that at appropriate times the signal goes out so that people can recognise what is being done to make things better and to bring about solid and permanent improvements in our country. I think the work of the Democratic Labour Party over the last eight years demonstrates a commitment to improvement and a commitment to progress of which in spite of the world’s conditions that prevail, we have been able to largely keep

the heads of Barbadians high and keep the flag of Barbados flying in this region and worldwide.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to refer to the Resolution in its totality because I think that as we go down the road of this debate one may lose track of what the Resolution seeks to achieve especially when presentations like the last one from the Honourable Member for St. George South are allowed to be made without response.

The Resolution is very clear that whereas on the 30th of November 2016 Barbados celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Independence, that is very shortly in a couple of weeks and whereas over the last 50 years Barbados has made significant strides in its economic, social and political development, devoid of any partisan commentary, and whereas over this period Barbados has emerged as a highly respected Small Island Developing State whose voice resonates regionally and internationally; be it resolved that this Parliament congratulates Barbados, not the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party, the people of Barbados, on the attainment of this significant milestone and hails the efforts of all Barbadians, again Madam Deputy Speaker, in making this accomplishment possible.

I believe now, Madam Deputy Speaker, you recognise already why I felt I had to read the Resolution again because the Honourable Member who just sat down would have given us the impression and would seek to give Barbadians listening the impression that the Government of Barbados is today bringing some Resolution to congratulate the Members on this side for something that we may have done. All we have done, Madam Deputy Speaker, as a Government...

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member, on what do you rise?

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and indeed he is misleading the listeners because when I rose to my feet the first words I uttered in this Lower House is that I want to begin the debate by joining the Parliament and congratulating Barbados on achieving 50 years of independence. Madam Deputy Speaker, I went on also to express my appreciation and gratitude to all Barbadians who have contributed to this country's development.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Point of Order taken.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. The Honourable Member will have as many opportunities as he chooses to get up and modify his presentation from time to time but I want to congratulate the mover of the Resolution, the Honourable

Prime Minister, who made the point that it is only if we recognise that we have something to be appreciative of that we can celebrate.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Administration deemed that during this 50 years of Independence we have satisfactorily as a nation achieved so much that we needed to celebrate this occasion, in light of all the Opposition that we faced from the time of the announcement of this celebration some time, I believe, around November last year.

Sir, the new fallback position of the Barbados Labour Party is understandable. They have recognised that the nation Barbados has moved on in celebrating the 50th Anniversary, so their response of their participation must now be modified. We appreciate that and we look forward to their participation henceforth. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Members of the Barbados Labour Party started to celebrate the movement of the Broken Trident throughout Barbados with us, as I made the point from my seat, although you would not have heard. The Honourable George Payne, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew ran up Hillaby with the Broken Trident.

*Asides.*

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Madam Deputy Speaker, the rules of this Honourable House speak to Honourable Members calling the names of other Honourable Members.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please refrain from calling Honourable Members by their names.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, both the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, to her credit, was there and celebrated the Broken Trident. Madam Deputy Speaker, they then backed off and started to spread rumours around Barbados that we were spending \$33 million in celebration. They got their lackeys in the public domain to spread these lies.

Mr. Speaker, truth wins out, when that Monument at the Garrison is revealed on the night of the 29th and Barbadians cast their eyes, I expect something that is going to so complement the work of our foreparents that will so complement their work that we will continue to express with pride.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party has led this country for 24 of the 50 years, so that there is no contest, really. The congratulations are for the people of Barbados, that is what the Resolution speaks to, that is what the Right Honourable Prime Minister was at pains to point out and

that is where we must spread our emphasis and recognise how we have achieved these great strides.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter in 2006 would have revealed the statute of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, so I do not know what is this position that is being taken where you are trying to set up walls between Barbadians. We will not have it. the Right Honourable Prime Minister had made the point that we have benefited from a smooth transition of leadership and governance in this country and that we are not going to promote any partisan divide in Barbados, and that this is a Government for all Barbadians. Madam Deputy Speaker, we are seeing the results of what happened in the United States of America, a country which is supposed to be a leading light in the world. Now to a large extent it is a questionable example as to how political campaigns should be run.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Barbados and Barbadians have a lot to be proud about. When we speak to our ten National Heroes, we speak to excellence, that is why there is the reference “The Right Excellent”. It is not because they were fair, not because they were good but Madam Deputy Speaker, because their contributions were excellence. Therefore we named them, The Right Excellent Bussa; the Right Excellence Sara Ann Gill; the Right Excellent Samuel Jackman Prescod; the Right Excellent Charles Duncan O’Neal; the Right Excellent Grantley Herbert Adams, first Premier of the West Indies Federation; the Right Excellent Clement Payne; the Right Excellent Hugh Worrell Springer; the Right Excellent Frank Leslie Walcott; the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, and of course the only living National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister was at pains again to point out the relationship between the success of Barbados and the West Indies under the leadership of the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers and the signal to Britain that this region is ready for Independence. Madam Deputy Speaker, I feel constrained to use part of my presentation to make these points, less we go down that childish road that the Honourable Member for St. George South has threatened to take us. I am not going there.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have the responsibility, as you are aware, for the Ministry of Health in Barbados. I believe that I should spend a little time in speaking to some of our achievements in this regard. I really want to congratulate the team at the Ministry of Health but even more so the larger non-governmental organisations in Barbados who have used the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence to share with Barbadians some of the significant progress we have made, not only in health, of course, but in all aspects of our development.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an indication of the way the nationals of Barbados have taken to the need and the appreciative expression that is required to the hard work of our forefathers that these organisations have come out and without even any prompting from the Government have been able to participate in spreading the gospel of their achievement in business, agriculture, tourism and transport, work in the environment and indeed in our achievements in health.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe that tonight the Barbados Drug Service is going to be sponsoring another lecture which will speak to where Barbados has gone, where Barbados has come from in terms of health in particular. The speaker is Sir Errol Walrond, a well-renown Barbadian surgeon who along with so many stalwart of that time would have done so much good work in developing the healthcare services in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have moved from a position where Barbados would have been experiencing in the 1950s and early 1960s a situation of communicable diseases like measles and rubella and all kinds of flu, mumps and other ailments. We have moved to a point where life expectancy in Barbados has risen for females to something like 78 years and for males to something like 73 years; almost a ten-year increase in each case. We have moved from an era highlighted by communicable diseases to one in which essentially every Barbadian child can expect a full life, and through our vaccination programme every child has been spared the scourge of these largely communicable diseases. Every family in Barbados in the 1960s, I am sure, would have experienced what I am talking about, where survival of a newborn baby was not guaranteed because access to healthcare was not readily available. I can speak to that. We lost a little brother at one year old because of the diseases of the day. We have to understand where we have come from. Death is with us still, obviously, but the point is, “What can we expect as a nation because of the hard work of these people who we speak to in this Resolution?” These are our doctors, our nurses, our healthcare workers, our workers in the Ministry or whatever it was before Independence. These are the important struggles.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have moved to a point where we now speak to the challenges of non-communicable diseases. We speak about the threat of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and the causes of these diseases; lifestyle causes in some cases, such as what we eat, whether we smoke and what excesses we get into. There is nothing wrong with something in discretion but it is when we move into excesses, and science tells us, that we start to harm the organs in our body and then deterioration sets in. Then, in one form the other, we become ill and you know the result. The point is that we have moved to a point where we have to spend a lot of

time in the Ministry of Health educating Barbadians about how we can contribute to longevity, yes, but also a healthy lifestyle. Whereas we may not be able to guarantee that someone lives to any particular age, I want to start Barbadians in a conversation which speaks to actually being healthy while we are living. That is where the lifestyle change occurs and we ask Barbadians to examine their diets, please, to look at the excesses, look at the question of obesity and avoid those foods which we know can bring about these ailments in our future lives. The message has been constantly reverberating around Barbados about these threats.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I spoke to communicable diseases which have been essentially a thing of the past, but anyone reading the discussion on health worldwide would also be aware of the re-emergence of some of those diseases which we thought we had covered. There are reasons for that, including resistance to certain treatments and medicines. There is a constant vigilance that is therefore required to make sure that we maintain that healthy position and that we keep the communicable diseases essentially at bay. That is why we have a vaccination programme in our primary schools and for our young babies, which is essentially the envy of the world. Madam Deputy Speaker, Barbados scores heavily in terms of its achievements in our vaccination programme, recognising the rights of everyone and making sure that Barbadian parents understand the value of immunising their children against these communicable diseases. We maintain a very high output in that regard, and again I want to commend the teams, and we go back to the history of people like Eunice Gibson and all those wonderful healthcare professionals who would have built those programmes and made sure they were put in place and that we today have something, a platform on which to walk. The healthcare providers of today just have to continue implementing the improvements that are required.

Of course, our vigilance has to be also in the area of re-emerging and new diseases, Madam Deputy Speaker. We have diseases associated with the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito which is present in Barbados and is constantly under the attention of the Environmental Health Unit in our Ministry along with so many private sector partners. These include business places which participate in making sure that insecticides and pesticides are available for use not only by the Ministry itself but by organisations who respond to these very important issues. We have embarked on a programme in the Ministry of Health. I want to focus on the term eradication; the eradication of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito. It is not impossible, and I have been fortunate to hear leaders from other countries speak to the fact that they have achieved eradication of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito in their countries, but once again they remind us that there needs to be that vigilance in order to maintain such a programme. We need to have a strong

programme of fogging, of making sure that the communities are in sync with the requirements of the health officials, that householders are co-operating and getting rid of stagnant water areas, et cetera. This, I must admit, is largely being adhered to and the reports in the Ministry of Health continue to be extremely positive in this regard. We recognise that responsibility in terms of the health of our nation as it would impact on the development of our nation. We cannot have a wealthy nation in an unhealthy environment, so we need to correct whatever problems there might be.

I want to pause to speak briefly but clearly to the situation at the South Coast Sewage Plant and the Graeme Hall Swamp. I think that we need to appreciate the distinction between the two areas. I spend a lot of time with the team at the South Coast Sewage Project and I know of many of the problems they encounter, but we have reached a stage where we have put together, with the Ministry responsible for Water Resources, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Health, a programme which will see us refurbish that entire plant and have it as a short-term measure that will see that situation corrected. In the meantime, there are short-term measures which, I am confident that the engineering and the maintenance team at the Barbados Water Authority are putting in place, even as we speak, to make sure that unsatisfactory condition in the Worthing/Graeme Hall area be corrected, and it is certainly something which is of deep concern to the Ministry of Health. The threat to our people is obvious and the matter is being dealt with alacrity by the ministries which I have named, making sure that problem can be alleviated.

I want in the meantime to really express a debt of thanks to the efforts being made by the staff of the Barbados Water Authority even under the challenging conditions to maintain some semblance of operation, at that plant so that the situation gets no worse. We will keep our eyes on that and make sure the situation is fully corrected in short measure. I spoke to the Graeme Hall swamp.

I have to reflect as the Prime Minister and I were reflecting earlier this morning, that sometimes in pursuit of these fancy solutions we lose sight of the essential work that should be done. There is a thing at the mouth of the Graeme Hall swamp that interface with the beach called a sluice gate, which would have been constructed many, many years ago and the object of that sluice gate was for it to be opened at high tide to allow the mixing of the brackish water to the sea, and the water of the swamp.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have five minutes left.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker.

That will allow for the control of odours in the swamp. It allows for the control of the growth of fish, et cetera, and other essential life which is required for the healthy existence of the swamp. This sluice gate used to be operated manually. Once there was a high tide situation the gate would be opened so that mixing could occur. It would also occur at a time when the beach was properly emptier so as not to impact on the recreation, good use, of the Worthing beach. My information tells me that we are waiting for a super solution. We are waiting to put in place some kind of magical solution that will allow us all to go to sleep and between the seas and the swamp there is this dialogue, this communication, which would then allow this process to occur.

I want to appeal to the authorities, the powers that be, that we go back for the time being to a simple solution, a simple solution, Madam Deputy Speaker, which will be essentially cheaper but will serve the purpose of alleviating the pain and suffering of the people of that area, the Graeme Hall area, Craig Road, Beckles Road and all those areas.

I therefore want to use this occasion, as I said, to appeal to the authorities that we work together to put in place these simple solutions, and to allow the sluice gate operation to occur once again and alleviate this unacceptable condition.

Madam, I want to end my presentation therefore, recognising that on the occasion of this celebration of our 50th Anniversary we need to step back and reflect on the wonderful achievements of our people, the wonderful achievements of our country in all respects. Our achievements socially, in terms of the programmes that we offer to those who need essential help in our country, our economic achievements where we have been able to maintain a standard of life in Barbados, the envy of many of our friends in the region and sometimes when I hear commentators in Barbados who I know travel around speak, I wonder which country are they comparing us with. The countries I visit do not bear comparison, without casting anything on any country's state of development, to what we enjoy in Barbados. A road network may not be perfect but it is there. A transport system that may not be perfect, but it works. It demonstrates a cooperation between private and public sector that is again the envy of many.

Our environmental achievements, again we have spent the last couple of weeks discussing the question of the environmental work in Barbados, where we have gone and the progress we have made and the continued investment in renewable energy which is being encouraged and facilitated through the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment to encourage Barbadians to save and to encourage Barbadians to move to a green economy, save on fossil fuel, save on the destruction of our

ozone layer, and a country which has enjoyed good government.

Madam, 24 years of the Barbados Labour Party Government, 26 years of a Democratic Labour Party in Government. Where is the divide? So when I hear leaders on that side say they are not participating it is an example of ungratefulness. There is an example of ungratefulness when I hear leaders on that side say to kick the Broken trident out the room, it is not only an expression of ungratefulness but it is a lack of understanding of what the Broken Trident stands for. The Broken Trident on our Flag is representative of the black people of Barbados, our nation builders. Why would we want to kick them Honourable Member?

Madam, I hope the Honourable Members of the Barbados Labour Party have now recognised that there is absolutely no reason to hide and criticise a wonderful achievement like 50 years of Independence, but you are required to participate in this once in a lifetime celebration as we may not have this opportunity again.

I am obliged to you and may God continue to bless our wonderful nation.

At this point Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be suspended for lunch until 2.00 p.m. today.

Rt. Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that.

*The question that the Sitting do now be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

## RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. Honourable Members, when the suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 22 and with that we shall continue. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

## ORDER No. 22 (RESUMED)

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Resolution that is before the House which is a very simple Resolution in its construction but of course a very significant one in terms of what it is speaking to. We are of course congratulating Barbados on reaching a significant milestone and hailing the efforts of all Barbadians in making this accomplishment possible. I think that, as I say, very succinctly says it all.

I am supporting the Resolution and of course I want to salute the mover of the Resolution, the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Prime Minister, who of course should be commended for that. I also think that the Prime Minister has been trying to put this whole question of our Golden Jubilee as an independent nation in an appropriate context, so I also think he should be saluted for that, the leadership that he is giving at the time of this milestone and the fact that he is trying to take the nation with him in terms of his vision and how he perceives the way we should approach this milestone. He posited at the beginning of this year three questions which again put in a capsule really and truly how we can approach this event. I say we meaning as individuals for that matter, as entities, as community groups, as businesses, as anything. The three questions he posited are: What are the features of Barbadian life that we have lost and we need to regain, what are the features that we have not lost and need to retain and of course what are the features that we have not lost but we need to discard. That is really an audit that any of us can go through and should use this milestone to go through and we can come out of it much stronger. In doing that, of course, I am speaking about organisations, individuals, communities, families, anything. That is in my opinion what leadership is really all about because we have to look back in order to understand where we are and where we are going.

We accept that there are certain towering thinkers that would feature more prominently when we discuss this issue, the Father of Independence, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, of course, comes to mind quite a bit. We have heard a lot about his vision and his determination and the fact that he too was very visionary and very far-reaching in his thinking at the time because there was a view held by many that we should remain a colonial possession of Great Britain as there was a view that we would have been better off in those circumstances. Of course, the Opposition parties of the day - there were two at the time, the Barbados Labour Party actually was the minority Opposition in 1966 and it was the Barbados National Party - both felt that independence should be done within the context of a wider federal structure for the Caribbean. One can argue that there is nothing wrong with that in theory, however, the experience of the day had shown that these federal arrangements had proven very difficult to get going and it was the view of the Democratic Labour Party that we should go alone, not that we were not regionalist but we felt that that was the way to go. Of course shortly after that other regional structures became a reality like the Caribbean Free Trade Area, which of course morphed into CARICOM et cetera. I think that the unbiased observers who want to be honest with themselves would have to say that the Democratic Labour Party had it right and it is clear that even from what has happened since independence that even those who were initially critical of

the move and how they have come on board and embraced it have of course started to believe.

Why I say that we had it right and why I believe that it was the opportune moment in 1966 for Barbados to be independent and to sort of develop that spirit of independence that always existed is because the truth is even if you look at Barbados as a colony it was not your average colony, the fact is that it was successful enough that we could more or less pay for our own keep. I mean again the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow made that point quite often even when he was making the case for independence. He allowed the British Government to know that we were never a grant-aided colony, that we were earning enough that we could take care of ourselves. Of course, independence have other elements to it, foreign affairs and so on and even in that department we have proven certainly since 1966 that we can more than take care of ourselves in that environment, so the transformation that has taken place since then, Mr. Speaker, tells us that we had it right.

We can look at the social transformation of Barbados and we can look at the way our economic structures have been revolutionised. If you were to do a then and now you would see the tremendous improvements that have occurred in the quality of life of so many Barbadians. One of the measures, of course, that has come into vogue quite recently is the Human Development Index that the United Nations Development Programme prepares. It is a composite index. It looks at various elements of quality of life in terms of health, life expectancy, the numbers of doctors you have per capita, the numbers of literacy rate, the whole gamut. It is a composite index that is intended to look at the quality of life not just a per capita income or those other arithmetic features that you normally hear in terms of the economic indicators.

Barbados always scores very well, and scores higher indeed than countries that are better endowed with natural resources, with immense mineral wealth, solid and liquid et cetera, and yet here it is Barbados 15 by 21 is so well-managed and so capable of controlling our own resources that we have been able to enjoy a very high quality of life and that is something that we really should not take likely. I mean we take completely for granted things that just do not occur in other parts of the world, I mean you do not have to go that far, and in other parts of the region. IMr. Speaker, I am not going to be so invidious to start calling names of countries about what I am talking about but we enjoy a very high quality of life and I think that is something that is worth celebrating.

Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied, if we had remained a colony it would probably not obtained, because the first task that we had as a territory, as colonial possession is as a unit of economic production for the Mother Country.

Barbados was basically a huge unit of production subdivided into something call plantations but we were just about producing sugar to earn wealth to go back to the foreign capital. Clearly when we are taking care of our own affairs we can then look beyond the economic realm and we can look at the developmental component. Mr. Speaker, that is why at the turn of this century when the Democratic Labour Party was making the point that Barbados is more than an economy, it is a society that is funded in the original thinking of the very creation of Barbados as a nation. That was what the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and team was all about, that is what this team is all about, and that is the continuum of the progressive policies of the Democratic Labour Party in terms of how we view forming a nation.

Mr. Speaker, I think again that is something that we can celebrate. We must reinforce the pride that we possess in our traditions, our standards and everything that has worked well for us, in essence, not just safeguarding the imperial interest but looking to promote the well-being of all of our citizens and we have done a very good job in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, having said that we have a wider view it is not that we are trying to avoid the discussion on the economy but let us be frank, the immense work that has been done to diversify our economic base, moving away from simply sugar into other forms of agribusiness, moving into the industrial element. We do not have the natural resources for heavy industry but there was a time when we had a whole set of industrial estates providing manufacturing, jobs and earning foreign exchange across this land. Many of the parishes as far north as St. Lucy had industrial estates. St. Philip for sure had a big one in Six Roads. There were industrial estates because it was about diversifying the economic base of Barbados. A lot of people speak to the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow statement about not wanting to see another blade of cane and misinterpreting the point at which he was driving. It was not about shutting down the sugar industry, in essence it was about diversifying what we are doing. Mr. Speaker, it was the right model, moving into services, moving into manufacturing, moving into other forms of agriculture and of course post-harvest technologies. It was the Democratic Labour Party who would have brought the Pine Hill Dairy here. It was in essence about making ourselves much stronger as an economy, to the point where we could stand on our own and again ensure improved quality of life for all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, in the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow first budget speech the Honourable Member referred to the budget not being a conglomeration of statistics which glorified the colonial Estimates, it was more than just a conglomeration of statistics, and it was about having that developmental component, hence, the

very progressive policies on education, health and those other elements that would have allowed us to have well-rounded citizens. Of course, it would have been the whole question of monetary policy as well, moving away from relying on the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board and setting up the Central Bank of Barbados where, in essence, you can have more control over how you manage your monetary affairs. The Government can then have a relationship directly with the Central Bank of Barbados in terms of ways and means, in order to function.

Mr. Speaker, what used to happen before, as a matter of fact, still happens in the Caribbean, you have Minister of Finance in the Eastern Caribbean who basically have to have a relationship with one or two commercial banks or even large companies asking them sometimes, for example, to pay taxes in advance and that type of thing because of the fact that there is no Central Bank. They cannot call up the Governor and ask for having some kind of arrangement in place. I am not saying that it should be used irresponsibly but that type of independent approach to your own affairs is really what Independence has meant for us.

Mr. Speaker, I had to speak directly to tourism and where tourism has come. I note that the issue of the whole question of labour and our approach on labour has come up for some discussion in this debate. I would only say that it is something that, once again I do not think that the Democratic Labour Party has to be embarrassed about, you have heard it already in here, 26 years out of the 50 that the Democratic Labour Party has formed the Government, while for 24 years of the 50 years the Barbados Labour Party has formed the Government.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that even though the Barbados Labour Party has only had one year less than the Democratic Labour Party do you know that all the labour legislation that was passed in this Parliament for the last half century almost all have been passed by the Democratic Labour Party. Mr. Speaker, my colleague here, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North was a very distinguished Shadow Minister of Labour at one point in his Parliamentary career. The Honourable Member has reminded me that the Trade Union Act, 1937, was amended by the Barrow Government. The Sugar Workers and Employment (Guarantee) Act, 1968 was passed by the Democratic Labour Party. Before that piece of legislation became a reality the sugar workers were horribly exploited. The National Insurance Scheme, 1967, was passed by the Democratic Labour Party. The Severance Payment Act passed shortly thereafter in 1971. Significantly enough, the Employment of Women Act, the one that ensured maternity leave was passed by the Democratic Labour Party Government. Since 2008 we proclaimed the Health and Safety (At Work) Act. For some reason the last Government only went half way with that. There is also the Employment Rights and Labour legislation passed by the

Democratic Labour Party. All of the labour legislation that we can speak of, the Democratic Labour Party has nothing at all to be embarrassed about with respect to putting labour legislation to protect the workers, we brought it to the Parliament of Barbados. We did not yip and yap about it out there.

Mr. Speaker, maybe I am being unfair because there was one legislation that the Barbados Labour Party did bring, something called Emergency Powers Bill. Of course, that could not become an Act because there were almost riots, so let me give them credit for the most heinous piece of legislation ever introduced in any Parliament anywhere in the world towards workers, brought by the Barbados Labour Party. The Democratic Labour Party, as I have said, was responsible for the Trade Union Act which was modernised and amended in the 1960s, the Sugar Workers' Wage and Employment Guarantee Act, National Insurance Act, Severance Payment Act, Employment of Women (Maternity Leave) Act, the Health and Safety At Work Act which was proclaimed, the Employment Rights Act, the Unfair Dismissal Act and the Succession Act as well.

Aside.

Hon. R.L. SEALY: Let us put things in appropriate context. We will have our skirmishes but our record is clear in terms of standing by the workers. The beauty there again is that a philosophy, if it is something you are genuine about, can transcend Administrations, and you see that with the Democratic Labour Party here. I mentioned earlier about the view of Barbados being more than an economy but also being a society. That has transcended the view of making sure our workers are protected and enshrining the appropriate suite of laws in our Parliament to protect them. That has transcended again. You take it with you into Opposition, and you come back out of Opposition with it, if it is a genuinely heartfelt philosophy. That is a philosophical position that we have held and, again, I think that the Government should be saluted for that position; for maintaining that position.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of being the Minister responsible for Tourism and, again, the story there is one that also reflects the tremendous gains that we have seen from the entire Independence project. The truth is that as far back as the 1930s tourism was identified as something that could be useful to Barbados. In those days, you must understand, sugar was still king and the truth is that the very early thinking of tourism was that -- this is a fact but people find it hard to believe -- it would be a good way to earn some foreign exchange to buy parts for the machinery in the sugar factories. That is what tourism was about; supporting King Sugar. In the 1930s when the Publicity Committee was formed, you would have had about 10 000 visitors coming to Barbados, and at the time it was formed the stated objective was to "make known

abroad the advantages of Barbados". This is therefore very rudimentary destination marketing, but let us not ignore the fact that it laid the base. Of course, the Publicity Committee would have given way to the Board of Tourism which gave way to the Barbados Tourism Authority which has now given way to Barbados Tourism Marketing Incorporated. We would have seen, again in the early 1960s, only 37 000 visitors coming to Barbados. We have reached the point now where in 2016 we will see over 600 000 visitors come to Barbados, and that will be a record for the second year running. Last year was just under 600 000. This year we will be over 600 000, and those are both, again, record years. Even from the cruise end of things, close to 750 000 cruisers, many of them home-porters, came to Barbados. We have come a long, long way from when we started when we were talking about 37 000 visitors in 1960. The modernisation of the whole sector is something that we have to be thankful for. I would like to think that once again we were blessed, because the same Father of Independence was an aviator so he appreciated where the aviation industry was going, and when a lot of people thought his vision was a little too large -- for example the Seawell Plantation and building a huge airport structure -- and when we heard all the talk about wastage and so on, now we understand why. That was a fundamental component to building a modern tourism industry. There are still, again, some of our neighbours who do not have capacity to land large aircraft; things that we take for granted and that we have had here for years. The advent of jet engines has meant that tourism has gone to another level.

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

Hon. R.L. SEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would want you to reflect that the Air Canada flight that comes from Toronto daily, AC966 which returns as AC967, is one of the oldest commercial routes in the world. That flight has had that flight number since the early 1950s, almost 65 years now, and the point is that in those days it was a DC3 that took 14 hours and had to stop in Bermuda and refuel. Now the flight is a third of that. Again, we have to be thankful that our stalwarts were able to recognise back then that there was something which we had to offer in terms of tourism. I think that as we look back, we must also look forward, and it is useful to see that the current setup that we have, the Barbados Tourism Product Authority -- one of the entities that came out of the restructuring -- is focused on indigenous elements of what our tourists experience, and is pushing it even more. Even though we are looking forward to the next 50 and, for that matter, even beyond, we are actually focusing on those things that make us unique and make us special. Through that effort, as I said, we are seeing record arrivals, among other things. Obviously we are diversifying our market base and doing other things. We are looking at the investment end of things and making

sure that we have rooms, not only the hotel rooms but the question of home accommodation. This whole Airbnb question is new for many, but we have been talking about that, the shared economy community tourism, which the Member for St. Lucy not only talks about but practises daily in his business. We are doing these things and we are thankful that we had that kind of vision early up.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that when you look back and see where we were and consider where we are now, it certainly tells me that there is no reason why we should not envisage for ourselves all of the things that can only be good for all Barbadians. I do not accept, for example, a cultural industries programme that can see young people earning their keep being a pipe dream, because many thought that what we have now was a pipe dream 50 years ago. I would love to see that. I believe, again, the tourism industry can be constructed in a way that more people benefit from it, and that is why we are pushing the programme of community tourism, 'Dine with a Bajan', home accommodation, and all of those elements, so that we broaden the stakeholdership. It can happen. We can have more visitors here, we can have more people in the sector, and we can even see full employment. It is within reach, with the right number of hotel rooms and encouraging the right level of entrepreneurship. That is a reality.

The Prime Minister spoke about Barbados being green by 2066, which would be 100 years after our Independence. I do not think that is a pipe dream either. There was a time when nobody would have imagined a single solar water heater in Barbados. We have one of the highest rates of penetration in the world for the use of solar water heaters, so I think we should also seek that target of 2066. I think we can beat it. We can even get there before 2066 if we take the right approach. That is really what this 50th anniversary is about. You are giving thanks but you are extracting from that moment of gratitude the inspiration to see that the vision for the future is achievable. I therefore take this opportunity to wish you Mr. Speaker and all of the Members of the House and indeed all Barbadians a very blessed and excited Happy 50th Anniversary. You deserve it. Thank you.

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

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I want to say congratulation to Barbados on having achieved 50 years of Independence. I think it is a very important milestone and I trust that Barbados will remain stable politically, environmentally, economically and that it would be efficiently governed for another 50 years.

I support the fact, Sir, that Barbadians have made significant strides in the development of our country and I believe that they are some who we will single out beyond

our ten National Heroes. I believe it is the vision and the commitment of hundreds of thousands of Barbadians that we have been able to reach this particular location. There are some, Sir, who would have in a pre-independence period done their part to lay the foundation for Independence to come about and I support Independence because we have been able with the kind of stability and the kind of performance that occurred in Barbados we have been able to make history compared to some other countries that were not as stable and the pride was not expressed in the same way.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that as a result of the implementation of certain policies and programmes by our leaders of the past, outstanding they were, many of them made sterling contributions. Not all of them would have been able to make it that the entire Barbados could see, but in our various communities and our business houses and so on they were who I consider to be unsung heroes and heroines. So it is imperative that the contributions of our forefathers who laid that foundation be heralded and I do not want to operate like some Honourable Members but to identify the ones that belonged to a particular Party of their choice, but I believe that all ten of them, The Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, The Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, The Right Excellent Frank Walcott, The Right Excellent Sara Ann Gill, The Right Excellent Bussa, The Right Excellent Sir Hugh Springer and so on. They deserve the honours that were conferred on them. Sir, the history of Barbados did not start in 1966, nor will it end in 2016 because they were so many others, as I said earlier, who played their part.

We want to laud the performance not only of the political class or the business class, but I want to identify some of the other persons, some of the other proud Barbadians and even some visitors among us who came here to help guide us through the motion of building this independent nation. The police officers, the clergy who would have played a significant role in the various communities and our churches; fire officers and midwives. Every village had midwives because we did not have the health facilities as we do now. I can boast of families with 16 children who were born in the household and midwives did the deliveries. I believe that is extremely significant as well in our development. Those domestic workers, maids, janitors, general workers, community workers who volunteered their time and resources and energy to help build Barbados, the doctors, nurses, members of the judiciary, teachers and to bring it together community personnel, particularly parents and guardians. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those persons the diaspora for their remittances they would have sent to Barbados in the form of goods and funds so that we can also earn some foreign exchange. Sir, all of our citizens, the rich, the poor and the needy have contributed to our fair land reaching this stage of development.

Sir, for me Barbados remains a goodly heritage despite some slippage we would have witnessed over the years. Mr. Speaker, our natural resource is our people. I know that thousands of Barbadians would have benefitted from the free education, education generally but I include the free education because that would have been significant so that poor people's children could be brought into the net.

Similarly the health services. Barbadians were proud workers, many of them in the agricultural sector, particularly the sugar, but many of them did not rely on any welfare services at all. They did what we call 'cut and contrive' in order to be able to raise their many children and to make tremendous sacrifices so that their children could benefit from an education.

Sir, we know that our society is a small one and of course very closely knit, where each person knows each other as well as many families are spread across the length and breadth of this country, but I must highly commend the civil service of the time that was second to none in this hemisphere where persons who worked in that capacity or those capacities performed proficiently and made sure that they were not bias and they delivered high quality service in every sphere. We did not know who the Head of the Civil Service was expect we knew his or her name, his name moreso than her name. We only knew the Principals, who we called the Headmasters then, and so on in our times, but we never went begging to ask for employment, or to ask for a position in a school or whatever the situation would have been. People worked and climbed the ladder to be able to achieve to what I recollect from my time, because I would have been born long time before November 1966.

Sir, it is said to say though that the current situation does not meet the kind of efficiency and effectiveness that we know a past civil service department would have offered. There are so many challenges with work ethics. I should only name a few for the records because I would like in the next year or two to be able to see improvement where we can come to the level where we were before.

Sir, I particularly have concerns with the Registry where people go to get birth and marriage certificates. It is a very disheartening experience when persons go there to receive their certificates. They have to wait for two weeks. There is no bathroom facility where 300, 400 and 500 congregate. They have to leave that area and go up the escalator in order to be able to have access to a washroom. It is deplorable in this we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary that poor ordinary people as well as other distinguished people who have to go to the Registry on business cannot access bathroom facilities.

Sir, the other thing is to do with the Certificate of Character where people have to be in the location -- I knew

it was in Roebuck Street but I do not know where it is now -- have to be there by 6.00 a.m. because only 100 would be facilitated. Sir, every form of employment one wants to have persons have to go with a Police Certificate of Character. When will we improve that anomaly. It is not working good for business and I am sure the Honourable Minister of Commerce and International Business would share my view. It really is not the Barbados we have known before when people did not have the technology. I have a birth certificates in handwriting but it never took such a long time, and it creates quite some challenges for those persons who are waiting for the job to get those certificates. Even persons who need the expungement from the Ministry of Home Affairs to get the same Certificate of Character sometimes have to wait a year and two years to get it and they lose the employment while they are waiting. We must look at efficiencies again in our various departments.

At the National Insurance Department, persons who are waiting on disability benefits, maternity leave, and survivors' benefits have a rough time waiting to get them. Sometimes the baby is born, it becomes six months old and the funds are not there. I have a lady who calls me almost every week. Her partner with whom she lived for over 50 years would have died three years this November 03 and she has not received a cent yet for her survivor's benefit, and however she calls, however I write not a single word. That is not good business for our country that we knew was at the pinnacle of efficiency even before 1966.

There are tremendous challenges every day at the Licensing Authority. People have to use up a lot of the time for productivity on the job running from Oistins to Hometown down to Bridgetown and then they cannot the service they desire. The other one is the Barbados Revenue Authority. There are a few persons at the register so week before last when we were going to do the Lighting Ceremony because Broad Street was blocked that is the only reason why traffic could have passed there. People want to pay their bills. Mr. Minister of Finance Barbadians like to pay their land tax bills and so on but if there is no proper efficiency, look at the downtime when workers have to leave their employment during their lunch hour to go to pay bills and then they have to return without having them paid because of the lack of efficiency. There is poor service, high absenteeism, unpunctuality and uncouth members of staff. Sometimes they treat me unkindly too but whom am I, I am a Barbadian and I can stand and represent myself but there are many other people who cower away because when they ask a simple question they are given the crudest of response that you could ever imagine. Even when the children have to ask a question of some of our teachers in the classroom they treat some of them as though they are aliens. Something is wrong with this society with a sector or a section of our people who seem not to understand you are dealing human being to human beings and everybody deserves the respect.

We are a proud people though and we have nurtured a lot of role models and I want to herald those role models who work in the Community Development Department, in our schools and even those who work on the road as artisans and sanitation workers who have been able to make a difference despite their status, I think they should be highly commended.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that as Barbadians we have not had any turmoil as I can recollect since the riots in 1937 and it says to me that Barbadians have been able to learn, I believe it is through their spiritual development or it has to do with the value system we have developed from our foreparents, how to tolerate and integrate persons in our society. We are seeing hundreds of Chinese, we know there are thousands of Indians, we know there are thousands of white people and of course a lot of us as black people but we do not go out there and have the infighting and all kinds of confusion in our communities. We have learnt to integrate and to tolerate and to work with one another, and I think that is what speaks well of us in this area of the world.

What I am a bit concerned about is the lifestyle of Barbadians. I trust that even though we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary that more attention would be paid to the lifestyle of Barbadians, the illnesses that are developed as a result of the poor eating habits or eating the wrong foods and indeed the attire where people especially women are now so shabbily dressed. It hurts my heart to see that we are watching the cultural penetration from other countries where people walk around half-naked, wearing the shortest of dress and are still pulling down according to Serenader in its calypso. It does not look like modesty or good dignity when our people are dressing like that. It is the attitudes of people generally.

Barbadians sometimes do not even say good morning when they are passing alongside persons whom they have grown up with or who they know. It is sad that many of us are building up a lot of walls and closing our gate and forgetting the poor little old lady or the poor old gentleman or the destitute single parent with children who really needs that little help but we cook a lot and throw it away forgetting that we are accustomed as a people to sharing and caring and working the barter system, I have apples, you give you orange. I have yams, you give me potatoes and we share. We have lost a lot of that.

I think it is a negative route we are going down as a people where arrogance and being pompous and so seem to have taken us over because some of us have risen to the class level where we are now middle class, some of us upper class but many of us have forgotten from whence we have come. When we look around in this Honourable Chamber I know that many of us would have come through poverty but because of education whether we paid for it or

it was free we were able to reach this level. Why must we now kick down the ladder that we have built up? I have a difficulty in understanding how people behave towards one another because they might have been able to make a little better earning than others.

We have lost a lot of our culture when it comes to the use of our language or sayings. A lot of Barbadians do not understand when you tell them who help you to buy a big belly cow cannot help you feed it. They do not know that. They do not understand it. If you ask many of them who would have had the education, I am not so sure where they have lost it, to give commentary on an incident, half of them cannot reason, cannot explain or cannot give a sentence in English. Something is going wrong with our people.

We know that Barbados was a country where we had the Erdiston Teachers' Training College here set up and persons from in the region came here to be trained as teachers. It is the same thing with the Regional Police Training Centre. Police officers came from Monserrat and other countries in the region here to Barbados for training. We have it here but I am not understanding what is transpiring when we are not using those skills and we are not holding on to those values and those other mores and tenets that have made us the proud people we are. There are too many deficits that are showing their ugly head and I think that in our 50th year we need to step back and see where we can improve and where we can make things better so that the quality still is seen.

Mr. Speaker, education is one of the ones that bothers me more than anything else because we knew of persons who only went to Seventh Standard but they were solid in education not only in the English language but in mathematics and aspects of science and so on and so forth. A lot of our children are just not reading enough and therefore the English Literature is not being used effectively. They may do fairly well in the English A Paper but when it comes to that one with Literature the performance is extremely very poor. Too many of our children leave schools without certifications and I think that is one we need to look at in order for us to be able to make sure they are certified whether they are at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Barbados Community College or in the school generally. Some of them do not write the exam because on the morning of the exam they may not have the money to pay to get to school because all of them do not have the free bus service travelling and some of them do not have the \$40 that they have to pay but they were entered and therefore as a result they suffer. Many of them are callous-minded as well and therefore they are not interested in going at all because they ask you what a certificate can do because when you get the certificate you are still not getting any work, and therefore there are some mind-sets that need to be changed if we are

to be able to bring along those of us who have attitudes that are not in keeping with what proud Barbadians would have had in the past and indeed many of them still have. Mr. Speaker, I also want to refer to the drug culture that is destroying the minds of our people. There is a Barbadian saying, “follow pattern kill Cadogan” or “what is good for the goose is not good for the gander.” Mr. Speaker, somehow it is a very popular activity in almost every middle-class or working-class village across the island. Therefore that is another aspect to which I think we need to pay closer attention as we approach the 50th Anniversary which we are now celebrating, it is an element of delinquency among youth and even some adults who are engaged in it, which will then add a heavier cost on our health and our social development.

Mr. Speaker, I hurt and I always refer to a song by one of our popular calypsonians. I ask how many more as well, with the blood running in the street like water, with the escalation in crime and violence in our society. Yes, it is happening in other parts of the region. Yes, it is happening in the international world but what has overtaken our people which has caused them not even to respect that God has given life and that He is the only person who should take life. That is another area of concern for all Barbadians I would believe, because if you are driving along the street in your car and you get a bullet in your head and die on the street, that is a cause for concern for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, people may be saying that it is because of drugs but I do not believe that. I do not believe that any firearm should be just knocking around and in the hands of some people who could hardly spell gun, or anybody doing it in an illegal way, any firearm should be one that is properly licensed and given permission by the police department. This is another area where I have a big concern and trust that the Honourable Attorney-General going into our 51st year would start looking at an amnesty first, despite what anybody says and that the constabulary would be given the kind of equipment to be able to help them even to pursue their jobs. They are doing an excellent job now under the circumstances but I trust that some special wave would be given for them to be able to get the resources that are necessary for us to be able to tackle crime frontally.

Mr. Speaker, in the past when people fight they would throw a stone or an apple, some may fight with a stick or resort to a cutlass but now that whole element of firearm has driven an element of fear into the hearts of many Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, I support some funding being put towards this celebration and I would have looked perhaps at a \$2 million amount to be able to treat to this but I have tremendous difficulty to hear of a \$7 million allocation for the celebrations because for me \$5 million taken from that project that has now become Independent celebrations could have been put towards an increase for

regular pensioners, meaning those who receive the contributory pension who are reeling under the pressure, even of that extra 2 per cent that has been put on in the budget at both the seaport and airport. Mr. Speaker, almost everything now has increased in cost across the length of Barbados, from biscuits right back up. I believe that a portion of that could have been put towards giving those persons a little fillip for the contributory pensioners. Similarly, civil servants have not had an increase in eight years, they too are suffering under that kind of pressure. I believe also that the Welfare Department could have done with a little more; many people are now being evicted, many of them have lost their jobs. I believe the numbers are over 5 000 persons between the Government and the private sector who have lost their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I know you do not have the position from where you sit to speak on this issue but I am sure that you see people every day and sometimes a lot of people do not understand that we as politicians are drained but that is what we have committed ourselves to. We love our constituents, they love us, and we have said to them that we are willing to work with them when they vote for us or whatever. Therefore they come to all of us, they only come because they need the resources. In the past few Barbadians would have come anywhere near a politician to ask for anything but as a result of the now dire situation in our country that is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, who wants to celebrate if they have no employment? The sugar industry is now dead. Agriculture is one of my biggest concerns because there is so much land now left lying fallow, no plantation owner, as a matter of fact, no landowner who has a large mass of land now even wants to seem to plant anything for food security, they too are waiting for the Government to give them an opportunity to build houses. It is sad, there are persons who are out there and are willing to work the Land-for-the Landless Project who only want an opportunity because they have never had land before. I think that is very important.

Mr. Speaker, there is also the issue of white collar and blue collar crime. It seems as though everybody in Barbados now wants to get rich quick or die trying. Sir, it is interesting, they say it is the politicians who want a lot of money. They say it is the politicians who are doing all of these wrong deeds. Sir, if politicians do, I do not know because I am one who will never become engaged in any negative activity of the kind but it is sad that we have had moneys missing from a number of Government entities and to this day nobody can hear one word.

Mr. Speaker, not only moneys but material because I still want the Minister of Transport and Works to tell me where has the bobcat that was at Chance Hall last Easter has gone. That is not a good sign for us in our 50 years. It

is not a good sign for the money that would have been stolen from the Transport Board when they were selling gas. I am asking, too, because I would not know in a harsh economic time like this, when all of us are eking out, where they will raise \$11 million. I do not know if they went to the International Monetary Fund, but I just want to get answers for the people of Barbados in regard to that situation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I close by saying that some of that money could have been put towards helping the aged, the disabled, the unemployed, the sick, because to get appointments to the hospital sometimes people have to wait for six and eight months to have fibroids removed. Some of them have other challenges with their feet, with their eyes and so on, and are waiting for years. I believe that money should have been spent in this project, yes, and I felt that what happened on January 6 this year with all the fanfare and the fireworks and so on would have been, for me, the closure of our 50th anniversary celebrations in November and not in January. The taxpayers of Barbados are feeling the pain of expenditure for which they cannot understand the reason, and they are forking out every last cent to be able to eke out and live in this society with one of the highest costs of living ever, with one of the highest unemployment rates ever, with poor quality housing, and no water for one whole year in St. Thomas from October to October. We have never grown accustomed to that, and I want the Honourable Minister to continue to do what he is doing, because we have had water so far for a four-day week since measures seem to have been put in place. We want to be able to live and enjoy life and to share and care for others.

Finally, I encourage Barbadians to hold fast, to hold onto those values which they developed, to share their knowledge and skills with others, and to be able to bring back Barbados to the level we know it was at so that when we go into our 51st year we would know that we can say there are changes in attitudes, there is proper service coming through, productivity is beginning to climb again, the streets are clean as ever before, and people can walk and sleep more safely in their households because efforts would have been made by this Democratic Labour Party to change the negative culture that has crept in over the last few years and to put back Barbados as the Gem of the Caribbean, as we have always recognised it and for which we are always proud. I wish to thank you for your patience, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. J.D. PAUL: I rise to participate in this Debate. Every year we hold a show called the 'Spirit of the Nation', which tries to bring out what is best in our nation and what are the things we can be proud of in our nation. Through dance, song and cultural expression, we try to show to Barbados that we can be proud of who we are. I just

listened to a speech which, in one breath we bemoaned the inadequacies of our people, and in another breath we sought to reinforce this, to create victims, to make Barbadians feel that we are helpless to solve the problems that we face today. It tried to give the impression that the reason why we are here today approaching the 50th Anniversary of Independence is not because of the collective activities of those who have gone before and those who are here now but because of a group of people. That is unfortunate, because in a Debate like this I would think that we would want to tell Barbadians what made us strong, how we built a society like this, and even how we can use what we learnt in the past to help us move forward and build an even stronger society with the collective efforts of all. In speaking to this Motion, I want to emphasise that the building of a nation cannot be the responsibility of any social group, faction or political party. There has to be an effort on the part of every citizen of that nation to espouse positive values that would help to build the character of that nation. If we go abroad spouting negative values and making people feel that is who we are, then that is how we will behave. We have to be careful what we try to hold forth as representatives of the people trying to bring the best out of the citizens at this time.

Mr. Speaker, when we can come to a ridiculous claim where we try to put every malady that the country is facing -- whether it is water problems, the attitudes of people, how we speak to each other and how we provide service to each other -- on the lap of a Government, I think it really ridiculous. It does not speak to the true causes, because we let off the hook the reasons why these things are happening and we, as representatives of the people, fail to focus in on the real causes. We have to ask ourselves what the spirit of the nation is at this time of Independence, how are we helping to embolden that spirit, how are we helping to give the ordinary man and woman in the street the ability to embolden and uphold that spirit. We do not understand that if we do not market those positive views and the things that have helped to build this nation, we will not be anywhere as a nation. When those persons thought about us becoming independent, they had certain aspirations as to what they wanted Barbados to be and the kind of society that they wanted to create. We, by our actions even today, can either help to create that type of society that we wanted to build or we can help, at the same time, to pull it down.

One of the things that I really think we want to be as a nation is to have creativity, to reflect purpose of spirit, to reflect determination, and to reflect charity. To the extent that we have these things in our society today, they also affect the way in which we relate to each other. How do we engender respect, and how do we do the things that are important for us to survive in the current global environment which we face today? Let us make no mistake about it; the type of world we face today is substantially

different to the period when we got our Independence in 1966. It is a completely different type of world, in which we as a nation are expected to handle our own affairs with great responsibility. Over the last 50 years I can say that there are many nations in the region which will look to Barbados and say, "You have done relatively well compared to us." I do not think that we have anything in that regard to be ashamed about. We have done relatively well. We have been able to deliver services to our citizens which, in some islands of the region, citizens do not have, and we should be justly proud of it. We are facing challenges now but I call them challenges, and the extent to which we adequately prepare ourselves and our citizens to face those challenges will determine whether or not we will succeed in building the type of society that we are actually aiming for. One of the things, of course, which we recognise in this period we are facing is the fact that we want to see that type of spirit in the communities of which we are part.

I want to see that kind of spirit that is desirable in the communities we are part of. In St. Michael West Central, which I represent, and I think by and large the community which reflects some of the best things about Barbados, where you see that presence of community spirit where people look out for their neighbours. It is surprising to us that there are still people in this country who look out for their neighbours. I can tell you there are situations existing today where people recognise the needs of their neighbour and go out of the way to help that that neighbour. There are still people who recognise that there are people in the community who are sick and who would actually go out of their way -- they are not related to them- but they would actually look after those people. Essentially, that is the Barbadian spirit and it is reflected in the way in which we relate to people in the community.

I do not think we should go the extent to say it is absent.

Not only that, people understand Government in this day and age has limitations. I think one of the sad things we see in this adversary nature of politics we have, throughout the period we seem to think we must continue that adversarial relationship with each other. One of the things I really believe is, that we need to determine what the things we can agree on are. What are the things we disagree on? I think the things we agree on, we need not try to make it appear, depending on where we sit at a particular point and time, that at the same time we somehow have some discord over it. I think that is something that sends mixed messages to the population. That in itself prevents us from creating the kind of spirit we want to engender trying to create a truly independent nation, which the persons who crafted the whole independent movement, is the type of Barbados they were trying to create. Not the type of Barbados where people were at each other's throat on all

issues. We recognise there is a necessity for debate and we will have differences when debating, but the debate we are engaged in should be one in which we try to help people to understand the issues, to clarify the issues and to make clear choices on where they would like the country to go. Sir, not only that, but to understand they too also too have a responsibility to move the country in that particular direction.

In this hero worship kind of practice we try to promote, where every Party wants to encourage you that they are the be all and end all and the reason why things are not happening -- for instance right now I just heard a statement that the reason Barbadians are not getting the water was because somehow the Democratic Labour Party may be preventing them from getting water, which is simply not trueeee. This is the type of myth and the type of foolishness that we have people, sometimes within the Opposition, promoting. Not all of them promote it, I must say. Not all of the Opposition Members do it but some of them do it. Sometimes when we hear the speeches inside House we have that kind of conclusion being drawn by people who sometimes do not know any better but they hang onto for any means of trying to discredit each other in the House, and that is unfortunate. What we do not understand is, that we do not encourage logical thinking on the part of people. We do not encourage people to look at the issues in a way which, we will help the nation to progress.

Sir, these are the things we need to understand.

For instance, we talk about the type of service rendered to the public by persons within public institutions. We cannot excuse that. I think in this young age when we talk about the question of service, and this does not really happen only in public institutions, because the question of service is something I will tell you is a matter of concern in Barbados in general. Sometimes you go into stores and they look at you as though they are saying what you are doing here I am resting myself. Sometimes they do not even want to come across to say "Hello, Sir. How can I help you?" Sometimes if you bother them too much -- if you go to places and you go through 20 pairs of shoes they do not mind. In Barbados if you go through more than 5 they say you are bothering them. These are the type of things that are happening in our society. What is also happening, in a sense even our leaders are enabling people to engage in these activities. So we have to be careful, as leaders in the society with the type of messages we send out to people, because we seem to make them feel they are entitled to behave that way. This type of behaviour is unfortunate. We as political leaders must understand those subliminal messages we send to people, and the behaviours we unconsciously engender.

On the one hand we bemoan the fact that we are not our brother's keeper anymore, but on the other hand we encourage people to engage in actions to discourage them from being their brother's keeper. How can we feel good about ourselves? These are the type of questions we need to answer. These are the types of things we need to deal with. How do we therefore assist in building a better community?

We have in many cases where our young people - we need to send some message to them. At this time approaching our 50th year of Independence we see among our young people some negative role models but we see some very good things happening with our young people and the extent to which we are able to highlight them. Again, I refer to the Spirit of the Nation Show, where we see in that particular forum young people who are so creative in talent, who show the best of Barbados in song and dance, the creative arts. These are the type of things we are seeing and we need to uplift those types of things. This is not a time to start to talk about the things that do not make us feel good about ourselves. This is not the time for that. This is the time when we need to build up those things to see how we can come up with strategies to, first of all, identify the things in our country we need to build up, and to put resources behind those things to make them better, to help our young people to do the things that would help them to be better citizens and to make a better contribution to our country.

I make the point that right now we are going through severe economic challenges, but what is helping us is the fact that there are people out there who are doing some very creative things. They are not coming to Government, or running to Government blaming the Government about the reasons why they cannot find employment. They are creating employment for themselves. How can we help them to do that even better?

For instance I saw on Facebook recently -- I do not think the young lady would mind me giving her name, Roslind's Creations, where this young lady spoke about the fact that she is now creating some spices and herbs that can be used. She is creating that and is using Facebook to popularize it, a new set of products, but it is being done in this country. These are the types of things we need to recognize and emulate.

I could tell you when those persons who thought about Independence thought about creating a country, this is the type of activity they wanted to generate in Barbados and we need to support it. This is what Independence really means, creating the type of capacity in our country that makes Barbadians feel they can be empowered to do the things they need to do. That makes Barbadians feel they can look after themselves economically, and not to be dependent on somebody else to do it for them. This is what

Independence really means, not what the Opposition Member just spoke to.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas did well in parts, but in other parts she let herself down and she let the country down. They should never do things like that. This is what I want to speak to. This is what I want to talk about and to focus in on these things.

For instance when we have young Barbadians who actually go out there and set up businesses for themselves, making an active contribution, and did not run to any politician for anything. They do it on their own. This is the type of behaviour we want to see and we want to encourage, not the type of behavior we create for people who are patronizing because I know how it is. We live in a society in which we have become very patronising to each other, and people notice it and we need to move away from this. I tell people that the kind of society that we want to build is where we could look into each other's eye and see a man or woman and evaluate them for who they are not as somebody who is coming to you for something and begging and this type of thing that we are seeing where right now people are trying to make people feel like victims in our society. Nowadays all we seem to want to do is to create victims. The lawyers are very good at it because the lawyers like to create victims because that is how they make money in our society and once there is a victim there is someone there to defend.

The point I am making essentially though is that we have to be careful with the mind-set that we adopt and how we speak to people in our society and then the attitudes that we engender and then we turn around and want to find out why people are thinking the way they are thinking. We have to accept some responsibility as leaders in our society that we are sending mixed messages, that is the problem that we have to face.

I also want to make the point about being our brother's keeper. This just does not extend to interpersonal relationships, it also extends to the fact that even in business we need to look at it that way. We have a culture in our society now that is developing where businesses seem to want to survive at the expense of each other. When we are trying to build a nation it does not mean that in order to build that nation you have to destroy each other in terms of building. In that regard I again want to compliment the Minister of Tourism.

We have to admit that in the 50th year of independence one of the most strident achievements that we have made at this point in time is the numbers that we have been able to attract to visit the shores of Barbados. Record numbers of people are coming here. I do not hear any acclamation from the Members of the Opposition on that fact, I mean it is a record. I think that the Opposition,

the Government and the country as a whole need to recognise the fact that there people who are still willing to come to Barbados as against other destinations despite the negative publicity that has gone abroad, and we should now seek to see how do we as a country take advantage of that. Again, that is where now we can encourage that type of spirit of nation building that we want to see. We are not even in discussion mode as it is this year. How do we take advantage of the record numbers of tourist arrivals? How do we try to ensure that when people come here to this country they do not leave with the money they came with? We have to have enough products and services that when they come here we should be able to market them in such a way that they spend every cent they have and that they do not carry back home any money. That is what we need to do, but instead we have the Opposition telling them not to spend any money. They would be glad for them not to spend any money. That is how the Opposition's behaviour is in this country today. That is what we are hearing or you are hearing them telling them we do not have any water in St. Thomas, that is what you hear them telling them. This is the mode the Opposition is in today.

We are not hearing the Opposition saying let us take advantage... In fact, I was shocked when I heard a Member of the Opposition saying that they are not part of the independence celebrations. How can we be like that? At a time when we should be trying to maximise on every single opportunity that is available to this country to make money, how can we be like that and then we want to say that we care about Barbados and we love Barbados. How can we love Barbados when instead of holding up the good things we do, we hold up the bad things? I will not keep my mouth shut. I know the Honourable Member for St. Thomas wants me to keep my mouth shut but I will not do it because I know they want to suppress the truth but they will not suppress the truth and I am determined that they would not suppress the truth, the public must hear the truth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that we need to develop a complementary relationship between our stakeholders in our society and that we seek to complement each other not to destroy each other because that is the type of environment in which we want to bring people to in this country.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, when we speak about the whole thing, and I spoke about that young lady and the products that she is trying to develop, what interested me more about that is the fact that she is actually using social media in order to market it. One of the peculiar things I find about Barbados even today is that a lot of us push our faces up at the use of social media but we have to get with it in terms of the real world today. Social media is here to stay. The fact that that young lady was using social media in order to market herself and the products she produces to the world, is something I thought was

significant because it shows us the way. It also shows us that Barbadians are not living in the land of desperation and hopelessness as people are saying and they are coming up with creative ways. I know the Honourable Member for St. Thomas does not believe this but I would want, Mr. Speaker, to invite her at some point in time to come on my facebook page and share and I will show her these things. I understand the disbelief but we cannot allow ourselves to be sullied with the negative remarks and trying to portray Barbados in this type of negative way.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, I also want to go back to the whole question of the fact that we are talking about the complementary relationship that needs to exist when we talk about the sectors, and I will mention tourism. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity through tourism to build up the other sectors of the economy. We need to find ways in which we can develop those types of linkages that we have historically talked about to see how we can help facilitate the movement of products from one sector into another because what we do not understand is that when we think about earning money sometimes we usually think about getting on a boat and going overseas and that is how we earn the foreign exchange which is true but I am going back to the point that when a visitor comes here we are trying to make sure that when that visitor leaves here all he or she should leave here with is the plane fare and every other cent is spent right here in Barbados, that is what we should be doing. What we should be doing now is making sure that we have the people who provide goods and services, our coconut men, the people who are selling things, the people who are making the nice sugar cakes...

One of the things I want to say is that maybe we need to explore even more... We sometimes forget the extent to which our visitor experience can be enhanced by looking at what our mothers and fathers used to do in terms of the culinary delights and exposing our tourists to them. We still seem to think that when the tourists come here that they are still interested in bacon and eggs or the same nonsense they are being given up in the north, they are not. There are some tourists now, the Minister of Tourism knows this, who actually travel the world for that unique culinary experience and they want to identify destinations that provide that. We also forget that there are some areas in the world in which once that food is produced there it offers a unique taste profile that visitors want to experience. We have an opportunity to do so.

In approaching the 50th Anniversary of Independence I want to encourage us to let us recognise that Barbados is a great country, it has a lot of positives running for it. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Opposition, they are in a position where unfortunately they really want

to say that we have done well, even at a time when other nations in the region, in this 50th year, are doing much worse than us. Sir, one only has to look around you and talk to people who reside here, there are not too many places in the Caribbean where you can get onto a bus, pay \$2 and can go anywhere. There are not too many other places in the Caribbean where you can get healthcare to the extent that you can get in Barbados. Sir, there are not too many other places in the Caribbean where you can pay one cent per litre for water. These are the fact of life in Barbados as compared to other places in the Caribbean. We live in a gem, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would really wish that we would acknowledge the fact that we live in a gem of a country that is well run. Sir, we do have some problems but by and large we have produced excellent leaders in our history and I applaud Barbados on its approach to 50 years of Independence and I look forward for my children, because I might not be here, for them to continue the legacy that has been extended not only by persons who have done it but by us at the same time. I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution. Of course, I first would want to thank the mover of this Resolution and to put myself on the same side as the mover and also to congratulate the people of Barbados, the institutions of Barbados, the political parties, those persons who have made outstanding contributions in both their occupation and contributions to the development of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I was born in 1966. At that time I was in another country, England, as my parents had moved there like all other Barbadians who relished that opportunity of going overseas for the betterment of their families and also to build the request from the Mother Country to build up their social services. That relationship redounded to the benefit of Barbados because of the many remittances that were sent back to Barbados. Those moneys were of course used to sustain many families and to develop business, buy properties and to ensure that families had a sustainable living.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say to this Parliament that what we have achieved on our road to Independence and what we are seeking thereafter in terms of the vision that we have for the next 50 years. Mr. Speaker, the fact that Barbados was granted Independence by an Act of the British Parliament, the Barbados Independence Act, we have been able to develop and to have our own Constitution which is the supreme law of the land and an important document that sets out the governance of this country. The Preamble of the Constitution of Barbados

speaks to the fact that Government must appreciate the principles of the rule of law. Out of that Constitution we have established an Independent judiciary. We have established not only a fundamental right section that has given the citizens of Barbados security. Of course, it is a fundamental right section because it is so enshrined in the Constitution that the citizens are protected by this document.

Mr. Speaker, within that document it sets out and protects the individual's rights by having three separate arms, the Executive, the Judiciary and Parliament. It is so done because we have accepted the principles of the Separation of Powers. Mr. Speaker, when you examine the development thereafter, of course, it redounds to a stable political climate. We have basically had no interference with the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, yes, in 1967 amendments were made and there was a lot of noises in this country that the amendments to the Constitution at the time were an affront to democracy and that really and truly, it fell in the face of the Separation of Powers principle, but indeed, given the fact that we had the fundamental right section, given the fact that it is enshrined in the supreme law of the land, we have been able to have a stable, political and economic climate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a country has developed its own constitution and we have been able over time to bring about amendments to that said constitution, as I mentioned before the major amendments to the Constitution as was set out in the Cox Commission on Constitutional Reform, gave the appointment of all judges, including the Chief Justice that they are made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Right Honourable Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. That was in 1974. Also included in those amendments was the fact that the Honourable Attorney-General at the time could give instructions to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr. Speaker, those were some of the amendments made to the Constitution in 1974 but of course we have had many discussions on constitutional reform. This morning the Honourable Member for St. James South touched on it briefly when the Honourable Member spoke to the fact that we should move towards a Republic status. Of course, that is a discussion that was out there before where there were many debates about it. I think that is some way that we have to go towards in the future.

Mr. Speaker, certainly the amendments to our Constitution speak to the fact that the citizens, who were given a right during the Commission, to express their views on how they should have a say in the governance of the country. They were also given a right to speak on how

Parliament should operate, how the executive arm should operate and how further checks and balances should be put in place to ensure that there was accountability in relation to Parliament. Mr. Speaker, given that background and given the fact that we have fought, with the Democratic Labour Party having 26 years and the Barbados Labour Party having 24, both parties would have made a contribution to the development of Barbados, and of course would have impacted on the constitutional democracy of this country. I do not want to get into whether a Ministry of Transport and Works bobcat was missing or not, but I believe we should look really at our system of government and whether it is impacting on the lives of citizens and on their quality and standard of living. That is where we should go.

Mr. Speaker, the question that we must ask ourselves, Sir, in terms of setting out on a path to Independence and in terms of the journey into Independence, is "What benefits did we gain, given the fact that there were many persons out there who were really against the journey?" I will not repeat it but, the Member for St. Michael South Central said it, we were able through successive Parliaments and the assistance of stakeholders that voters in this country.... The Member for St. George South this morning glanced at the contribution of the trade union movement and did not speak to the fact that the Democratic Labour Party was in the forefront in terms of the legislation that impacted on the working conditions of the working class. Certainly the Member for St. Michael South Central mentioned the fact that Parliament at the time, two years before Independence in 1964, amended the Trade Union Act to allow peaceful picketing and gave the trade unions a right to picket, demonstrate and signal to the executive their grievances. Yes, at the time the Opposition Barbados Labour Party did not support the Amendment, but in 1964 the labour movement was given the opportunity to engage in peaceful picketing. That piece of legislation fashioned the trade union movement and the institution of the trade union, and from then on they continued to make the contribution which they are still making now, although the contribution today and their motives can be questioned. However, I certainly will not go into that.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, two years after Independence, in 1968, this Parliament decided, "Let us assist the workers of this country. Let us assist the working class. Let us assist those working class persons who were out there making a contribution to this country." Consequently, Sir, the passing of the Sugar Workers' Minimum Wage and Guaranteed Employment Act was passed. Mr. Speaker, the substance of this Act gave sugar workers a guaranteed minimum work week, and of course it also allowed sugar workers to have a yearly income, and it gave them a right to get a loan from the then housing authority at the time. Sir, if we are speaking about the benefits and how we were

able to move forward as an independent country, having a written Constitution, having the arms of Government and the rule of governance set out in a written document, with a fundamental rights section protecting the citizens of this country, I believe that these pieces of legislation we must applaud. And we must not only applaud the Democratic Labour Party Government, Sir, but applaud Parliament for being visionary and looking forward. That is not all, Mr. Speaker, because as mentioned again by the Member for St. Michael South Central, one of the most revolutionary pieces of legislation is the National Insurance Scheme Act, passed in 1967, a year after Independence. Again, this protected workers and gave security to the same working class of this country, Sir. That is why I side myself with the mover of this Resolution, in that we cannot get up in here and have a Debate on Independence without mentioning the other piece of legislation, which is the Employment of Women Maternity Leave Act. Again, this protected women from dismissal from their jobs because of pregnancy, and it gave them maternity leave up to three months. Again, Parliament in 1976, ten years after Independence, was moving in a progressive way, thinking about the working class and moving to the rhythm of the working classes of this country.

Sir, we have those pieces of legislation, and I could go on and on. When we come now to the modern pieces of legislation, Sir, I was in Opposition, and Parliament had on its Order paper the Health and Safety at Work Bill. A lot of workers in this country at the time were crying out for better working conditions. We had the Factories Act at the time, and that Act was inadequate in the opinion of many lawyers. Yes, I would applaud the previous Government for bringing the Health and Safety at Work Act, but it came here, we had a Debate over it, I recall, and it sat on the Order Paper. It did not gather the force of law because it was never proclaimed, and Parliament then had to come and proclaim the Health and Safety at Work Act, again, to protect workers and to ensure that employers had a duty to provide suitable working conditions for their employees. Then we went further because, in terms of the Common Law doctrine of wrongful dismissal, we brought the Employment Rights Act which now speaks to unfair dismissal and we set up a Tribunal where workers can now go and have their grievances resolved. I must again praise the Minister of Labour for bringing that piece of legislation. Parliament must be applauded. Parliament must be applauded for bringing those pieces of legislation that touch and concern ordinary Barbadians, working class people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again -- you know I am the Minister of Transport and Works. I know one fundamental piece of legislation which was passed by this Parliament was the Succession Act. That impacted on families in Barbados. That gave children who had no rights the same rights of children who were benefitting in terms of property

from an estate. The word bastard was removed by virtue of the Succession Act. Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way. This Parliament has impacted not only on the legislation for workers, but that is also an element of social justice.

Aside

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Thank you, Sir.

As I was saying, it would be remiss of me not to touch transport. Sir, public transport in Barbados was ran and controlled by the private sector before 1955. My research informed me that persons who were involved in private transport at the time were black families. I call the names and I crave your indulgence. Companies operating in Barbados in 1953, these are private persons running public transport. Leeward Motor Omnibus Company, Rocklyn Motor Omnibus Company, Boston Motor Omnibus Company, St. George Motor Omnibus Company, that is the Simpson family, Blades Hill Motor Omnibus Company, the Lucas family, Central Motor Omnibus, Madame Ifill, the General Motor Omnibus Company, acquired by C.A. Downey 1939, the Progress Motor Omnibus Company, the Birch family, Liberty Motor Omnibus Company Limited, Mrs. Wheatherhead, Diamond Motor Omnibus Company Limited, A.C. Trotman, Lincoln Motor Omnibus Company, The Cheeseman family, Yonkers Motor Omnibus Company, Kenneth Jones, the National Motor Omnibus Company, Mrs. Stuart, and My Lords Hill Motor Omnibus Company. All of these were actually running the public transport at the time. Indeed, the State at the time controlled the fares. What happened is -- when the PSV operators recently were arguing for an increase in bus fares, a debate came about because these private companies made a mistake asking for an increase in pay hikes, they had a debate on it and their argument was, they had a declining profitability, they called for pay increases, they claimed that bus fares have been fixed by the Government since 1939 and had not been increased in 15 years, while their operating cost was rising significantly. They were going to the State and asking for an increase in bus fares and the State declined. What happened? The recommendation by these companies for an increase in bus fares was not accepted by the State at the time. Government at the time passed two pieces of legislation, the Barbados Transport Act 1955, which nationalized the whole transport system and two of the private persons, I think Rollock Company was one and Elite Omnibus Company remained. Therefore, the State took over those buses.

I want to again laud those companies for the outstanding contribution they have made to public transport in Barbados. They laid the foundation. They knew at the time how to do it and the State had to learn from it how to do it.

Sir, as the State nationalized public transport in Barbados, do you know what happened? In the 1980s a whole set of illegal vans came on the scene engaging in public transport. Government then had to step in again and regulate the same private transport companies. We now have a mixture of public transport and private transport in Barbados.

Sir, you had a situation before 1955 where black families in Barbados were the controller of public transport in Barbados. The State stepped in, nationalized all the companies, took over public transport by an Act of Parliament and now we are back to full circle where we had to pass a Transport Authority Act, to regulate the same private sector operators. They mirror the same claims of those persons in 1955, because of the same arguments, high operational costs. So we are now faced with the same problem. The same issues are now coming up.

We have to look at a vision of public transport and how are we going to put systems in place - how are we going to develop institutions to regulate public transport so that it could be reliable and efficient.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, what are we looking at in public transport looking forward? Of course, the challenge facing us is the upgrading of our infrastructure.

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

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Barbados has a network of some 2000 kilometers of road network. The challenge facing us here is how we are going to upgrade and extend this infrastructure. Public transport continues to serve as one of the key platforms for social economic growth of this country. We have to embark on projects. We have to look at a vision of technology. We have to look at how we are going to protect small working class families who want to come back into public transport. We did not protect them before 1955. In fact there has been an increase of small black working class people in this country to be involved in public transport and we have to protect them. That is why we have to look at restructuring the Transport Authority in moving forward, giving them greater power of control and making them more accessible to the same ordinary working class citizens. That is what we have to do. The State cannot, and Parliament too, because Parliament's move might be seen as an act...it was necessary at the time to do it because they also passed the Emergency Powers Act at the time because Government at the time was scared because the fellows decide you are not giving me a hike in bus fare so we looking to pull back the public transport. It is the same murmuring that is happening now where the PSVs owners decided recently that they were going to pull their service. The Government stepped in passed the Emergency Powers Act and the Transport Board Act and

purchased all of the buses and then bought new buses so that there would be no further fall out.

*Asides.*

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: That happened in the 70s. We have, Mr. Speaker, in the next 50 years to decide how we are going to modernise public transport and we have to decide whether the objectives as set out in the 1955 Act and the role of the Transport Board as placed under the Act of 1955 are still relevant or whether we have now to change them because we have a very changing environment. We have other challenges. We have the private sector involved heavily in public transport. The question is whether the State should continue to be either the regulatory body or whether it should still be involved heavily in public transport or whether there should be a stronger partnership between the private sector and the public sector in public transport. The history is there. The history of public transport is there. Black families and private companies are responsible for the development of private transport in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I side myself with this Resolution. Again, I want to thank the people of St. Philip North for giving me this opportunity to get up in this House to speak in this important debate, and of course I wish the people of Barbados a very happy Independence and of course my blessings.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sat here for the past several hours listening to the interventions in this debate and I must say with some degree of disappointment...

I can stand here and I can extol the virtues of the Barbados Labour Party in everything that the Barbados Labour Party has done during the 50 years of independence. I can stand here, Mr. Speaker, and can find and say everything bad in relation to the Democratic Labour Party but this is not the time for that in the sense that we are here to speak about and to celebrate a great country called Barbados, a country with all of its faults and shortcomings that I certainly am very proud and happy to call my home.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that all of us are shaped by our experiences whether past or current and in some cases maybe a combination of both. My experience of Barbados, and dealing with the celebrations of our 50th Anniversary, really takes me back to my early childhood because I am fortunate thanks to God for being able to live through the

50 years of the independence of this nation. I remember that back in 1966 I was a mere six-year-old attending St. Mary's Junior School in the City of Bridgetown or playing on Murphy's Pasture and Emmerton. I remember, Mr. Speaker, situations that were very challenging at the time. I certainly was one that welcomed the advent of the School Meals Programme. I certainly was very, very happy indeed to have been able to experience being able to get textbooks free for the first time in secondary school, that was something significant for me as a youngster growing up. Mr. Speaker, it is those experiences seeing some of my friends going to school without shoes, some with one pair and a lot of us not having much... Back in 1966 it was an exciting time for all of us as youngsters ushering in a new nation called Barbados and so the celebrations of 50 years of independence for me is an important thing.

It is true that we are living in difficult and challenging times, that is certainly so but I believe that our great forefathers also did and that is why the nation speaks to in plenty and in time of need. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we should say thanks to God for bringing this great nation this far and for being the people's guide for the past 300 years. It is that religious education, academic moral, that for me really helped us in terms of the psychosocial perspectives of our people at the time to develop and maintain a level of stability within our country. That moral bearing is something that for me represents a significant part of the achievements that we have attained during the last 50 years of independence. In present-day times, yes we are seeing a deterioration in that aspect, that is true, and I believe that deterioration really underscores the importance of that grounding in the very first place and perhaps that is one area to which we ought to return.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that to say that we are not proud our achievements really and truly would be to give credits to those who at the time say that one from 10 left 0 but that was not our experience. One from 10 created a very successful, a very proud and a very well developed Barbados, and it could not have happened on its own. I am not one that is going to agree with anyone in this country to say that the Governments of Barbados have done nothing for the development of this country because that is certainly not true. We cannot say on the one hand that Barbados is a country that punches above its weight, and we agree with Kofi Annan, and then we cannot say that we have things that we should be proud of, the two really are not gelling together. I believe behind that the pugilist that was punching above its weight was some people who were providing the training, the coaching and the management of the resources. This is an experience that we have had for several years by Governments of Barbados whether B or D, and this is something that we as Barbadians must be proud of. We would not have achieved the high ranking that Barbados has consistently achieved over the last several years in terms of the Human Development Index had it not

been for the work done by successive Barbados Governments.

I feel proud whenever I have the refrain in my head: friends of all, satellites of none. That was followed back in 1972 with diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba and back in 1977 with the People's Republic of China. For me this is where we started to advance as a people. Things have happened on both sides and that is true. I have been proud of a Government of Barbados that refused to sign a Shiprider Agreement with the United States of America and had to renegotiate one that suited Barbados. I was proud of the Barbados Government that said no to Article 98 with the United States of America and when the United States of America

when they said to the Government of Barbados that it would withdraw support for Barbados' security forces. I was extremely proud that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of this country could say to the United States of America that the safety and security of Barbados is for the Government and the people of Barbados that is something that has made me very proud.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion of free secondary education in this country is something that has made me very proud. Also the associated change of the curricula where for the first time we were seeing things of a regional or a national flavour, in arts and history, where we now had people who were presenting history that was different from their story and that was more in tune with our story. That for me was a significant achievement.

Mr. Speaker, free tertiary education that provided the impetus for the level of development that took place in this country, this is something that we must always be proud of. The expansion of technical and vocational education that took us from the perspective where we were having something called Industrial Arts, which really were just Metal Work and Wood Work, to a wide range of technical and vocational subjects which, really, put us more in tune with what was going on in the modern world, this is something that we should also be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion in the range of services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the increase in the levels of specialisation within the hospital over the years is something to be proud of, especially the number of Barbadian doctors who benefited from the free education, who were then able to put back something into our primary healthcare institution, that is something that I certainly am proud of. I was proud of the fact that it was either the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the Enmore Health Clinic that over the years we have been able to expand the whole system of polyclinics in this country. I do not think there is another country in the Caribbean that can match that, that is something indeed, I am very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, associated with sovereignty and nationhood is the ability of a country to look after its internal security. Yes, we have the Royal Barbados Police Force in existence for years, which is another institution of which we must be proud after 50 years of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, I want specifically to speak to the advent of the Barbados Defense Force, which came after Independence, that is an institution which has done a lot of work in this country, it is an institution that started out with a lot of suspicion and skepticism but one which right now has been integrated into this society in a way that it has done proud for this country. This is not only in terms of the defense and security aspects but the skills training programme that was initiated at

Harrison's Point, St. Lucy. The medical facilities at the Barbados Defense Force and the medically-trained personnel who form part of the mass casualty response and the emergency response in this country; the initiation of hyperbaric medicine at the Barbados Defense Force with the hyperbaric chamber that saw patients coming from Puerto Rico and all other countries to Barbados, because we have the very best; the engineering resources of the Barbados Defense Force that has been utilised in Barbados and in almost every major natural disaster in this country and in the region, the Barbados Defense Force is a premier institution of which I am proud.

Mr. Speaker, Information and Communication Technology was introduced at the Barbados Defense Force several years ago with a laboratory that was outfitted by the Canadian Government. The Barbados Defense Force is an institution that was able then to provide assistance to the Government and the people of Barbados, from Permanent Secretaries to ordinary public servants, that is something of which we ought to be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I now come to some ordinary Barbadians. Today I want to salute my mother who has fathered me, who is in the grave, and all the other mothers in this country who have fathered us because Barbados was a society where matriarch focal families was the orders of the day, it was our mothers who built this country, mothers who were able to sacrifice, mothers who did not have the wherewithal, mothers who did not have the educational qualifications but who had a level of commitment and dedication, mothers who were able to make a meal stretched, for example, by adding barley and eclipse biscuits to soup, so that all the children, including others, could get something to eat. This is the Barbados that I know. Sir, mothers who were able to send their children to university from their selling from a tray, those vendors are the people that we need to salute today.

Mr. Speaker, if we accept the fact that education and health have been at the forefront of our development, then

we need to salute our teacher, healthcare professionals, nurses, auxiliaries, doctors. They have all done Barbados proud.

Mr. Speaker, to the extent that we were able to export nurses in great numbers to bigger and better lands, I think that is a credit to Barbados that we need to salute. I believe that the ordinary man and woman in the street, from janitor to manager, from vendor to director has played a significant role in the development of this country over the last 50 years and so it is not about Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party, it is about the people of Barbados. Therefore, I am proud to salute every single Barbadian here and abroad who has contributed to the development of our country over the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget those who came from lands near and far. For example, the Indians with whom I have had some interactions, one member of the Indian community said to me that on the eve of Barbados' Independence that their fathers and grandfathers were very worried. In fact, some of them went to England because they were not sure what the new Barbados in an Independence Barbados would have done. But after a few months they came back and there are several of them who told me that they came back and went back to India as well to relinquish their citizenship, to come back to Barbados to become citizens of Barbados and that they will never leave this little rock. They told me that they are proud to be part of a country where a mosque could exist on one end of the street and a church on the other in peaceful coexistence.

Let us remember our CARICOM brothers and sisters who came into this country from St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica, Guyana and other places, including Haiti to some extent. They too have made their contribution, have settled here and have helped to build this nation into what it is today. We too owe them a debt of gratitude and I salute our CARICOM neighbours and those who came from other lands.

Mr. Speaker, what is it that we have to do, or what would I like to see in Barbados for the next 25, 50 or beyond years? The first thing that I think we need to recognise is that those of us in this Honourable Chamber and those who are listening, it is now our duty and responsibility to start to write the history for the next 50 years. Let us remember, as the Anthem says, we write our names on history's page, with expectations great. The people are looking to us to make their expectations great. It is incumbent upon every single one of us in here that 25 or 50 years from now that people would be able to look back and say that we have done something that made their expectations great.

Mr. Speaker, there are lots of things that we can do, but I want to mention a few. I believe, Mr. Speaker that 50

years in the life of a nation should also result in a level of political maturity that is commensurate with attaining 50 years. We need to raise the bar, we really do need to do so. There needs to be more innovation and diversification in our economy and in our educational system because the two go hand in hand. It is those two which will provide the job opportunities that will lift our people out of poverty. We need to proceed full steam ahead with the Green Economy and to take climate change seriously, because it is incumbent that we do so for the success of Barbados' generations and because climate change is a serious and present danger, and we are most vulnerable. We need to embrace information and communication technology, and take it to a level that our young people can make a living out of it and help to develop this nation in a way that it has not been developed before; so that we can be like India, for example, with an emerging class of young millionaires as a result of information and communication technology. At the same time, we must become very cognisant and very serious about cyber security because that, too, is a national security threat and we need to prepare for that in the same way that we prepare for all threats. If we do not, then we will not be able to respond in a way that the citizens of this country would expect. These are a few of the things that I would like to see us moving forward with as we move into the next ten, 15, 20, 50 years or whatever.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to see on the social scene the eradication of pit toilets. I submit that this must be a primary objective of any future Barbados Government because we cannot have people in another five, ten, 15 or 20 years still having pit toilets in Barbados, having attained 50 years of Independence. We must eradicate that scourge from the Barbadian landscape. That is something I would like to see. In conclusion, because I have said what my heart told me to say, I want to say Happy 50th Anniversary to each and every one of you in here, to each and every single Barbadian and visitor on this Rock and to Barbadians in the Diaspora. Let us continue to give God thanks for taking us further for another 300 years. I am obliged.

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

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to lend my voice to this very important parliamentary event that gives rise to the recognition of Barbados having journeyed for the last 50 years in the context of Independence. I want to associate myself fully with the mover of this Resolution, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, and Members on this side who have made their contributions and who have really given us a taxonomy of achievements that Barbados has been able to accomplish over the last 50 years. Mr. Speaker, I also have to acknowledge the presentation of the Member who just sat.

From my own professional experience and expertise, I sat there and watched him going through a whole series of yearnings and groanings as he listened to Members on his side, and clearly he has not associated himself with the things said by some of the Members on that side. It is really a demonstration of a state of enlightenment that was given to us by a person who looks beyond the label of politics and strives to speak from a position of conscience that allows for the pouring forth of such enlightened views. I certainly want to compliment that Honourable Member for that contribution.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a moment where the nation pauses to celebrate this Year of Jubilee and to reflect on 50 years of Independence, to rally our people around the celebration of a great journey from a colonial village to a sovereign nation, and to reflect on our Independence experience to note the achievement of critical national development milestones. The journey of a nation as it is birthed is not uncommon to the journey of a human being that goes through a series and, indeed, a sequence of developmental challenges. What this Independence celebration is not saying is that we have actualised to the extent where there are not challenges present and challenges ahead. Mr. Speaker, all we are trying to do is to reflect on where we were, where we are and to prospect as to where we need to go. It is a journey that reflects on the brilliance of a man who was once recognised as the Man of the Year; a man who was impregnated with a vision that far extended beyond his generation. Mr. Speaker, it was a vision that will certainly outlive our generation because the nature of a vision is that it is not just a display of the present. A vision really is about looking forward and seeing what can be done, and recognising that every successive generation has a role to play. He was impassioned by this vision and saw as the core of his vision the upliftment of a people who had so much potential, a people who had demonstrated over the years of the history of Barbados a kind of resilience that caused them to be embedded in the hopes and dreams of a new nation. Mr. Speaker, indeed this man, we call him the Father of Our Nation but he really understood and accepted that the socio-political Independence of this nation was more important than any struggle to save a Federation. He believed that at the heart of who we are resided a capacity to move beyond where we were destined to be at that time and to fight back all of the criticisms that emanated from the opposing side.

Is it not an irony, Mr. Speaker, that 50 years after Independence, after that Debate that took place, I believe, in January of 1966, some of the same players, if not in voice by name and if not in name by association, are now fronting the same opposition to the celebration of 50 wonderful years of journeying in this country? Mr. Speaker, I would like at some point later on to raise some names of persons, perhaps the chief opponent to Independence, and ask ourselves a question: If that

particular dynasty was not prepared to support Independence then, why should they be given an opportunity to lead an independent nation now? What is required to lead an independent nation? We have to ask ourselves whether, in going forward, we have to determine who we want to be and what kind of society we want for Barbados. Those questions can be answered, but the Father of Independence believed that the capacity to dream and to pursue the fulfilment of those dreams far outstripped our small size as a Small Island Developing State.

He believed that like Niamiah, the Old Testament Prophet, the voices of the detractors were far too hollow to nullify the deep seated conviction that Independence for Barbados was the order of the day. All of us remember the story of Niamiah. Niamiah emerged in a crisis of Israel when the Jerusalem walls were torn down and he was given a mission to rebuild those walls. Even as the Right Excellent Errol Barrow was given a mission to take Barbados beyond the constrictions and the confines of colonialism and allow us to become a sovereign entity responsible for charting our own destiny, Niamiah had a commission to build the wall. Sanballat and Tobiah opposed. They said, "Come down. Why are you up there? Why should you be building that wall? There is no need for that? Come down. Join us down here?" He said, "No" and he built. Is it not strange that the lamentations of Sanballat and Tobiah were the lamentations of the opposition at that time who opposed the pursuit of independence? They said, do not. They called Mr. Barrow a communist. They accused him of bringing mercenaries to the island. Mr. Speaker, they said they would be no more elections. They said Barbados was unable to carry its own social, political, economic and security weight. They led an unsuccessful crusade against the day that has now given birth to the celebration of 50 years of Independence.

Sir, he pressed on challenging his chief opponent one Ernest Deighton Mottley, chief opponent of this quest for Independence. So chief an opponent was he that the Right Excellent and father of Independence called them a bunch of mange cats drowning in a tub of gold fish, mange or scruffy or half blighted. You can find a group of names, synonyms, if you will, Mr. Minister of Education that you can add. So invigorating were them by the notion that the Democratic Labour Party leadership at the time could have carried Barbados into Independence that they tried to discourage him like they tried in that day to discourage Niamiah. The same lamentations of that time, Mr. Speaker, are not emanating from the same quarters. They are likened unto a lowly, wondering whistling frog, lost among an orchestra of a thousand horns. Sir that is where they are. Barbadians will not join any voices or any lonely cricket to frown on the achievements of Barbados, to frown on the virtues of Independence, not just Independence by becoming a sovereign state, but Independence at the mental, psychological and the social level, where

Barbadians were encouraged to think for themselves and to encourage that thinking, the founding fathers ensured the educational platform was in place to educate our society. Mr. Speaker, it was not just some fanciful thought or someone just trying to create political distinction. No, it was the thinking of a man who looked way beyond his years and saw a society that needed to be resilient, to be strong and to be forward looking.

Mr. Speaker, they never understood the journey. They never saw the likeness of our journey of Independence to their own personal development, but it is a journey not uncommon to the journey of life, the developmental journey of human life, where significant maturational milestones are negotiated and the various stages. Barbados has gone through it. In 1966, in the infancy of Independence what we would call the infancy of human life, the give me stage, the help me stage. Then they went through the adolescent stage where they asked for help and assistance, and they asked for guidance. Now we are in the adulthood stage, 50 years in human development terms reflects upon its age of human development, which is somewhere around middle adulthood, adulthood where, of course individuals step out, get married, they move out on their own, they have their own autonomy and they are moving ahead. It does not mean they have achieved maturation as yet. That is where we are and we are moving now post 50 to the give stage, where the society is not in a mode of seeking to give as much as can be given, to allow its citizens to be able to prod forward, or to gallop forward to achieve full maturation in this society we call our own.

Sir, noticeable each stage is met with celebration. You celebrate what has been achieved so far. That is why I do not understand why some persons have a difficulty in understanding what is there to celebrate. You celebrate what has been achieved so far, Sir. You do not celebrate tomorrow necessarily, you celebrate where you have come from, what you have achieved so far and you look forward to the future. You reflect on your resilience to overcome challenges of the passage, not just the middle passage, but the passage of life. The rite of passage. There is something in African society where you go through a rite of passage, where every male in that society must undertake certain task in order to be recognized as a mature male in the society, and that comes with its peril. You look forward to the continued journey to self-actualization. I have said in here before that self-actualization does not mean you have achieved maximum in life in every area. You achieve certain areas of actualization, but you continue to press forward. You do not use the moment to criticise and to tear down yourself or the object of your celebration, you rejoice at the achievement of 50 years, a wonderful achievement, Mr. Speaker, and look to the achievements of Barbados at 50, oh! Dear.

Mr. Speaker, it has already been numerated but if you want to if you want to see achievements look at education. Look at the institutions we have built. Look at the innovations we have attached to education, Look at the fact that every single Barbadians child has the opportunity to be educated, as long as he or she wants to be educated. I hear people saying that people are now graduating without certification. That is not the fault of Barbados. That has to do with people's personal application, their attitude and how they respond to the educational environment, but Barbados has delivered that.

Social policy, the notion of equality. Social justice, social care, social protection, all of these rafts have been created for the emerging Barbados as a nation. Business and trade, international business, entrepreneurial development, health care, public transport, the environment, the energy policy and the tripartite system, all of which we have a reason to celebrate today. Where were we? Before Independence we were scattered across a prosperous land untouched by its bounty. We were the means of production and not the owners of production, that is where we were and that is why they had riots over workers' conditions because workers were treated as chattel. They were living in a prosperous land but not being touched by the prosperity, that is where we were. We were loitering in Amen Alley barred by our own masters from entering into the holy of holies. We were responsible for transporting our masters there but we sat loitering in the alley, that is where we were and that is why we have a reason to celebrate. We were regulated to poverty and menial living. At the time notions of the middle class was just a distant dream. Mr. Speaker, who were we? We were a plantation village, we were the means of production and we were chattel of those of another land, that is who we were.

I believe that every Barbadian regardless of their station in life today have a reason to join in celebrating our nation for creating a genuine middle passage. Where are we now? A stable democracy, a progressive and educated society and a society where we can freely practice the virtues of faith, that is where we are.

Who do we want to be? A nation that honours our sociocultural traditions, our traditions of faith, of family, of interdependence and traditions that are value-centred is where we are and who we want to become: A nation that upholds the virtue of our democracy, a nation guided by a transformational leadership type that is undergirded by morality, by humility, by integrity, by sacrifice and by stability.

Anyone, Mr. Speaker, who wants to take Barbados forward must be embraced by the virtues of morality, humility, integrity, sacrifice and stability. Office seeking to lead this country must not be driven by an urge for power

but rather by an urge to serve and to serve the people of this great nation.

What kind of society do we want to be? We want to be a society that values law and order, not a society where anybody can pry into your personal banking accounts or not a society where leadership would be tempted to engage in tapping your phones. We do not want that kind of situation, Mr. Speaker. We want leadership as defined by a leadership type that holds fast to those unassailable values and virtues that make us a small nation but a great nation. Mr. Speaker, that is why I say that we have a perfect and present example of the kind of leadership that this country needs not only for now but for the next several years. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot just call yourself a leader, you must live out the virtues of transformational leadership, and that is important.

What kind of society do we want to be? We want to be a society of hope: Hope for a brighter tomorrow, hope for the full actualisation of our independence dreams, hope for a united society, hope for a resilient society and hope for a truly altruistic society that embraces all people but more importantly a society that is driven by an embrace of self-sacrifice where persons see the importance in the upliftment of other sometimes over themselves. We want persons who are dedicated, Mr. Speaker, to ensuring that all persons of all types are willing to move forward and willing to be embraced by that kind of thinking. Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of society we strive to become.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados in spite of all of its travails, in spite of all of its challenges and in spite of all of the current challenges that affect the globe... Nations that are much older than Barbados like Greece, Spain and those nations have gone through their travails and they are still struggling in their travails, so to give the impression that the challenges of our nation are unique to a political party or a political leader is wrong. Barbados is not isolated from the challenges of the world, but we have batted well. Even on a rough wicket we have batted well. Mr. Speaker, it is because that those who now lead us understand the importance of transformational leadership grounded in the principles of morality, integrity and of sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, and that is what is important.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one has travelled the road of success without crossing the streets of failure. Mr. Speaker, God never promised us an easy journey, He only promised us a great destination. We anchor our beliefs not in the words of ordinary people but in the words of the Almighty. I believe with all of my heart that the next 50 years, and I hope I am around for them, will be an achievement of new milestones and the creation of a stronger and more resilient society. I believe that the next 50 years will allow us to recognise the wisdom of our founding fathers who set the pace for development in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have to continue to focus on our convictions. We cannot allow ourselves to be obsessed by elections or by electoral conditions. What we have to do as the guardians of this estate is to ensure that we take every opportunity to take Barbados from strength to strength to strength. Mr. Speaker, if someone invites you to a 50-year-old birthday celebrations, I do not think...

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Yes, you did not invite me to yours. I do not think you have made it there yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not had one.

*Asides.*

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: If you have a 50-year birthday celebration the people who come to your birthday celebrations do not come there to kick you down and to tell you what you have not achieved, what you have not done or what is wrong with your house, your life, your car, your dog or your cat, no they do not, what they do is come there to celebrate your 50th year of life. You may have one foot, but do you think they are going to spend the night telling you why you should not have it. Mr. Speaker, you may be renting a house, do you think they are going to be spending the whole night telling you why at 50 years you should own your own home, no, they are there to celebrate the fact that you have lived to see 50 years, an important milestone. If those who criticise this Government for celebrating 50 years understood their own journey of life, if they understood the challenges of personal development, they perhaps would have a different view point on why Barbados should be celebrating.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this, if it would cost us \$100 million to celebrate Independence, it would be worth it. I will stay there for now because I could give a parallel where \$100 million was spent and it was not worth it. The celebration of Independence, the celebration of the birth of a sovereign nation is worth every single accolade that we are able to shower on our great Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I will end with the words of a spiritual song which says:

“We have come this far by faith;

Leaning on the Lord;

Trusting in his Holy Word;

He’s never failed us yet.”

Ever forward Barbados, never backwards and may God bless our nation, our leaders past and present and may God bless us all. I thank you.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this debate is taking place for us to be able to place on record our deep gratitude and appreciation for the journey traveled thus far, but more particularly for the people, accumulatively, those who were the ordinary citizens and those who in every aspect of this society's endeavours led at all levels. Mr. Speaker, it is a good and proper thing to give thanks, it is a good and proper thing to reflect, sometimes, and to see where we are.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this debate admits of that possibility for us. This is a country that has certainly led in the global estimation in areas of development, in areas of bringing people from poverty, indeed, Sir, there are many who have appropriately suggested that the process is really one that started effectively some 75-or-so years ago. There are those who perhaps are even more correct, who start at the point of the early organisation of Barbadians by men like the Right Excellent Charles Duncan O'Neal who understood the need for unification through political action. Then, with the more formal establishment of political parties with gentlemen like the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams and the establishment of labour unions like the establishment of the Barbados Workers Union, so that workers themselves could organise and not be subject to the turning of persons who had power.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, Sir, it is arguable that there could be no hope of even discussing Independence unless the average Barbadian had the right to vote, which was extended to them through the Universal Adult Suffrage Act, 1950, with Barbadians over the age of 21 getting that right. If the majority of Barbadians could not provide the platform to vote for people who looked like themselves in this Honourable Chamber, could the discretion of Independence be one where we could have had it in the seamless manner in which we did and without the loss of life or liberty, as was our case and happy circumstances?

Mr. Speaker, it is in that context, therefore, that I wish to speak because yes, it is a good and wonderful thing to give praise; it is a good and wonderful thing to give thanks; it is a good and wonderful thing to salute those but those who had the courage to stand up and to let their voices be heard and to face the tribulations of attacks, loss of life and loss of liberty, had they not had the courage in 1937, would there have been the Moyne Commission? Would there have been the focus on the awful and inhuman conditions under which the majority of this population had

to live? I say and would want to suggest that they probably would not have been.

Mr. Speaker, I want to step back and ask the 30 Members in this Honourable Chamber as we seek to give thanks, to recognise that ours is but a piece of the continuum and that we have been fortunate as a nation thus far to generally have people who buy into the same vision as to where Barbados must go and how we must take it, and that if we have a moment for pause, the truth is that the moment for pause has come in the last few years because the things that traditionally united the majority of people in terms of vision are now the subject of serious philosophical debate and divide.

Mr. Speaker, do we accept that as yet everybody has not gotten on the train and that we still need a State that can ensure that those who cannot provide for themselves are given the assistance to do so by the State. I refer, of course, to areas like education. Are there enough of us who can honestly say that those who have not gotten on the train should be left to fend for themselves, knowing full-well that 80 per cent of the people who go to the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus comes from poor and lower middle income households in this country? Can they, in this economic environment where the country has been challenged for the last eight years economically, find the resources to be able to make that journey? Is there the view to be adhered to, as the other side has put it, that we only need to take care of people by way of a means test? Is Barbados small enough for us to divide and rule on those fundamental issues that lift people out of poverty? These are the questions that will inevitably occupy us and perhaps show a greater philosophical divide between the two parties as we set out a vision for where Barbados must go.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the 30 of us in here. As we give thanks, which is a good and wonderful thing to do, do we not recognise that it is truly and equally a better thing to inspire others to be able to take us to the next stage over the course of the next 50 years, in circumstances where we are clearly faltering and many of the indices and aspects of our quality of life are not where any of us, I dare say, can be happy with the development of some of the indices in the last few years in this country.

Mr. Speaker, if we accept that we are not happy with them, the question is how do we get this country back on the straight and narrow in order to lay the foundation for the next 50 years. Sir, believe you me, just as 1966 to 1976 was, in this Government's opinion, pivotal to the foundation that the country had in moving forward, the next decade will equally be pivotal in securing the transformation that we know we deserve as a country in the next 50 years.

That is perhaps where I would ask Honourable Members for us to start to focus aspects of this Debate. How do we make Barbados work for Bajans again? Mr. Speaker, I say all the time that there cannot be two Barbadoses, and there cannot be two Barbadoses in the most obvious of ways. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph has been a voice calling out, along with other persons including the Member for St. Andrew and others, for the lack of water. In 1966 the Right Excellent Errol Barrow never would have contemplated that the country which he was ushering into Independence would face the prospect of tens of thousands of its citizens not being able to have ready supply and access to water on a daily basis to do that which they needed to do. In 1966 the Right Excellent Errol Barrow would never have dreamt that we would have a situation, having ushered in free education, after Sir Grantley Adams was able to provide the adequate number of places so that if you say it should be free, there was somewhere for people to go. You can say anything is free but if you cannot supply the places for people to attend school, it would be a moot promise. Could we contemplate that he would be happy that Barbadians coming from lower and middle economic households and poor households would now have to defer their dreams because we have not so ordered our business in this society to help them? Would he be happy at the prospect of two Barbadoses? Would those be happy who feel that they are given rough treatment and are ignored when others receive preferential treatment and see a consolidation of both power and wealth? Mr. Speaker, it hurts my heart to stand here, and the Member for St. Lucy sought to answer it two years ago; that the people in Temple Yard, as we speak in this Honourable Chamber tonight, more than 50 or 60 of their stalls do not have electricity and access to running water. It is five years after a fire. Yes. In spite of that, they are still putting their best foot forward. Every other Sunday night, they rent a generator and do what they have to do down there in terms of offering a platform for creative talent in this country, and there is no electricity. I do not blame you, the Minister of Finance, on this one because somebody has to come to you to ask you for the money.

Aside.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: He needs not look worried. The point I am making, Sir, is that there cannot be two Barbadoses as we move forward. I am not going to be drawn into the rewriting of history, because I was a baby at the time. I will let those who have credibility to speak do so; people like Sir Henry Forde and Sir Philip Greaves who can tell the truth of the journey, who can tell the stories of who was it really that defended the Right Excellent Errol Barrow when the Colonial Secretary turned on him and tried to be offensive in the extreme in the Independence talks. It does not suit the Member for Christ Church East to tell the truth as to the story of Independence in this Honourable Chamber, because it does not fit into the

narrative. The narrative is, regrettably, a political narrative rather than a national narrative. I would have loved the opportunity, and Members on my side know it, for the Barbados Labour Party to have participated fully in the national preparations for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence. Indeed, one year ago almost to the day, the Prime Minister spoke in this Honourable Chamber and identified all of the people who were being invited to participate in the national planning committee: the private sector, the church, everybody except the entity that helped to govern this country for the 24 of the 50 years for which there was a Government in Barbados. If we were a member of that committee, Sir, I would have said to the Government or our representatives would have said to the Government that we believe that we have to celebrate, but we also believe that our celebration should equally reflect things that can withstand the test of time and should be tangible equally for those who gave of their best over the last 50 years.

I am sure the Minister of Tourism could find 50 Barbadians who spent more than 25 or 30 years -- by inviting the public to submit their names -- helping to build out the hotel and tourism sectors in this country over the course of the last 50 years; who could be saluted in a tangible way, particularly those who live alone and who may be in the evening of their days, and who may need some assistance and to whom the country could give \$20 000 each to be able to help them do what they have to do around their houses or keep their pensions together. I am sure that the Minister of Agriculture could find 50 such sugar workers and factory workers whose names would be submitted by those in the industry -- not to be chosen by either political party -- that they too could receive \$20 000 each. I am sure that the same applies to the Minister responsible for Manufacturing in terms of the people who worked in the 1960s, '70s and '80s when manufacturing was at its halcyon stage in terms of its contribution to this economy. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that as we look back that we would also want to look forward, that we would say -- I am not talking about constituencies now -- that we would plant 50 trees in each parish, recognising the role that we play in the sustenance and maintenance of small island states and the fight against global warming; that all of us on a particular day, not politicians alone but Barbadians, plant 50 trees in each parish, so that this country, as it celebrates its centenary as a nation, people could point back and say, "These are the people who along the way planted these trees in order to help sustain the kind of Barbados that we want it to be." Anybody who knows me knows my house is called 'A Couple of Branches' because I believe in trees. I would have liked to have seen 50 young Barbadians who have ideas submit their ideas, and 50 of them be taken. Just as we chose the Monument, we would take the 50 ideas and give them a seed of \$10 000 each. That is the kind of celebrations.... I would like to have seen 50 small businesses identified and given \$20 000 each because that,

too, would make a significant difference for them being able to meander their way through in a way that the Minister of Finance would love to be able to see; because when they prosper, the revenue increases.

I would have liked to have seen 50 young Barbadians who cannot now pay their fees at the University of the West Indies (UWI), who were among the 4 000-plus applying. Twenty-five hundred were chosen and admitted, but only 1 000 turned up at Cave Hill this September. I would have liked to have seen us pick 50 Barbadians to give scholarships to attend UWI. When I do the mathematics on those things I have outlined, we are talking about \$5.5 to \$6 million when the Government's full budget on Independence from last year and this year is in the vicinity of \$8.5 million before we add in what statutory corporations paid. The point is, it would have left us with about \$3 million to do the monument and to do the other free events that of necessity must happen. Bajans must be allowed to go on the Garrison and celebrate on November 30th. I am in that. Bajans must be given an opportunity to congregate and have the church service for thanks within the spiritual context. I am in that. I am not too sure about the Ball and the \$500 a plate, et cetera, because I think that leaves out a lot of people who might otherwise be there. That is the truth. I understand the budget for that is \$900 000 and I am not sure. I would have preferred it to go into these tangible things. I know the Minister of Finance would have understood the economic spinoff just as there will be inevitably an economic from Bajans returning home in November, but had we been on the Committee I would have said to the Government that December, because it should have started from November 30th last year, in December the people of St. Lucy who live in the diaspora should be invited to come to Barbados and there would be a special St. Lucy celebration. In January the people of St. Peter would have been invited for the return and the coming of the generation for the people of St. Peter. In February it would have been the people of St. Andrew. In March it would have been the people of St. Joseph. In April it would have been the people of St. James and you literally come right down until October, it would have been the people of St. Michael, and then November it would be the people of all the 11 parishes. The gathering of the generations. Those who are Barbadian by birth, by marriage, by decent, by choice, these are the kinds of meaningful celebrations that could have been had, but at the same time we did that I would have advised the Government you needed to make sure basic services be available to all Bajans that the notion of building a multi storey, which they did not commit to until 4 or 5 months ago, in actual financing terms, a multi-story headquarters at Vaucluse. I still do not know how that is going to sit on our landscape and what it is going to be like to look up from the West Coast and see a 4 or 5 storey building jutting up on that ridge at Vaucluse for a headquarters. Instead of spending the \$28 million to build that administrative

building for the Sanitation Services Authority, that we could have bought 35 garbage trucks or preferably electric or LLG for \$15 million or less. The Government would have had money left back. I would have liked to have said to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet that at the same time we are laying out these Independence celebrations and having this assured garbage collection, we would have been better off fast-tracking some of the things the Minister is doing in urging access to water can work, but there is a lot more. There are other tanks that can be used at the back of trucks that do not need the big trucks, so that communities could genuinely have a greater supply because half the problem is, you had 4 or 5 trucks to supply tens of thousands of people. That would have been better expenditure spent than spending \$65 million in building the Barbados Water Authority, just as the reverse osmosis plant needs to be done for both quality issues and issues pertaining to those living in the Belle, rather than spending \$65 million in building the building for the Barbados Water Authority.

I would have said that the \$5 million the Minister of Finance announced in his budget to clean up Barbados, should have been included from the Estimates on April 1st, and with the best will in the world now, as you drive around Barbados it is going to be a gargantuan task to clean up this country in the next two weeks. The truth is, the people are starting to come from next week but the country is not clean and we have a duty to make it clean. Not even the Spring Garden Highway, and the Minister knows that because his constituency is down there. In the middle of the road the grass is into the road. Go down there. I came up two hours ago. At the side of the road the grass is about 12 to 15 inches high on the side by Atlantis.

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

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

If he now came from down there he would know that in the medium of the road where the street lights are the grass is now growing into the road, which threatens ultimately to undermine the integrity of road as had happened with so many others.

Sir, not to mention the potholes. Rather than being ...

*Asides.*

Hon. M.A. MOTTLEY: Craters. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North is right because the worst road in Barbados now has to be Well Gap. You literally cannot drive through Well Gap without hitting a pothole because there are 12 inches apart on all sides. The sides of the road, the middle of the road...

*Asides.*

Hon. M.A. MOTTLEY: I had a big Jeep and yet last week I had to buy two tires. When I went to get the tires balanced they told me I need to buy arms too because the arms mashed up. God help those who do not have Jeeps. I am saying that I do not expect the Minister in the current fiscal environment to be able to do massive road paving, although they are going to be promising it, but what I do expect is the Depots to be given the money to fix the potholes as part of the celebration for Independence.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East talked about inviting people home. Well you do not invite people home if you do not fix up how the house looks. You do not invite people home if the people cannot use the bathroom to flush. You do not invite people home if you cannot literally give them an environment that is hospitable. You know this notion about the Barbados Labour Party not celebrating, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has said that he cannot find it in his heart to attend the events. I understand. I do not necessarily agree but I understand why he would feel that way, but the rewriting of the nonsense, I sat down and watch ... I could call all the Ministers and can almost tell them what they had on January 6th in Bridgetown. I sat at the back on April 28th in spite of having a picnic all day for over 25 000 people, I came down here to the event for Independence on the 28th April.

*Asides.*

Hon. M.A. MOTTLEY: Yes, I did. The next time you should come. I am going to invite you.

The tribute to labour for Independence -- I was only invited 3 days before or 2 days before to speak, but in spite of that I rearranged my diary and went and spoke because I understand what it takes to build the country. Sir, do you know what hurt my heart? Even as we celebrated we paid homage to those whose legs were lost at Remembrance Day. Year after year the crowds get smaller and smaller and the parade of the groups get smaller and smaller. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was there. I did not see the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West. That is the truth.

Sir, I believe that if we want to build the nation...

*Asides.*

Hon. M.A. MOTTLEY: I did not say you were not there. I said I did not see you.

You mean to tell me that we did not know we were going to be paying respects then and the boarding at the corner of the Careenage that has been up for months, is that

boarding going to be up for the next few weeks too? We do not plan out our business a certain way. The boarding there at the corner, and about 10 or 12 people commented on it the morning. It is not me commenting on it. I am saying to us that we need to do better. How can we make Barbados work for Barbadians? That is what I believe that the 30 of us in this Honourable Chamber as we give thanks ought to be focusing on. I believe that in the same way our parents had to come out - I think there are a few people in here who had to do it - to go and hold the Union Jack and sing God Save the Queen, how do we believe that it is possible to build a nation and not bring out our school children at national events. I think that every school child in Barbados must attend the Independence Parade no less than four times between the ages of five and 16 while at school. I really feel so because there is no sense they are building something that is precious... I like fetes but I cannot justify all of the events only being event-driven, nothing with a legacy, and I say to the Government we can do better. Three weeks is left, let all of us in this country put our best foot forward. Let us clean up around where we are and make sure that at the very least we have done as much as we can do to welcome people.

Mr. Speaker, from December 01, let us focus on securing the first decade of the next 50 years making sure that Barbadians would have access to water, making sure that Barbadians feel safe in their own country, making sure that Barbadians believe that their children can go to university without having to worry about where the money is going to come from, making the choices, there will be hard choices, making sure that children are provided with the chance to truly leave school, and the Honourable Member for St. George South said it, with either certificates or a skill and making sure that Bajans having access to healthcare does not depend on who can afford to pay to go to Sandy Crest or FMH, and giving each Barbadian household that does not have an income a living income whether it is by way of a pension or by way of some kind of cooperative thing between welfare and the civil society branches. Let us make sure that these things that are necessary to retain the integrity of who we are as a people...

Barbadians believe in hard work. Barbadians believe in pride. Barbadians believe in industry. It is not just tag words that we have in our motto. Last night I watched Gwen Ifill, whose parents were Barbadians and who obviously raised her that way, making the point that she did not fail because she could not. You do not fail, you go in through the door and you do your best and your hardest work. That reinforced in me what Bajans continue to reinforce in their children. Can the 30 of us say that we as a Parliament and as a Government are doing our hardest work to make this the best place within which to live, to work and to invest? We then ask the question of our population: Can we say that? It is only when we can have

these conversations, when we can move away from the fact...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired. I was giving you two minutes in which to wind up. Please, wind up.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It is only when we can say that there cannot be a consolidation of power or money in the next 50 years as there was before, that Barbadians deserve not just a piece of the rock but a piece of the action and that Barbadians deserve to come into the room to be consulted, to be at the table to have a say that we will get back on the right path and in my view secure not just our stabilisation but our transformation as a nation such that upon the centenary anniversary we can have Barbadians holding their heads high that this country continues to punch above its weight.

I say thank you to those who have come before but I say to us let us inspire each other to do better because Barbados must first and foremost work for Barbadians.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, today we are called here to celebrate Barbados. I was a teenager, Mr. Speaker, when the Union Jack came down. I remember as a boy growing up the celebration that took place in 1966, and every year I would have celebrated our independence and therefore it is important for us having reached 50 years as an independent country to celebrate the achievements of this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us, however, to look carefully at what happened in 1966 and before and what happened since 1966. We also have to look at our successes and at some of the failures that we would have gone through because in 50 years, Mr. Speaker, all would not have been success, and the Government must not point out that we have had only successes over the last 50 years. We have arrived at 50 years and that is indeed a time for us to celebrate, for us to reflect and for us to look at how we can do better in the future.

Mr. Speaker, today we have a Parliament that comprised of 30 Members. In 1966 the Parliament had only 24 Members. In 1966 we had double-member constituencies and today we have single-member constituencies, so a lot of changes have taken place overtime. We have had a situation when in 1966 the population was only about 236 000 people. Today, we have a population of about 285 000 people. We have a

population where the number of males and females are almost the same.

Mr. Speaker, one can say that the standard of living over the 50-year period have improved generally. Our economy has been diversified to some extent but of course we need to look carefully at this diversification to see if better could have been done over the period of 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, since 1966 we have a new airport, a new Bridgetown Port, industrial sectors at the Grantley Adams International Airport and at Newton and an education sector that is really unmatched in the Caribbean and we have to give praise for that. Of course, this does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that education started in 1966. By 1966 most of our grammar schools would have been built and we were on course. In fact, by 1966 Barbados was better off than most of our Caribbean islands.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot today, and we need to put the record straight because sometimes history cannot be rewritten, history is a fact of life and we have to be able to see it through. Mr. Speaker, one has to look at the context in which we were led into independence. It is true that there were many people who were hesitant to go into independence because people were charting new courses, but the truth of the matter is that we were in a situation where the islands were supposed to form a federal arrangement which failed and by 1961 it was the Premier of this country along with other premiers who wanted to form the "Little Eight" which also failed and because of failing, the British Government felt that these islands ought to go to independence alone because nobody fought for independence. Mr. Speaker, these countries did not fight for Independence like most of the Latin America countries, for example, like France or Haiti, so that Independence was a natural thing by the 1960s. Mr. Speaker, in fact, one would recall that after the West Indies Federation broke up that Jamaica went into Independence; Trinidad and Tobago followed; Guyana too, then Barbados, so that the era of the time was Independence for the small islands and Britain wanted to get rid of them anyway.

Mr. Speaker, so that when one comes to say that people were so heroic in fighting for Independence, it was really a gift. In fact, many islands were given money in order to get their Independence programme going. I am not sure what Barbados got, but I know from history that many islands were given millions of pounds in order to get their islands going.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this whole notion that there were so many people objected to Independence, including the Barbados Labour Party, is not true. In fact, those persons who went to Lancaster House, England, agreed that Independence should come only after election, that there must be an election. That is what the team of the

Barbados Labour Party asked for, that there must be an election before Independence. The other position was providing the fundamental rights to its citizens. The Barbados Labour Party team felt that the fundamental rights provision should be included, that the judiciary should be independent, as well as the Auditor-General Office. Those were things asked for and were given to the Independence provision.

Mr. Speaker, Independence came and a Democratic Labour Party carried this country into Independence. Therefore one has to say that it was a good thing because we all celebrated Independence in 1966, but we do not want to tarnish the lives of those men who were not capitalist oriented, they were socialist in nature and so every right-thinking Barbadian at the time felt that Independence was not only ripe for Barbados but also the Caribbean. Barbados I want to say that since 1966 we have had our differences of opinion in here but Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have had a society that has worked well in general. Sir, because of the fact that you could dissect this 50 years into terms, when one looks at what happened by 1976, what happened by 1986, what went on by 1996 and 2006. We can divide them into ten-year terms so that we would be able to appreciate what happened in those various years.

Mr. Speaker, by 1976 we found that a new Barbados Labour Party came to office and implemented a number of substantial changes. Between 1976 and 1986 a number of fundamental changes took place in this country for the betterment of the people, for example, the Tenantry Freehold Purchase Act, bringing young 14-year-olds back into the school system, a new Education Act was passed. We have not had a wholesale revision of the Education Act since 1983, so that a number of fundamental changes were made during those years. We had the rights of women during the period of 1980s which helped to improve the lives of women and so we brought women to the fore as was never before done. Mr. Speaker, during that period we succeeded in doing just to our society.

Mr. Speaker, further, we had situations over that period that led to substantial improvement in our infrastructure. We had new highways being built. We had new roads for the first time. We had paved road. There was electricity all across Barbados. We had improvements in technology. Sir, over the period of time one can say that Barbados has improved not only in education but also in health services. Mr. Speaker, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was built before Independence and we have seen situations where the health service has improved over the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health talked today about chronic non-communicable diseases. The Honourable Member also spoke about the rise in diabetes

and the rise in a number of other diseases in our country, but we have to be able to do better. Of course, we understand that we are spending a lot of money in health. In fact, by 1966 we were spending less than \$28 million in health service. Today we are spending about \$500 million. More money is being spent in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than has ever before, therefore, we need to know how our money is being spent. Mr. Speaker, if the Opposition asks these questions, the Government must not feel that we should not be asking them, the duty of the Opposition is to critically assess and to analyse what the Government is doing and that we will continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have to aspire to at least a 3 per cent growth every year and that if we do not achieve that growth, then we would have tremendous problems paying civil servants and doing the things to make this country even better. We do not feel good, the Opposition may say to Government that it has had a number of downgrades. Do you think that the Opposition likes those downgrades? No, the Opposition does not. I understand that there are about 17 downgrades that the Government has had over the last five years but regardless of that, we do not like it. We feel that something has to be done in order to upgrade our economy. Sir, our per capita income is now lower than it was in 2006, we want to be able to see our per capita income rising above US\$4 000.

Mr. Speaker, we do not feel right in terms of business, we want to be able to work with Government to be able to fix why it is that doing business in Barbados seems to be going backwards. We do not feel good when there are countries like Belize, Antigua, Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago that are way above Barbados in the Business Index. We need to look at a system of how we can help the Government and at what is it that we can do.

Mr. Speaker, only this week we heard that Sagicor has left Barbados and that they are doing better abroad in Bermuda. We do not feel well in our 50th year of Independence. Therefore we have to be able to do better in this country. We need to find out why it is that business that are Barbadian would want to leave us now in our 50th year of Independence and would want to boast that they are doing better. We have to be able to fix these things and to work together to ensure that we can put a system in place, or that simple rules must be brought to bear.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of Commerce and Industry today speaking on this Head, the ease of doing business. The Honourable Member wants to ensure that small businesses can do better, but there must be simple rules. Sir, I think that some of our rules are too complex. I think some are outdated. I think that the ease of doing business in Barbados must be fixed, so that in the next decade we could see a movement for Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I do not feel good when I come in at our airport. For example, I heard the Minister and I think he is going in the right direction but I heard the Minister of Tourism say that we are going to spend over \$200 million in fixing the airport. I came into the airport a couple nights ago, and a number of passengers could not get off the plane. Why? It was raining. You cannot get off the plane, Mr. Speaker, and I am saying to you that in 2006 at Cabinet we were discussing this very problem. Ten years ago we were discussing this problem of fixing the airport, but do you know, Mr. Speaker, that we are now behind Trinidad? We are now behind Jamaica, and we were in front of these people long ago. We have to be able to do more in terms of fixing our airport.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a Point of Order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. He is deliberately misleading the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you cannot accuse a Member of deliberately misleading the Chamber.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Withdraw the "deliberate".

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Of course, I withdraw the "deliberate", Sir. In saying that that jet bridges were being considered in 2006, the Honourable Member is forgetting that in 2002 in the renovation of what was Seawell Airport, now the Grantley Adams Airport, his Administration deliberately left out jet bridges. That was the policy position of the Barbados Labour Party.

The word "deliberate" was withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: No Point of Order is found. Please continue.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want the Member not to feel that I am criticising. I am saying that ten years ago it was envisaged that we needed jet bridges, that we needed as a country dependent on tourism to improve the airport. I am now hearing that the runway is going to be fixed. When last have you fixed the runway of the airport? For ten years, I do not think anything was done in terms of moving the airport forward so we need to do it. What about persons in Christ Church East? I heard the Member for Christ Church East speak and he speaks very well, but he has not told us why the people at Leadvale have not been compensated for the land up there. This is ten years and they have not. I am saying these are frustrations for ten years and more for persons who have been moved from the airport and have not been repaid and compensated. That is the frustration that goes on, and even though we celebrate and people are celebrating, the persons

tonight do not have title for the land up there. Something has to be done, and we have to be able to put committees in place and move forward these things. It is taking too long. This is the frustration that we feel. It is taking too long to do things in Barbados, whether it is immigration or whether it is the court system. We have spoken about this. Even though we say we have a good society, which is true -- we have a very good society. Barbados is doing well -- I believe that we can do better. In fact, I believe that we need to take back our lead. I do not feel good when I hear that we are now behind countries like St. Lucia, and I know in my heart that we are still a very big and good country; but the finer things we have to do better.

I believe that we have to be able to put a system in place where we look at what is happening in the unions today. I heard today Members talked about the trade unions. I believe that Barbados was one of the first countries in the Caribbean that had a Trade Union Act in 1941. The Barbados Workers' Union was formed then, but today we have a number of industrial problems that need to be addressed. The Government has to take the bull by the horn and stop the problems of supersession. The Government must intervene. I think the Prime Minister is the Minister responsible for the Civil Service. I want to see that by the 50th year this industrial relationship improves. You must call the unions together and solve the problem. If there is a problem, fix it. Face it and fix it. Do not pretend that the problem does not exist. There is a problem, and the Government must intervene and ensure that the civil servants feel that their grievances are being heard to ensure that all is well, so that as we go into the 50th year we can say with one accord that we are on the right page. The unions will always have problems but at least the problems of persons going on training will be dealt with. I have heard a number of cases where persons are being trained, and they return to Barbados expecting a job but cannot get the job, not necessarily that the Government knows, because of somebody within the Ministry, either the Permanent Secretary or the Chief Personnel Officer, not fixing what they are supposed to fix.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can do better. In terms of technology, I remember when I was at the Ministry of Public Works we introduced a new licence system. We threw away the books. You do not get books now; you get a plastic licence that is capable of being read by the police. We have not been able to go a little further. In terms of the whole aspect of the 2006 Road Traffic Act, those regulations have not come to Parliament; for ten years. I heard the Minister say some time ago that people are stealing cars and we have all of these things, but Mr. Speaker I am saying that these are simple things that can be fixed. Even though it is still working, I believe the technology now at the Ministry of Transport needs to be amended and a new technology put in place, because the technology is now obsolete and we need to improve that

technology at the Ministry of Transport and Works. Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to ensure that as persons come to our shores they feel they are part and parcel of the society, because we have Barbadians living in Toronto, elsewhere in Canada and all over the world, and they will come to our shores this year. They will come to our shores, and the Minister of Tourism knows this. He has travelled to Miami and in Miami now the airport is so sophisticated, and we look as though we are down to 1950. Minister, when you have travelled abroad, we have to upgrade our technology right now.

I feel that if there is one thing going forward that we need to do is to put technology back in the community. We started a technology programme within the community at the community centres and, I think, the schools. The Minister of Education, who likes the technology himself, should inspire schools to ensure that the ordinary citizens of the country learn that technology. It is very important. I did not even understand it so well 15 years but I see it now with my eyes that we are doing okay but we can do better. I feel the Government has to put more money behind the community technology programme to inspire people to use the technology, because I see a situation that if we do not do so, we will be travelling behind in the next ten or so years.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that I believe on this side we have said that there are a number of things that needs to be done in order to make certain sectors of our country feel secure. There are still a number of people in our society who go to school, and they come out of school without any certification, but one wonders if they ever went to school at all. We have a situation where a number of children are coming out school, and I am not even worried about the certification, but a number of our young people come to us weekly and they cannot read. I do not understand that after 50 years we still have a section of our community that may be illiterate. We boasted in 1966 of having 99 per cent literacy. I want the Minister of Education to tell me, "Do we still have 99 per cent literacy in Barbados today?" People are not reading, Mr. Minister. They are simply not reading. The schools are not encouraging people to read, and if they read what are they reading? I want to know. I see a number of people coming to me who do not comprehend anything they read. Some of us would say, Okay, the Prime Minister likes reading. The Prime Minister is a person who reads. The Members of Cabinet and Members on this side read. Okay, fine, but what it is that our youngsters are reading? What is it the Government wants from our school system? They have to address this. What is it do they want?

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the whole Education Act needs to be amended at this time to inspire people to do better in terms of technology, to inspire people to -- I am not tell you that they need to read Chaucer, Shakespeare and those things, but we need to have children reading what they write. We need to do better. I think in the next ten years we need to see a new Education Act, Mr. Minister. We need to inspire teachers. I am aware that teachers go to school and some of them, to my mind, are doing the best they can for the children they teach. There are some problems that need to be addressed within the school system, which I hope can be done within the next year or so. We need to see an improved health service. I think the whole financing of the health service needs to be looked at, at this time. I understand the Government is looking at that. We need to look at that as well.

We need to look at the whole question of disparity between rural and urban. Again we have seen a fall back, Mr. Minister, of housing. People of the rural areas are again crying out for help. We have a situation which we have not had before where poor housing exists in my constituency that need help. Even though the people are celebrating, even though people will want to celebrate, and they are celebrating because everybody will celebrate the 50th Anniversary, but we need to have a situation where poverty is alleviated.

Minister of Welfare, I know you have been trying hard but we still have too much poverty in our country. The level of poverty is bothering me, Mr. Speaker. We need to do something. There was a time when people did not come asking for their water bills to be paid but they have returned. We need to address this. I hope we can work with the Government over the next year or so to improve welfare, the poverty situation and really bring people above the poverty line. I know you will talk about the ISSE Bridge Project, which I supported, but again I do not know what progress has been made. I think it is a good programme but we need to put money into the ISSE Bridge Programme and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have touched most of the things. Other Members spoke about the roads. We have a lot of potholes in our roads. I hope the Minister will give us some help before Independence Day. Bridge Cot Road is in mess, the road to Flat Rock from Francia School and we have a new school at Flat Rock, Mr. Minister where there are roads with holes in them every other yard.

I hope the Government put in a programme for the debushing the various fields across Barbados. There is a lot of bush. In our time we had a programme every year where the Ministry of Health would debush some of the lands. I hope that could be put in place because the Minister must know, especially the Minister of Tourism, that traveling between Farley Hill -- from Bathsheba to Farley Hill you

have to go across the East Coast Road. You need to debush some of those trees. Minister of Public Works, the East Coast needs to be cleared. The East Coast is in a mess. Sir, if you go up Farley Hill the roads are so -- it really needs doing now, so you need to do something about this in this 50th year.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks I want to thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. C. SINCKLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to take the opportunity to join in this what I hope would be a discourse rather than a debate. I know it is traditional to say debate in Parliament, but there are some items that I believe should transcend the narrow confines of what we commonly refer to as a debate, drawing on the old Westminster liberal democratic tradition of the adversarial posture of two political Parties or how many political Parties are in Parliament. This is one Resolution that lends itself to that type of environment even though one could suggest that to sum up the presentations delivered and perhaps some yet to be delivered by Members of the Opposition, would put even the most disinterested on pause if they heard some of what was being said. It is a little unfortunate because I think that as the Honourable Member for the City said -- I really must congratulate him on an excellent presentation. In fact it was a very outstanding presentation that sometimes we have to learn on occasion and how we move beyond the urge to score a political point here or there, whether cheap or expensive in relation to certain topics which we are discussing. For that reason I was more than disappointed if not surprise. I was not surprise because I expect that type of thing. I have come to expect that type of thing from the Honourable Member for St. James Central who spoke as the lead spokesperson for the Opposition Barbados Labour Party on this matter in Parliament. I think he was surprised because it did not seem as though it was coordinated that he should have given that particular response at that time, but he was left to do it. Having not clearly prepared himself for this debate, he denigrated into what I thought was an unfortunate presentation that really -- as I said I am not surprise because I know he has the capacity to make some very forgettable presentations as is elsewhere, but I was a little disappointed because I believe that this occasion of the celebration, and the recognition of what has transpired over the last 49 years plus into 50 years now, in a few weeks' time, for Barbados is so important a discourse that we ought to find ways in which we can not only reflect on how far we have come, but to use the opportunity perhaps in the short space of time, those of us who only have a half hour or so, to point to what we may want to see happen in the future. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, we will not have another,

those of us here, opportunity to celebrate 50 years of Independence. Nobody will because...

*Asides.*

Hon. C. SINCKLER: Nobody will. Once you celebrated 50 years you are 50 and then you move one. The day after you are 50 plus 1. So you are not going to have the opportunity to do that particularly to move pass this road again in this particular way. Therefore when we are putting into the Hansard of Barbados the record for future generation, yet unborn, to reflect or to review research and analyse what we said about what our current condition is, or what we have achieved to allow us to have this current condition, we should use the opportunity to ensure that we send forth as much as possible a positive message.

Sir, that positive message is, this country has done exceedingly well in the last 50 years by any objective measure, one could speak of, it would be very difficult for anybody with a conscience to say that this country has not done exceedingly well, we have and we have because of a number of things. First and foremost, we have a clear, unshaken, unshakeable and committed belief in a superior being, in the Almighty God for those who are of the Christian Judeo traditions, and for those who are not with other faiths, there is a belief that there is something greater than ourselves that allows us to ground our very beings, our thoughts and our actions, to anchor us in the belief and understanding that if we observe that we are not all-powerful but that there is someone all-powerful or that there is something greater than us that we can call on, that we can walk within the countenance of and that we can draw on even in times of difficulties and particularly as we do sometimes in times of successes that we can achieve as much as the very capacity of our human conditions can allow us to be, that is the first thing.

The second thing is that we know our history as a people and that that history is one of struggle, struggle because of the very nature of our being, our ethnicity, our race, the origins of our foreparents, how they were brought here, why they were brought here and the conditions under which they were brought here and made to exist and how we have been able to fashion out of that struggle a society of multiculturalism, of multi races and of multi social stratifications that allowed us to work together to achieve. Sir, we understand that the struggle is one of the leading underpinning things that helped us as a country to be able to see things, to conceptualise them, to implement them and to gather the resources to implement them and to have them work in a way to the benefit of the greater good including the ourselves and this part of the planet which we inhabit.

Mr. Speaker, first is the Almighty being, second is the struggle and third is that we understand that we are just

human beings and as human beings we have frailties and limitations that even in our greatest hour and even at the peak of our intelligence and physical strength that we cannot do anything separately or individually that will ... to the greatest achievement, that can only happen when we combine our efforts as a people and as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, first a belief in a higher being, second is an understanding of our history of struggle, third is the humility to understand the limitations of our capacities and knowing what those capacities are and fourth to understand that in proper planning, in appropriate organisation, in the combination of a variety of skills that characterised the diversity of our very society that through this we build a platform on which achievement can be had. If you look through the history of Barbados pre-1966 but definitely in post-1966 independence project, those factors above all else are the ones that have allowed us to achieve what we have done in the past.

The achievements, Sir, have been many and glorious. We have iterated them in here many times today. We have heard it last week and we have heard it even before then and we will continue to hear it. Our educational system, our healthcare system, our social welfare system and our economy are the things in all of the different phases of human endeavour that have demonstrated to us that we who can invest our philosophical grounding and our practical grounding in those four things that I have identified that we can achieve things that many, many countries are still in fact struggling to achieve today.

I remarked only on Sunday at a function, for example, that in the last presidential debate in the United States of America the two major candidates Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton and their respective spokespersons were debating whether the United States of America should pass laws or implement policies for paid maternity leave. This is the richest country in the world. Indeed, only a few years ago in addressing the Congress of the United States of America President Obama in a State of Union address - they do not get paid maternity leave - declared to thunderous applause in the Congress that he was going to put forward a policy for a college-free tuition in the United States of America. Mr. Speaker, when he was speaking about college-free, he was not talking about university level, he was talking about community colleges tuition fees in the United States of America, and he received thunderous applause for it. In fact, I believe he got a standing ovation for it. These are questions that we have long settled and passed policies that we have implemented since the 1960s.

Sir, I see all of the various electronic ICT instruments on the counter here from Members, and I hope I am not drawing your attention to the fact that the House

would have to invoke rules to have some of these things move off the counter, but anyway that is not the point.

*Asides.*

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, are you aware, I am sure you are Sir, that Barbados has more telephone connections than we have population? Do you know that we have twice as many cell phones on the island as we have people in Barbados? This is the country we are talking about. We are a country that affords people generally free healthcare at point of delivery and generally free education at the point of delivery right up to university level with the exception of a small fee for tuition. Eighty per cent of the cost of university education is paid for by the Government of Barbados. People feel that free university education came to end some time, I do not know when it came to an end but we still pay it. In fact, I can say as Minister of Finance and without fear of contradiction that the funding for the University of the West Indies is the second largest transfer of resources from central Government to any other entity outside of central Government in the Government's budget. I believe the first is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and then comes the University of the West Indies, then you to down to Sanitation and so forth and so on. The second largest expenditure budget in expenditure item in the Government expenditure budget is the University of the West Indies, but there is this view apparently, because we asked students to pay \$5 000 or \$6 000 a year in tuition fees, and we hear it paraded and all about the place that the earth came to an end, that the Government of Barbados had stopped free tertiary education in Barbados, which is absolutely not true.

Mr. Speaker, these are the things that we have done. We just had an expert who had to come here, I heard all this talk about potholes in the road and this and that, but we have had two sets of experts, one from Korea and another one who came as part of a Road Safety Network, both of whom declared that Barbados has among the safest roads anywhere in this hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we have a few potholes in the road but why should a debate like this to celebrate 50 years that people should be talking about potholes in Well Gap? I can talk about many roads in Barbados that have potholes when the Barbados Labour Party had all the money in the world and was spending all the money, but why would we denigrate the debate to that kind of thing? Mr. Speaker, I keep making the point that we do not live in a perfect society, we are a country with very limited resources and we have done exceedingly well for a country with the kind of limited resources that we have had.

Mr. Speaker, the point must be made that the social structure that we have built up over the years, that we are so proud of in health, education, transport, sanitation,

water, has not just come by money that we generate on our own, it has come by money that we have borrowed from other people. We have had to borrow heavily to underwrite this massive social enterprise that we have in the country of which we are so proud. Mr. Speaker, future generations are going to have finance and pay for that, which they are benefiting now and which they will benefit from in the future because that is the society that we have.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at our economy we are seeing the same thing in relation to in terms of the Barbados economy. I think the Minister of Tourism spoke eloquently about our move from sugar to our transformation into tourism being the natured economy, the building of the International Business and Financial Services Sector, as they say, from 1976 even though we know that the legislation that was passed to undergird and build that platform was passed back in the 1950s or 1960, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, we know of these transformations of our economy but we also know that throughout various periods of our economic existence, Sir, we have to borrow very heavily to underwrite that development, and that because Barbados like many other Caribbean territories through their colonial period were established as adjuncts or 'spokes' of our main metropolitan industrialised economy, that we too suffer and are impacted upon negatively or positively for that matter, when those economies undergo stress. It is the 'hub-and-spoke' analysis that you want to use in relation to the economic history of this part of the world. We know how our economies are structured, it is co-periphery analysis.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, who likes dabble in those political economy excursions would tell us about the co-periphery relationship which is a historic relationship. The Honourable Member will also tell you about the very deep philosophical writings of George Beckford and the plantation economy model and the fact that what we have done in our societies in these Caribbean territories and in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries generally, have constructed basically sophisticated plantation economies where even though we have moved out of sugar or out of bananas, or out of bauxite, or out of tobacco, or whatever it might have been in those colonial days, that the basic economic structures still remain on that plantation-based economy, that there is a co-industry around which everything else co-populates and cohabits, whether it is sugar with the old-time days with the old plantation tenancies around, where the centre of activity is on a plantation where all the business, economic and social life is generated around, the same is true now for tourism. The same is true for international business. Sir, that basic economic structure has not changed, even though we have tried in the last 50 years to diversify our economy and to

find other new and productive sectors, but the coalescing, the structure around which even those new sectors have developed, they have tended to have that type of 'hub-and-spoke' relationship in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, therefor when economies industrialised centres have their challenges, we also have our challenges and we have seen it in those 50 years grow with intensity, whether it was in the early 1970s, whether it was in the 1980s, the early 1990s, when they had the small recession with 9/11 or in 2007/2008 when almost the entire capitalist economy came crashing down because of the problems that we had in the major industrialised centres.

Mr. Speaker, each time that has happened the impact has been greater on us, the loss of jobs have been greater, the loss of economic value has been greater, the decline of Gross Domestic Product, the rise of balance of payment side, the challenges that you face, mortgages and so forth and so on have all increased in intensity, not because we have moved further away from the co-periphery relationship but in fact because in the post-globalisation era, that co-periphery relationship has actually been reinforced in a fairly sinister way and that that has had implications not only in terms of the economy on the plantation, but in the societal life and in the social structures of the society in and around that plantation. There were issues such as class and race, issues of gender equality. These are things that we have had and continue to fight through, to try to understand, to better gauge, to analyze, to research, to project, to recommend solutions to the issues and challenges that face us.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown gave a very good speech. The Honourable Member made a very critical point when the Honourable Member gave praise to his mother and to all the mothers who would have participated in raising children. In fact, the Honourable Member made a very eloquent reference not directly but a very eloquent reference to his mother who fathered him, of course, a throwback to that famous book by Edith Clarke that talked about the structure of families in the East Indian communities and in West Indian communities in the Caribbean. It was an absolutely fundamental point to understand what we are dealing with in this society today, so that when we speak about economy and what we need to do and where we have come from, we have to have a basic understanding of what the structure is. Even for countries like Barbados, what we call middle income countries that have seemingly done well, we are penalised for how well we have done. We are not just congratulated; in fact we are congratulated out of one corner of the mouth but then out of the next corner of the mouth we are penalised for it. Who can forget in the late 1980s when Barbados was graduated from concessional financing from the World Bank, when we then had to go

into the open capital market and borrow funds to do things that we had still had to do in the development project.

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

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Thank you, Sir. Now we have to go to the market and borrow like all the other industrialised countries. We had to go out and float bonds at ridiculous interest rates, constrained by our own limited resources and by our capacity. What have we done? Mr. Speaker, we have fought it, we have lamented but we have used those very four bases on which I spoke; the platform that is Barbados, a belief that there is something greater than us, a belief in a greater power, an understanding of our history and the struggle that we went through, and what we must do in order to survive. We must work hard, be productive, educate ourselves, learn more about the world, learn more about ourselves, combine our resources and our energies, combine our ideas and our skills in order to produce, and know the limitations of our capacity. These are the things that we have done, which have afforded us a living that many would love to have. Yes, it has sometimes gone sideways with the level of consumerism but that is a debate for another occasion. Yes, we have challenges in our economy like all countries do, but we must not beat ourselves over the head or stab ourselves in the gut with the belief that if we say how bad things in Barbados are because we want to achieve some particular objective -- and that there is some small box of solutions somewhere that somebody is walking around with only waiting until an election is called and then you will have that box open and everybody would share in these solutions -- if that is the track that we believe is going to give us success, Mr. Speaker, I do not really believe in it. I know that if we work hard, organise ourselves, believe in our capacities, and strive to ensure that those who come after us have something better than we had, then the next 50 years are assured.

I am happy to have been born just after Independence and to have experienced the last 50 years. I do not know with the help of the Almighty how much longer I may have. I hope there may be many days, but long or short, I can say.... Yes, days. "Teach us how to number our days." I know whether it is days, months, weeks, years, whatever it is, I know that I would have lived in the greatest transformative period in Barbados' history since we were settled and that we have much to be proud of as a nation. I also know that pride in what you have achieved, satisfying though it is, gratifying though it might be, is not all that is required to achieve even greater things in the next 50 years. I think those can be achieved by dint of hard work, greater productivity, humility among our citizens, and a willingness to work together even as we draw on the strength and guidance of a superior being, that being Almighty God, to help us to achieve. Mr. Speaker, I

want to say to my constituents but also using their strength on their behalf, to say to this Parliament and to the rest of Barbados a Happy Independence, and may God bless all of us as we go forward into the next 50 years of our existence. I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join my voice to that of those Members on this side and also on the other side who have spoken on this Resolution. This is an important moment in the history of Barbados, and even though I believe the majority of us in this Honourable House were born a few years before Independence and a few would have been born a few years after Independence, we all would have had the time and opportunity to experience Independence in Barbados. The year 1966, November 30, right through this time and hopefully, we will be all be around on November 30, 2016; exactly 50 years of that journey. It was not a journey which came along as a result of peace in the land or voices all joined in harmony. That surely was not the case. Our growing democracy allowed different voices to be heard, but there was a persuasion held by the Government of the day led by the now-called Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, and supported by so many, which allowed us to now celebrate the achievement of 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, the historians have spoken. Those who participated in the activity have allowed their voices to be heard even now. Those who thought that Barbados should not venture alone into the uncertain world of Independence have also spoken. There were several disagreements, both inland and across the waters of the Eastern Caribbean relative to how we should go and what we should do in relation to Independence, but perseverance and character shone through and Barbados took the journey alone to Independence. These are historical points to be debated. You will find that as time recedes that persons would try to justify their lack of involvement or suggest, in fact, that they were involved to the positive. It is all revisionistic, and we have had this over time; trying to find that space to be part of the victory. In the West Indies when cricket was god and we had millions of spectators, we all were participants, we all shouted hallelujah, and we felt as though we were in the field of play because we allowed ourselves to join those 11 who were part of the team who were playing. We did all of that, but when the gully was out, when it was flooded many persons rushed to the bank and said not me and that 'boosie'. We see it again reflected in our cricket. The agony of some but the silence of so many because they do not want to be associated with periods of pain, periods of depression or any of those negative things.

We can reflect. Barbados is at a watershed moment. Sir, 50 years will be with us in a few days. Sir, 1937 and

the uprising of the sufferation of people allowed 29 years to elapse before we became an independent nation. Between 1937 and 1966 one saw the emergence of institutions in Barbados would have had a profound impact on the history and the development of this country. We know who they are. Even if I call them they do not burn my tongue because I understand the historical times.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member sorry to break your stride. Please give me a minute please.

*Madam Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair at this time.*

Hon. R.D. JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was making the point that I recognise continuum of life, a slight change of what I was saying. Something has to begin. Something has to be started and others must take the baton and move that baton along the journey. Great institutions were created then out of the anguish of our people. So we had the trade union, the labour move in the form of the Barbados Workers Union and the great leaders of that time among which you can find several of our National Heroes. They are some who are not National Heroes. I do not remember his name but we used to call him 'Comesar'. We had McDonald Blight, so many who went into the trenches to change history by their actions, by their motivations, by their principles and Barbados was better off because of that.

Barbados is better off because of the emergence of political organisations. We know those that have survived. The Barbados Labour Party has survived. The Democratic Labour Party of which I am a proud member has survived. Many others have come along in the fracture of the moment in trying to sell their own democratic prominence within the midst of the society but they have not survive. We have seen great agitators on our landscape but our democracy shut them down, neither did our democracy shut them out. Our democracy allowed their voices to be heard. Therefore we have a great democracy in Barbados. Even the dull and the ignorant can mount his or her soapbox, could go into the halls where meetings are held and speak and they are listened too. They are heard in our democracy. So 1966, a part of this journey is a great time.

I do not see why anybody should say we should not celebrate. We have become divided even in this House by the talk of you are spending \$7 million. Then the insertion to steer the society by somebody saying, I heard it is \$30 million, and is you want to be excessive somebody can say the fox and the crow told me that it is \$100 million. We can create these mischievous behaviour to excite a population to say, but you know something, I might be satisfied with \$7,8, or 10 million, but I just heard from the House that it is \$30 million or \$100 million, or any fanciful figure pulled

out of a hole in which you stuck your tongue. This can be the case. We have to ask ourselves if this is what we want.

My greatest dissatisfaction in coming to this House seeking to represent those of Christ Church East Central and the wider nation as a whole who have asked me to come here through popular vote is that we have not had in these 8 years the level of cooperation than when I first came to this House in 2003, as an Opposition Member I gave the Government and those of us youngsters at the time gave the Government in supporting all kinds of measures as Barbadians.

Sir, when we wanted the legislation to move people across the Caribbean respecting common borders we did not opposed. We supported it. We voted for. What I am hearing now ... I am talking about democracy, we have no problem with the legislation before us, in one phrase, then with a hundred phrases and words completely deconstruct either the Resolution or Bill which comes before this House. I do not know sometimes how you are able to put your tongue between your teeth and stick it out the side of your mouth and still speak. I find it impossible. My greatest problem has been this lack of cooperation and support for many of the initiatives brought to this House that would have lift our people up.

We know we have had difficult times. I know there are potholes in the roads of Barbados, but I am not going to be up and down the place saying I need my pothole done. I am not into that. I know all roads belong to Barbados and those potholes or roads will be done in due time. We will always have them. Between 1994, Madam Deputy Speaker, and 2008- yes, I changed my glasses many times during that period. I saw potholes then too. I saw bush on open lots too. I saw hedgerows growing over into the roads too. All of those things were seen. So why now do we continue to lament knowing that MTW, the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage and all of the persons who are engaged and involved will do what has to be done in due time. We are saying to make our country look miserable for the foliage and bush. We do not look at 50 gallon barrel, juck our hands in and say there is money coming out. It does not work that way. We have to earn it. We have to earn it but we have had creeping into the governance model of Barbados persons either encouraged or not encouraged who have frustrated the agenda of the Government of Barbados. There are people who would not want to say that. I do not shield my mouth. There are persons who even now pass files to those persons who should not have them in their possession. A level of wickedness have permeated our democracy within the last eight years. Persons meet in dark corners of this country encouraging people not to invest in Barbados, that has been part of the governance model of Barbados, so where are we going? We are talking about 50 years that has gone before or will go by the November 30.

We want to inherit the ... which are not good, they are full of poison already. If you plant poisonous seeds they can only produce poisonous roots, I do not see whatever else could come from them. We might want to serve the people and what some people referred to as the notion of power and the celebration of that power and do things that we should not do, and therefore that is part of my hurt that these things will continue.

There were people marching up and down the streets of Barbados making it impossible for you to govern. Even today the great organisations of labour... I do not have to beg anybody because my credentials are pure. I was one of the architects of CTUSAB, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations. There were three of us who developed the Constitution. I was one along with Evelyn Greaves, Patrick Frost - I am sorry to call these names but all important gentlemen and ladies -- and Alvin 'Phil' Perry now deceased who did that Constitution, so I am not talking out of the back of my head. I am hearing things now from what I call the new generation of leadership - this is not a criticism, it is only a reflection - who initiates action before sitting at the table of consultation, the table of understanding and then coming after and saying well we have put the action into place we will now meet after. I do not understand what is persuading people to move in that direction.

Citizens of Barbados in or out of the union must awake when we seek to destroy this country. Maybe the walls would already be up not only on the southern border of the United States of America but maybe the United States of America would be completely encircled with the wall and the disadvantaged and those who have been led astray and who have to run might not be able to get over the wall that surrounds the United States of America. Sometimes we pray for things but we get the opposite results because the prayer is not pure, it does not find the place to settle to make change possible. All of these things we want as human beings, the material things, the emotional things, the psychological things. There are a whole lot of things. There are things that we feel we must have or that we have birth-right for. That is all well and good but do not let us discredit.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the most recent things that I was a bit concerned about is that a few weeks ago we had an international conference/consultation in education in Barbados and somehow there was a misinterpretation of some of the statistics and then a few persons in this country, it did not make any sense to me do not care how you cut it, got on call-in programmes to discuss how come only 6.1 per cent of Barbadian children could get four or more CXC's in the May/June exams and were screaming about education in Barbados cannot be any good, and I said that does not make sense. If you go to one school, Madam Deputy Speaker, where significant value-

added takes place among the students and 28 per cent or 20 or 23 per cent of those students get four or more certificates at one sitting, you have already destroyed the argument.

Today, there is not one of our secondary schools where there is not a substantial number of students who get four or more certificates at one sitting. They also missed the point. I am sure that with the evolution of education there are students in Barbados who take one, two or three subjects between age 14 and 15 in this country. I could not understand what they were talking about in Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, knows what I am talking about because her daughter is now about 15 years old and she already has three certificates at the May/June sitting of 2015-2016. She will now do the bulk of her subjects in the academic year 2016-2017.

This country became lit up with people who do not understand without recognising - and I will just use 4 000, it is not always 4 000 who exit at fifth form - that if you use 4 000 and you multiply it by six per cent that is only 240 students. If you are talking about 240 students, how many are going into the University of the West Indies? This year roughly 1 600 students went into first year at the University of the West Indies not 240. I could not understand the stark madness but what I construed is that there is a level of wickedness in this country that looks only to tear down.

I will say to you, and it fluctuates from year to year, that over the last eight years we reached the peak of 66 per cent of our students doing the May/June CSEC examinations getting four or more certificates during that period. I am going to speak a little more to this because if you do not keep repeating these things people start to doubt themselves if it is in fact true. How do we get students then to go to the Barbados Community College or the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or to the nine or ten A 'Level classes or sixth forms or post-adult education that we have in Barbados? What foolishness, Madam Deputy Speaker, can you absorb one time into your being, but that is our democracy but there are people undermining that democracy in this country.

We need to be proud of our educational system. We have had during this eight years as we move towards the celebrations of 50 to tweak some systems. We have had to tweak tertiary education. There was a time in Barbados when we were passing over to the University of the West Indies - and I am not going to talk about the \$194 million because in there is an extra \$40 million that we got from the International Monetary Fund to help pay a bit of the debt - \$162 million on average in the eight years when we were struggling with revenue in Barbados, between \$126 million to \$132 million of economic cost and then \$30 million for student tuition fees, but that was not all that was coming to us. There was a point in time when the University of the West Indies was saying to us that they

wanted us to pay \$200 million, yet we have to look after our nursery children because in this country... Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East could talk about two Barbadoses but there have always been more than two Barbadoses, but there have always been more than two Barbadoses, but through our social engineering we have tried to narrow the differences and the gaps, that is why we developed this massive social welfare structure, so that we say regardless of whether or not you have a penny or ten cents you must go to school, that the State will pay through the taxes of the people. We say that if you get ill you can go to one of the polyclinics or to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but that if you do not want to go to either the polyclinic or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but instead want to pay privately, then you can go to a private practitioner.

Mr. Speaker, the important thing is the provision of it, but all of these things carry a cost. Mr. Speaker, somehow people believe that these are like manna from heaven so that like when you are making the journey from Israel to Egypt and starvation tugs at your innards you can wake in the morning to find some white substance covering the grass, so that you can fall on your knees and lick the grass and can become full. It does not work that work. Mr. Speaker, it means that in order to continue unabated that the citizens must look and say that they will put a little more in, but if they cannot put a little more in, then we have to make some adjustments to the process.

Mr. Speaker, our University of the West Indies pursuit could have collapsed but we took a decision which says to make a little contribution. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that since 1995 has been studied and a report produced by the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, people forget all these things, it was \$6 million then for tuition fees or 15 per cent of the cost because the University of the West Indies was looking for greater inflows and the tuition fees was seen as a university fee. The Government of the day said it was \$6 million and that Government will pay it, even though Dr. Leonard Shorey and others recommended that the students be allowed to carry that small part of the cost of tertiary education. Mr. Speaker, but that grew from \$6 million in 1995/1996 to \$32 million by 2008. Yes, we can talk about an \$8.5 billion or \$9 billion economy but Government does not have the \$9 billion to deal with, Government has in this time about \$4.2 or \$4.3 billion, of which Government has to borrow \$1 billion out of that in order to sustain this project that we all have engineered.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to spend any more time on that, I want to be in a celebratory mood, I have been to several of the events, I have seen Barbadians of all walks of life; Barbadians of all genders, all sexual orientations, all colour schemes, people with grey beard, white beards, hair, no hair, shoe fitting well, shoe not fitting well all coming out. When we switched on the lights the other day, I asked:

“Where did these Bajans come from? Are these the people who are so disaffected that they no longer love their country?” Sir, I was hearing all of this noise in my ears about Bajans starving, that they cannot walk, to look at their faces, to look at the gaunt look of their beings. Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South hit that switch, along with those born around the time of 1966, as I looked around to see how the lights came on I saw thousands upon thousands of people stretching north, south, east, west and in between. The only place not covered with Bajans who have defied all calls for boycott was the Careenage, because they have been calls for boycott by a minister, not of Parliament but a minister of the cloth.

Mr. Speaker, this is a small country where everybody knows each other. One said that he would not allow his daughter to relate the Broken Trident because that is a symbol of Felix-Godism, so she must not know, without recognising in a simple way that the Broken Trident is a symbol of the break with the past, it is a break of the colonial compromises that we had to make. Mr. Speaker, before that the individual said, “I am saying that because I like wearing red.” Sir, people are compromising their position because of this now insertion in the political space of colours, so that you know them by what they say and not by what they mean. Further, people who one assumes to be bright are now joining this chorus because they wear size 12 shoes, again, the discordant voices arising in the midst of a celebration of a people.

Mr. Speaker, as a people we have not had many moments of celebration. I am sure you will recognised this because we have a lot of people who do not want to recognise that ancestral journey and the difficulties that we have gone through and therefore I am come thus proud, unashamed and standing tall today in these Hallowed Halls. I come from the nigger yard of yesterday, weeping from the oppressor’s hate and the scorn of myself.

*Asides.*

Hon. R. D. JONES: I do not scorn myself, neither do I scorn my brethren. I understand the history and I do not walk around with this bulging back of hate because of somebody else or what somebody else did in a period of shame on the earth. There are things that we have to do, we have to make sure that even the lowliest amongst us is able to survive within our country. Yes, we have to make some adjustments in how entrepreneurs of whatever hue are able to benefit. We have to continue to do those but they do not happen in the instant but over time. Therefore I am not going to condemn or scorn an individual and say that he is getting all because he is of a different hue, because I will not stand and give him all. I firmly believe that everybody has to eat. If that person is unable to eat, do you know what will happen? I am not going to say because somebody in

the media will wickedly misquote me because I know what they want to achieve, but my back is made strong, every night and every day because I come from the nigger yard of yesteryear, it was through the journey of my ancestors and the strength of the Middle Passage and the hate and shame and the brutality of that period and I am therefore stronger than that. We all should be, rather than the destructive behaviour that has become now so part and parcel of our everyday lives.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we are looking at the United States of America and at what is taking shape there. There is somebody who is feeding disaffection in Barbados by using words and phrases that connote unfairness, that connote that somebody is giving away everything to somebody else and that when that disaffection starts to slide they are hoping that they can rush forward and grab it and say that they are the big rescuer of the people. Sir, we have to wait and see. I have credit Barbadians with greater sense. I have seen it leaking out. Before the last ballot was counted, there were persons who were already counting votes, people were already walking up the long driveway to Ilaro Court. They were doing that in Barbados, they cannot hide. Somebody on the other side will talk, trust me, so let us celebrate. Let us jump and say hallelujah that we have survived some good times and some harsh times. These eight years have been some of the most difficult but I have seen men and women -- I am proud of you all, I do not tell you so often -- who have stuck to the task of nation-building. Yes, we have made some mistakes. We are not infallible. We have made mistakes, not because we want to be wicked and spiteful but because in the natural consequence of life errors happen. If we said that we wanted to get rid of all the trash in Barbados, yes, at least it did not cost us \$100 million; one big hole that has got in sheep. Good Blackbelly sheep roasted on a spit could have made you very healthy. We have done some good things. We have tried to keep our Public Service afloat and alive even as pensions increased and burdens were placed on the national Treasury.

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Thank you. Then one day we simply said, "We have to tweak it a bit. We have to make adjustments and we will do things to ease the burden." We went on further - sometimes I do not think that we are good enough for ourselves, we do not speak enough -- and we said, "Once the system settles down and vacancies occur, those who went will gradually come back in." This has been happening. It has been happening in my Ministry; persons from School Meals who went home are back in. We do not say these things. Little general workers and watchmen are back in. That is what is happening. We have -- I will do this in two minutes -- cried "beloved country" to the unborn child who is the inheritor of our affairs,

because this is what we are trying to do. We are trying to say that if you live in the Scotland District and there are serious problems with water, somehow this has been caused by the Government; so the Government wants to create thirst and hunger among its people. Oh what spiteful words so used to damage the psyche of the citizens of a country! I abhor that, so Water Warriors -- not water carriers -- emerged to bring imported water bottled from the Highlands of Scotland. Those persons I do not condemn; I salute them because they mean well, but let me say to you, across the length and breadth of Barbados every pipe that has not been replaced must be replaced. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West is working doing that at great cost. The bringing in of water tanks....

Aside.

Hon. R.D. JONES: This is no condemnation of the warriors. I taught the leader at school. Keep your face shut. Sorry, Honourable Member. I said I salute them. I used the word "warrior" because it connoted fighting; I said water takers or water carriers. I know you would go and spread that out there, because wickedness does not elude you.

Aside.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, when you try to set up one side of the country against the others; when you try to say that the Government does not like you because you have not voted for the Government since 1986 so they turned off the pipe, they went down in the dirt and they ruptured the pipes when, in fact, you moved into what you considered to be a reasonable solution and did work adequately. The challenge of man is always to find better solutions to initial action. I abhor, over the last eight years but particularly over the last two years, some of the excesses of voice because of hunger for power. Let those times disappear. Let us work together to truly reflect a national development agenda, not only talk about it and then go back behind and plan destruction. Do not release your acolytes to plant all kinds of nastiness in Social Media.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I support this Resolution, and you can rest assured that where I can be during the next few days in celebration of 50, I will be. I will not be around in the flesh to celebrate the next 25 or the next 50 of Independence. I know I will not be but, good God, continue to look after the people of Barbados and give them the sense, knowledge, perseverance, commitment and focus to know that this Rock is theirs and that politicians will come and politicians will go, prime ministers will come and go, but Barbados will always remain. I thank my constituents for giving me the power of voice to speak today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. M.M. AGARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a deep sense of identity that I rise to join my fellow parliamentarians in supporting this Resolution to congratulate Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence. Mr. Speaker, I am a child of Independence, born just nine days after our forefathers symbolically severed our ties with our colonial masters, broke the Trident, raised the Flag and declared Barbados a proud nation, independent and free. As a result of that, I feel a kindred spirit, a oneness with my country, and I stand here today happy and satisfied that I could pay credit to those who laboured to ensure that Barbados and Barbadians received the best opportunity to develop as a nation in spite of our limited resources. I remain in awe of the summary achievements of Barbados over the past 50 years, and I have much to celebrate and celebrate I shall.

Mr. Speaker, to place in context the achievements of Barbados, I cannot help but reflect on Barbados' very small size in this global world; in a world, Sir, where a habitat of 166 square miles is but a town, dependent on greater municipalities to govern them. Yet, our forefathers and those who followed, so proud, so confident and bold, believed that this tiny island and its people, resilient and strong, could speak, could forge its own destiny, pay its way in the world, defend its sovereignty and declare to all, "Friends of all, satellites of none." Mr. Speaker, Barbados has always been a blessed nation, and I think that we would be ungrateful to not acknowledge that, even as we are faced with unprecedented challenges today. Records show that Barbados was one of England's first experimental tropical agricultural export colonies, and that it was so successful that there was a widely held opinion in the 17th Century that Barbados was the richest spot of ground in the world. Sir, those riches were not our own. We laboured and we toiled for others, and it was only appropriate that we would seek to remedy what I could call such an injustice, but even as we allowed ourselves to lead, as we work the land producing tobacco and sugar, advancing the sugar revolution, producing a bounty of riches for England, even then as a labourers and slaves we demonstrated how bold and resilient we were.

Just 24 years after the settlement of Barbados -- please, Mr. Speaker, just give me leave to place our history in context. Just 24 years after the settlement of Barbados in 1651 when we became caught up with the civil war of England, after the assignation of Charles in 1649 Barbados refused to recognize the authority of Oliver Cromwell Government and the Commonwealth Parliament. They were offended by our resilience and they dispatch a seven vessel fleet of 3 000 people to force Barbadian landowners into submission. When they arrived, Sir, they were met by a 2 000 force resistance. Sir, it was led by the Island's Governor Lord Willowby and that resistance was so firm that within 3 months they brought the dominant powers to a Christian understanding. They understood that a battle

was futile and coming out of that was the signing and the rectification of what is now known as the Treaty of Barbados, the Charter of Oistins of 1652. The terms of surrender were favourable to the Barbadian landowner and included a clause that stated that no taxes, customs, imports or excise shall be laid nor levy made of the inhabitants of this island without the consent in a general assembly.

I do not want to boast but there are many who believe that the refrain no taxes without representation actually birth itself from that particular treaty and the American Declaration of Independence actually copied many of the principles from the Charter of Oistins. I simply share this, Sir, to say that even as a fledging nation Barbados could be considered a leader and influence of the world.

I believe that we have never really stepped away from that belief. There is a strong sense of governance and self-reliance in our Barbadian leaders. I recall again in the 1990 the Barbados Government refusing to accept unfavourable terms of the United States of America's Ship Rider Agreement. Even in the face of a threat of sanction we stood firm until the terms were acceptable to us. These are the achievements of a small island nation. Once again at the term of the century Barbados stood up to the OECD and refused to allow itself to be blacklisted as a tax haven, defending its reputation as an honourable jurisdiction in which to do business.

Sir, in the early 1990, again, I recall living in another Caribbean island and after Barbados refused to devalue our dollar, even as other islands with greater resources than ourselves, were succumbing to the directive of the International Monetary Fund and devaluing their dollar, Barbados stood firm and there was a sentiment about Barbados given expression by one of my regional friends, Barbados was too small to be so large.

Sir, I felt a sense of pride because even though I understood his statement was meant as a rebuke, this was my country Barbados and yes, indeed, in spite of being small we are large and have determine that regardless of the challenges that we face and regardless of the threat that Barbados would not turn back.

Sir, we aspire to craft a nation for our people with a prescription of national development, economic prosperity and reputation of good governance and resilience second to none of comparable size and resource. I pause to make this point because I believe that it would be a travesty not to recognise every hand that formed this nation. These are the memories and achievements that make me proud to be Barbadian, and today I wish to thank all of our leaders from Lord Willowby, our early days, even General Bussa who never clung to his favoured status but led a rebellion that eventually brought about emancipation because he believed

that people should have a better life. To our father of democracy the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, our father of Independence the Right Excellent Errol Barrow, all of our leaders past and current, representatives across the divide and in both Houses, our public servants, our civil advocates, the ordinary man and woman on the streets who have crafted this nation that we enjoy as Barbados, today I rise to express my depth of gratitude to say I thank you.

I also want to impress upon Barbadians that we should not take for granted our political stability. Sir, for many of us who were born into a stable political environment, we fail to recognise that for many what we enjoy and sometimes what we pour scorn upon is a longing that many can only dream about, and for them it is not a reality. This was brought home to me very clearly by the Secretariat of the Independence Celebrations Committee Commander Aquinas Clarke. I only say his name because I want to give him credit for his expression.

At the beginning of the Independence Celebration he addressed a gathering in Oistin and he made a point to say that in the late 1980s between 1985 and 1987 Barbados was led by four Prime Ministers. He pointed out that within a two-year period we have had a change of leadership four times from the death of Prime Minister Adams in 1985 to Prime Minister Harold St. John in 1986 and then after losing the Government we had Prime Minister Barrow and after his death he was succeeded by Prime Minister Sandiford. Commander Aquinas made the point that where in a world could a nation witness the change of rule by four leaders without experiencing some kind of unrest and yet here in Barbados each time there was a peaceful transition to the credit of our leaders and our people. These, Sir, are things which we must celebrate as a people.

I am cognisant that in these Chambers over the past two days that those who presented before me have rightly highlighted the contribution of notable Barbadians and ascribed to them their deserving credit, which I duly note and so it is not my intention to burden the House with repetition and therefore I wish to speak now on just a few issues that are closest to my heart. Sir, the first is the empowerment of women. Now, apart from the defining moment of securing the right for women to vote by Grantley Adams now Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, the intent coming to bear fruits for the first time in 1944, the most defining period of women's empowerment in our post-independence history was the initiative taken to establish legislation to bring about the emancipation of women in their personal, social, political and professional lives. I speak of the establishment of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the National Advisory Council on Women and the commissioning of the National Report on the Status of Women. Out of these initiatives, Mr. Speaker, came the strong policy positions and subsequent legislative changes which led to the removal of discrimination of

unmarried mothers with human and hereditary rights for their illegitimate children, the inclusion of women in almost every aspect of the workforce on statutory boards, as permanent secretaries in Government departments, as head of organisations, and as directors in the Board Room of some of the most powerful entities in the land. Indeed, Barbados has seen it in its distinguished first ladies as Governor-General, Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Senate, Deputy Speaker of the Lower House as well as head teachers and principals of our schools, all serving with distinction.

We hail, and rightly so, the transformative changes that have led to our women emerging as powerful in a developing nation and taking their rightful position. Each year, for example, we celebrate the graduating class of the University of the West Indies and recognised the predominant female profile of those who graduate with secondary and tertiary academic qualifications. Sir, as we recognise these women we must however recognise that as they ascend to the highest heights of our national platform that they are iconic, they are special, they are unique and they are in the minority.

I know that we have a way whenever a woman achieves to become very nervous and to say that women are taking over and that men are in crisis but if we look at the evidence empirically we would see that these iconic women as unique and special as they are still remain in the minority and that for us to go forward as a developing nation we must spare a thought for the nameless, faceless, vulnerable women in our society who today still need our voices to speak on their behalf. It is for this reason that I want to acknowledge the work in here of the recent legislative changes on domestic violence against women and also the Employment Rights Act even though that it not necessarily all female but still it is significant.

Sir, I want to say that to speak of these women as uncomfortable as it may be is to awaken a consciousness in our people that they are still women to be emancipated. This fight is not yet over, so even as I applaud our women who are achieving I want us to continue to fight for those vulnerable women in our society, those who have vulnerable jobs like domestics, home helpers, casual workers, shop assistants and those who work on plantations and so forth and place them on our radar of national development for further prevention of abuse and discrimination with little things like not paying their national insurance contributions. I am citing that if we have to make choices between the dismissal of another employee or paying national insurance contributions for a worker is a form of abuse, so too is the disparity of wages and promotional opportunities between men and women of similar qualifications and abilities. These are things we overlook but which in a progressive society must be

identified and addressed, and in doing so we pursue greater gender equality for our women.

Sir, the other issue of which I would like to take note is the role of education and its attributes to a literate society of national development. I think it is fair to say that the architects of our national system have served us well in the primordial stages and a depth of gratitude must be extended to all of our educators many of whom in the early days had to choose between marriage and a family and teaching. What a sacrifice for the love of this noble vocation. I suspect that even today many teachers continue to make tremendous sacrifices maybe though not as extreme, and I take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to the educators of our system.

Mr. Speaker, we have a way of drawing swords between who really ought to be given credit as the architect of our educational system, but I think instead it would serve a greater purpose for us to examine whether that education system continues to serve us today or whether a radical change must be introduced to keep pace with the extreme and rapid changes emerging out of our technological age. Our forefathers were bold and fearless in pursuit of an Independent nation, and in the same way in which they approach their goal for Independence, we too must be prepared to revolutionise our education system to ensure that each Barbadian child, whether a gifted child progeny, a child in need of remedial attention or a mainstreamer is provided with the optimum environment for learning, even if it means that we create specialty schools, some noted for academics, others noted for technical and vocational studies, a school of entrepreneurship, a school of music, arts, sports and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proponent of the constructivist method of learning, I will push it at every opportunity that I get because I believe that we must be able to tap into and harness the exceptional potential of our young people possess in an environment that I best suited to their abilities. I believe, Sir, that this radical change in our education system must be one of our greatest challenges of the future, but a challenge that we must face regardless.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that while our education system has served us well, I do not believe that we have served our system well. I believe that the intent of our forefathers was to educate a people to serve as a platform upon which others would ascend, that the outcome of an educated people would have been less reliance on Government and not more.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that those of us who have benefited from a free education should make a greater effort to serve our country. I do not want you to think that this is a rebuke, because I acknowledge the work of many

but I also recognise in saying so that much more could be done to support those who are struggling and that it cannot always be led by Government.

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

Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. AGARD: Mr. Speaker, having received our education free of cost I want to challenge my people as I challenge myself what Independence promise will we make to our country to lift our people higher, either by mentorship, volunteerism, advocacy, the creation of our own businesses and out of that comes employment to take the burden from Government. We each need to identify and commit to a role to take Barbados forward.

Mr. Speaker, I close in the next five minutes because I want to speak to number of issues with respect to health. I am happy to say that we can boast of what certainly is even now an exceptional healthcare system designed to deliver optimum care within the limitations that we encounter. We are fortunate that we do not ever have to see the real cost of any service that is offered to us in our healthcare system. I believe that were we to see that cost, we would be quite stunned at how expensive healthcare is. We have struggled, yes, and I commiserate with those who have been on the frontline of this battle. I applaud you in your every effort and I beg you to stay the course because in the same way that we have fought and conquered communicable diseases, it is my belief that one day we will do the same for the chronic non-communicable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make very special mention of the team of fearless first responders who fought against our chronic non-communicable diseases, even in our current era of HIV and AIDS, who even they understood the ethology and the mode of transmission of this disease, placed themselves, their families and friends at risk in order to restore dignity to a suffering people. Today we can boast of the strides and achievements that we have made in the interruption of mother-to-child transmission of the virus and the universal delivery of antiretroviral drugs to those who challenged this disease, such that what was once a feared, acute and deadly disease is now being managed chronically.

Mr. Speaker, finally, we cannot afford to let our guard down, today there exists in this nation in the northern part of the island where water is inaccessible to all, a stain on the Barbados landscape in this 21st century. We are aware that the Barbados Water Authority is working diligently to remedy the problem but it must be said that much more needs to be done to remedy this situation. Sir, lives are at risk, even before we begin to see the emergence of hand, foot and mouth disease and infectious disease caused by a virus when people come into contact with fegal matter we are now beginning to see a bit of that in

Barbados today. We cannot afford to allow the gains that we have made to be reversed or eroded through complacency.

Mr. Speaker, I also need to speak on the issue in the south coast of Worthing and Graeme Hall. I know that the Ministry of Health has spoken about it today and has assured that much will be done to address the situation but I want to say that there ought to have been no such development in this country. We must be responsive to these calamities, this is not just an inconvenience, it is a public health concern, and for those who must live or work in that area, I trust that there will be an immediate intervention by those responsible for its remedy, that a solution must be found and that it must be employed as a matter of urgency.

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

Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. AGARD: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Speaker, in closing I just want to say that in the same way in our own lives that we face challenges with health, finance, domestic, interpersonal, so too a nation will face a similar experience but I say that whether we face prosperity or austerity this is our island Barbados. I thank those who have worked diligently to build it up. I implore those who are now at the helm to continue working to build our nation.

Mr. Speaker, like everyone else in here, I thank God and I ask him to continue to bless this nation. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: ... Yes, Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. F.J. STUART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to just wind up Debate on this Resolution, and I should like to begin by thanking all those Honourable Members who have contributed to the Debate, and who have added their voices to the congratulations of Barbados and its people on the attainment of 50 years of Independence. I think, on balance, that the interventions we have heard in the discussion of this Resolution have been for the most part laudable, and it speaks to the kind of maturity which we have been able to attain after 50 years of Independence. None of the persons who spoke in the Debate in this House on January 4, 1966 is alive today, and 50 years from now, people of the future will consult Parliament's Record and will have a sense of how we felt 50 years after Barbados attained its Independence. I therefore want to say thanks to all of those Honourable Members who added their voices of congratulations to the people of Barbados who made our achievements possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have been concerned, ever since we decided to celebrate Barbados' Golden Jubilee, that there

were persons who affected not to understand the importance of doing so. When in the year 2014 we were celebrating the 375th Anniversary of our Parliament -- 375 years of unbroken parliamentary experience -- the same voices that have been raised in opposition to the celebration of our Golden Jubilee were raised in opposition to the celebration of the 375th Anniversary of our Parliament and the same arguments were used; that the monies we were spending on the celebrations were really misdirected and should really have been spent on the poor. I have said in this House already that this argument is not new. Our Lord Himself had to deal with it as long ago as the first century when no less a person than Judas Iscariot criticised a woman for opening an alabaster box and pouring expensive perfume on Him, and saying that the perfume which she was pouring on our Lord was being wasted and could have been sold and the proceeds spent on the poor. Our Lord had to jump to her defence and say to Judas and those who he would carry along with Him, "You have it all wrong. She is doing the right thing. I am not always going to be here with you, but the poor are always going to be with you, so she is doing the right thing. She is taking advantage of an opportunity." I cast my bucket down right there on that argument. We will never again have an opportunity to celebrate a Golden Jubilee of Barbados' Independence.

Aside.

Rt. Hon. F.J. STUART: This is the moment, and that is why we are doing it. So far as the sum allocated for the celebrations is concerned, I accept full responsibility for it. I was 15 years old when the Debate on Independence was taking place in Barbados. I attended the meetings. I heard the now Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams at Six Roads in St. Philip. I heard him at Church Village, I heard him in Ruby, and I heard a lot of the others. I was around. I was an avid student at the Boys' Foundation School at the time, highly politicised. In Marchfield where I grew up, there lived Reynold Weekes at one end of Marchfield supporting Independence and at the western end lived Darrel Garner who was not, so I know what I am talking about. I was there. I lived it. I know how bitter that campaign was. I heard the Under-40s who went across the country night after night saying why we should not go independent alone. Some of those people are still alive, and I have heard them say that, yes they took that position but now they look back.... Some said it to me years ago. One person said, "We have to concede: Errol was right." I have heard it. I have seen it. This is not an academic issue for me. I saw it. I know when the late Reynold St. Clair Weekes, the Member of Parliament for St. Philip -- not St. Philip South at that time because we still had double-member constituencies -- stood up in this House and said that he was voting for Independence because he had seen the writing on the wall. I know the applause that broke out in this House and in the yard below. I know it. I heard the arguments: I heard Mr. Barrow and I heard Mr. Tudor, all of them in St. Philip,

Christ Church and so on, so this is not an academic issue for me. I feel and have felt that our Golden Jubilee is deserving of celebration. Barbados has done very, very, very well over the last 50 years.

When I look at how some other developing countries like Barbados have done, and the agony that Independence caused them, I know that we have a lot to be thankful for and to celebrate in Barbados. That is why I do not make any apologies at all for embarking on this project, and I think that the expenditure allocated to it is eminently fair and reasonable in the context of all that Barbados has achieved over the last 50 years in the context of the efforts made by humble men and women in Barbados, as referred to by the Honourable Member for the City, to make our achievements possible. Let us get it very clear. These celebrations were never going to depend on whether we got the support of the Opposition or not, because I saw what happened with the 375th Anniversary. They were always going to depend on whether we got the support of the people of Barbados or not. I have seen that support at every event we have had; every one, and better is to come so I am not worried. All those persons who have felt that the nation's best interests would be served by trying to inject as much poison as possible into the nation's bloodstream so that the celebrations would not succeed, I am sorry. I am not angry with them; I feel sorry for them. It is pointless feeling angry with them. You just have to feel sorry because of their shortsightedness. Nobody on this side has ever claimed, nobody on that side can claim, and nobody outside of this House can claim that Barbados has ever been a perfect place. Like all other countries in the world, we have had our challenges. Barbados is not the only country in the world where you see potholes. I have seen potholes in the United States of America (USA), I have seen them in the United Kingdom, I have seen them in Canada, and these are countries far better resourced than Barbados.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. George North, quite good-naturedly -- I do not think he was being critical since he is not the kind of Honourable Member in this House who is capable of bearing malice -- talk about the delays in the work at the airport. Mr. Speaker, I just came out of London a few weeks ago where a decision was taken to do a new runway at Heathrow International Airport. That issue was under discussion for some time, and commentators were saying that it was interesting that, having discussed it for 40 years, now that you have taken the decision there is still controversy. "Forty years," some people said that discussion was going on. We tend to mark ourselves too hard in this country. No matter how well we have done, we are still a small, poor, developing country in the context of other countries in the world. We have done very well with the resources that we have had, and we must continue to do well. In fact, we must always aim to do better, and that is the commitment of Honourable Members

on this side, and I want to think that it is the commitment of Honourable Members on the other side of the House as well. We all want the best for Barbados. This is our native land. As Sir Walter Scott, I think it was, wrote, "Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself hath said, 'This is my own, my native land?'" How have we got here where a narrow core of people, malcontents, are trying to give the impression that Barbados is the worst place in the world, that nothing works, and that we have the worst roads in the world? In 2007 an announcement was made in Barbados that \$35 million was going to be allocated to the repair of roads in St. Philip. Were you going to spend \$35 million on repairs to roads in St. Philip if the roads were all right? I do not want to get into any partisan cross-talk because this is not the occasion for that. Mr. Speaker, before I leave the roads issue, the other issue, of course, is that in the campaign that just finished in the USA, both sides were saying that victory was going to result in an attack on the rundown infrastructure of the USA; roads, bridges, everything. The USA is the wealthiest country in the world, and we are here in Barbados trying to cry Barbados down? What am I hearing at all?

Then there is the issue -- always an important issue -- of water, Mr. Speaker. I do not want even to sound as though I am scaling down the seriousness or the importance of any water problems that any country can have. From the time I was doing geography as a schoolboy at Boys' Foundation, I used to hear that Barbados was a water-scarce country. I therefore understand the importance of taking our water problems seriously, but thereby hangs a tale, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, May 17, 1994, a Debate took place in this House, and that Debate was on the issue of water. I had not yet got elected to the House. It was before the 1994 General Election, which took place on September 6. That Debate took place on Tuesday, May 17. The House took time out to deal with the issue as one of urgent public importance, and the then Leader of the Opposition, the now Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, spearheaded that Debate. He led it off. That Debate took place on May 17, 1994. Thirty-one days later, on June 18, 1994, this Parliament was dissolved after the No-Confidence Motion succeeded. One month after that Debate took place, Parliament was dissolved, and on September 6 a new Government was elected and that Government held office for 14 years. Even though the issues that were highlighted on May 17 were all legitimate issues and required the attention of the Government that was in office at that time, that Government had no opportunity at all to deal with the problems because one month later, Parliament was dissolved, and by September 6 a new Government was in office and remained in office for the next 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, what were some of the issues raised in that Debate? I have before me the official Report of the House of Assembly Debate of Tuesday, May 17, and the

Right Honourable Member who led off the Debate made the following observations. I am going to read them in extenso because, you see, the Record has to be put straight. That Honourable Member said, and I am reading from Page 491(2):

Mr. Speaker, I am reading from page 491(2). That Honourable Member said:

“My chief reason for seeking leave for this debate under Standing Order 18 has to do with the fact that:

1. Public statements by the officials of the Barbados Water Authority have established the following as the functional position of that Authority, so that it is now unable to provide or maintain full water supply throughout Barbados.
2. The volume of water passing through its system is extending beyond the absolute limits of the Authority’s capacity to service demands, even if all of its equipment was fully in service and the water reserves were at high levels.
3. Several reservoirs are now below the minimum levels required for everyday purposes and some are without water.
4. For several areas of Barbados in which persons are experiencing continual and prolonged water shortages, the Authority can presently offer no relief and no improvement in service.
5. Large numbers of water mains in many areas need urgently to be renewed.
6. Immediate provision must be made for substantial capital investment in equipment and exploration.
7. There is an immediate need to drill new wells and to provide additional storage and pumping facilities.
8. There is substantial continuous loss of water through leak seepage, much of which has not been traced nor definitively calculated.
9. The supply of potable water in adequate quantities being crucial to good health, the availability of water for domestic purpose is being vital to general well-being, and the need for reliable water services for agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes being critical to the economy, all of these segments of concern are increasingly under the greatest threat from actual and projected failure of our water supply.
10. The sudden development of the water crisis in Barbados beyond natural causes such as the shortage of rainfall is such that prompt emergency action to be led by the Barbados

Water Authority in productive efforts is an unqualified imperative.”

Mr. Speaker, those were the 10 issues that were put on the table here in this Honourable House on 17th May, 1994. Mr. Speaker, you could easily have thought that the debate took place in this House in 2016 because the same issues that existed back then exist now, and exist after the Government that was elected in 1994 held office for 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here into any blame-casting, I am just trying to contextualise where we are now and why we are here now. The Honourable Member went on to say the following:

“Mr. Speaker, my preamble establishes and recognises that there is an aspect of the water problem in Barbados which has obviously to do with the fact that we are experiencing and have been experiencing a shortage of rain and a one-in-a-fifteen-year drought in this country.”

Mr. Speaker, we have had drought around here for the last four year. Across the Caribbean there has been a drought problem which can be traceable to the climate change issues and so on. The Honourable Member went on to say:

“There are many districts in Barbados, predominately in St. Thomas, St. Joseph, St. Andrew and St. Peter and to a lesser extent in most of the other parishes in this island where shortage of water is proving to be a nightmare in the households.”

Mr. Speaker, when the then representative for St. Joseph spoke in the debate, this is what the Honourable Member said:

“For many people in St. Thomas and St. Peter and St. Joseph, particularly the western and northern part of St. Joseph, this water shortage has resulted in a hellish experience for them and a major dislocation of their lives. I have often complained in this Parliament that there are two Barbadoses and at the best of times many people in rural Barbados get a disproportionately small share of the resources. In bad times, such as we are experiencing now, there are many districts in Barbados that get no water at all.”

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member went on to say:

“I am referring to places like Mellows Hill, Melvin Hill, Parks, Dark Hole, St. Sylvans Village, Newton Crescent and Bissex Housing Area and more recently the district of Cambridge, to mention but a few. In the case of Newton Crescent or Bissex Housing Area, they have not been having running water, on other than a most occasional

basis, like a dripping tap from 3:00 to 5.00 a.m. for the last three months.”

Mr. Speaker, we are being given the impression now that a wicked Government came to office in Barbados in 2008 and that it set out to deny parishes in the Scotland District of water. These are old problems. When the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, the then Member of Parliament for St. Philip North, Sir Philip Greaves, spoke in the debate, he said these problems go back to when he was a boy. We are now being given the impression that these are new problems, that we never knew about them before, and why are we still discussing today the repair of mains, issues of reservoirs and all that kind of thing after 14 years of cornucopia, abundance, here in Barbados? Why are we still discussing these things?

Mr. Speaker, Governments make choices and if on 17th May this was the most important and critical issue in Barbados, I would have thought that the resources available to Government after 1994 would have been applied substantially to the correction of these problems, since water is so basic a need for continued human existence.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North was, I believe, after 1994, a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and they had responsibility for the Barbados Water Authority at the time. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew had responsibility for the Ministry and the Honourable Member for St. George North was Parliamentary Secretary. Mr. Speaker, these problems are old problems.

Mr. Speaker, something more familiar, the then Honourable Member for St. Joseph went on to say:

“I maintain that justice demands that the people in rural Barbados, in St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. Peter who have not been getting any water for the past two or three months should not be expected to pay and that the Minister should make that clear by the time this debate is concluded, that they should not have to pay any water bill.”

Mr. Speaker, all of the things that we have been hearing recently on this issue have been said already as long ago as 1994 and 14 years after all of this was said we are still discussing in Barbados today, in the 50th Year of our Independence, issues that were highlighted in 1994 and could have been corrected for all times. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West now has to deal with mains replacements. The Honourable Member now has to be running around the place trying to drill new wells and finding a fairly good one at Sweet Vale, St. George, but these issues were raised in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, the late Honourable Member for St. John who was then the Minister of Finance spoke in the

debate the Honourable Member said: “I want to make this point because it concerns me and when people from Edge Cliff call me at home on mornings, I explain to them that I do not get water in Mapps either.”

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member had a very good sense of humour. The Honourable Member went on to say: “Fortunately, I lived in Trinidad long enough to know how to bathe out of a pig tail bucket. A white pig tail bucket is the kind of bucket that I am now bathing out of in the morning, but the point is that after 6 o’clock in the morning there is no water in my district and it does not come back until 8 or 9 o’clock at nights.”

Mr. Speaker, these are old problems, though we are being given the impression that this is the first time that it has ever happened. Sir, Government makes choices. We have had a longer period of drought in Barbados and in the Caribbean over the last four or five years than at any time in recent history. Mr. Speaker, as I said, Governments have priorities. When Glendairy Prison was burned the Government of Barbados -- this is not a criticism, I want to make it very clear, I am just contextualizing occurrences - decided that it was going to build a new prison. We still do not know whether or not it was built in United States of America dollars or Barbados dollars, Swiss Francs, German Dutch Marks when they existed, we do not know, but the choice was made that rather than restoring Glendairy Prison, to build a new prison at substantial cost.

Mr. Speaker, now, I am not criticising the policy because Governments have right to introduce the policies that they want and to establish their own priorities, but I say it was opened to the Government at that time to allocate that expenditure to water rather than to build a prison. I have been a practising lawyer since 1984 and I know that there have been complaints about the physical conditions under which our justice system was operating. We decided that we were going to build a new Judicial Centre. I have no problem with that. I opened it as Attorney-General or maybe as Prime Minister but I am saying this that the decision could have been taken to deal with the water mains problems and the other water problems of Barbados rather than to build the Judicial Centre but that was thought to be a priority as I said, I have no problem with it, that Governments have a right to establish their own priorities.

Mr. Speaker, the new Coast Guard facility, I have no problem with that either, Barbados’ national security is too important for me to have any problem with the new Coast Guard facility, but that was thought to be a priority over getting our water problems right and getting our mains replacement going.

The money spent on the ABC Highway, again I have no problem with it, all I am saying is that in terms of

prioritizing if the water problems were as acute as were said on 17th May, 1994, the expenditure could have been directed to mains replacement, well exploration and all of the other issues that were highlighted so that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and all of the other Members on the other side would not have to be complaining today in the year 2016 about problems that were raised in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on. Rather than knocking down the Old Hilton Hotel and rebuilding it, we could have directed those expenditures to our water problems. Now we are concerned that when the tourists come and staying at the Hilton Hotel they may not have access to water, according to what I hear coming from the other side.

Mr. Speaker, the money spent on Greenland, which the Honourable Member for St. Andrew described as environmental madness, that money could have been directed at mains replacement and dealing with all of the other problems highlighted affecting parishes in the Scotland District, St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Peter, we spent the money on Greenland, there is no evidence at Greenland to this day that that expenditure could be justified and we are still complaining about the same problems that were the subject of complaint before this Honourable House on 17th May, 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on and on. EduTech. I have no problem with trying to develop the technological savvy of our school children. EduTech began as EduTech, it soon became 'Edu-Tec-back'. That is still a story to be told but it started as EduTech and huge sums of money were spent on it and of course we have never really had an objective evaluation of the cost versus the benefits up to now. But anyhow that is an issue that we can undertake at some time. Again I am not criticising EduTech, I am just saying that in terms of prioritising, where this issue is concerned, affecting all of these areas in St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Peter and, in the case of the late Honourable Member for St. John, the parish of St. Philip as well, that the expenditure could have been prioritised to deal with these challenges. However, that was not done so we are discussing the same problems today that were discussed in 1994, and it all has to do with political choices. J.K. Rowling, in one of those Harry Potter books that young people have been so avid about, put in the mouth of Professor Dumbledore to say to Harry Potter, "Harry, it is not our abilities that determine what we are. It is the choices that we make." You are always bound by your choices. No matter what ability you have or think you have, your choices always bind you, and choices were made on these issues that have left our water problems now for the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and the Government of the Democratic Labour Party to deal with in our 50th Year of Independence. Twenty-two years after

these issues were raised, the same issues affecting the same areas, we now have to be dealing with them in the year 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thanks to all of the residents of the areas affected for the patience and understanding which they have shown in very difficult and challenging circumstances. These problems were not created overnight and they cannot be solved overnight, but the effects or the impact of the problems can be mitigated by timely and humane interventions, and I think that on my recent advice the Barbados Water Authority has been doing its utmost to ensure that it keeps people's inconveniences down to a minimum. It has additional equipment, the Minister has announced the plan of action being undertaken by the Authority, and the Government is doing its best to ensure that at last we can get these problems behind us. We have to be patient. Shakespeare in *Othello*, I think it is, made the observation, "How poor are they who have no patience. What wound did ever heal but by degrees? Thou knowest we work by wit and not by witchcraft, and wit depends on dilatory time." It will take a little while but while we are correcting these problems, we have to make sure, and the Barbados Water Authority is making sure, that humane, sensible and sympathetic interventions are done to keep people's inconveniences down to a minimum. As I said, the former Honourable Member for St. Michael North in this Debate said that these problems go back to when he was a boy. These are old problems which we, in our age, are trying to resolve finally so that we can, not just protect people's standard of living but also, enhance their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a very useful Debate. The Government is pleased that it brought this Resolution to the House. I think Honourable Members on the other side have so much as said that it was a good thing that we had this Resolution because we have all been put here by the people of Barbados, and this Parliament should have its say on how the people of Barbados responded over the last 50 years to our move into Independence. I do not want to drag the Debate on anymore. I really am very grateful to all Honourable Members who spoke. I am grateful to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, because in all of this let us not forget that in the last quarter of 2007 the western world went into a crisis, a financial meltdown, the effects of which are still being felt. The effects of that crisis are still being felt not just here in Barbados. They are being felt where the crisis started; in the United States of America. In the just concluded campaign, listen to what the candidates had to say: Jobs exported from the United States, the high degree of alienation of a large chunk of the population feeling the full effects of globalisation and giving vent to their anger, so the publicists are saying in the vote they just cast. In the United Kingdom, I said in this House last Friday, there are cutbacks to local councils, leading them in some cases to

tell the areas for which they are responsible that garbage can only be collected once every three weeks. The effects of the crisis are still being felt, and Barbados is continuing to deal with those challenges. There are things that we can do here for ourselves, and in that connection the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central continues to focus our attention on supporting local production, so that we do not have to import as much as we do in the area of food. We are encouraged to support local agriculture, but we are locked into this network of economic arrangements and we will continue to feel the effects of what is going on around us until the situation stabilises.

This is the worst crisis felt by the western world since the Great Depression. It has been nearly 100 years. In fact, the period leading up to the Depression was a very difficult one; the years of the First World War 1914-1918. Only recently, we were reminded -- certainly I was reminded as a student of history while listening to some commentary on one of the channels as recently as Saturday -- that it took the Second World War to resolve all the problems caused by the Great Depression. It was not Roosevelt's new deal that did anything. In fact, the verdict on that new deal is that it basically failed to deal with the challenges thrown up by the Great Depression. World War II was what did the cleaning up and put the western economy back on the road to vertebrate growth. Let us hope that we do not have to resort to war to solve present challenges, but we are living in difficult and challenging times and we have to be strong, we have to be levelheaded and we have to ignore the nihilistic voices that try to give the impression that in Barbados there is a loss of faith, a loss of hope and a loss of charity. It is not true, Barbadians are too resilient for that and as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was kind enough to say, we believe in God and therefore our faith takes us a substantial distance along the way and therefore we just have to continue to do the best we can and plan to be an even better country over the next 50 years.

I want to say thanks to all the community organisations that have made their own contribution to the recognition of people in their local communities. As recently as yesterday the Office of Public Sector Reform and the Government recognised the contribution of 50 public officers who are either retired or deceased who would have contributed much to the development of Barbados over the last 50 years. It was a grand occasion and a spirit of thankfulness pervaded the room at the Hilton Hotel, and other organisations are having their award ceremonies and their thank-you sessions because ultimately, it is not only the people who sat in this House between 1966 and now that explained our successes as an Independent nation over the last 50 years, it is ordinary men and women out there in our communities, unpretentious, selfless people out there in our communities

who have helped to build the Barbados of which we feel so proud today. Mr. Speaker, I want to place on record my gratitude to them for contributing in the ways in which they did, the multiple ways in which they did, to the enrichment of this great country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I wind up by saying that this Resolution is deserving of the full support of this Honourable House and I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

## RECOMMITAL

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to give notice of the follow:

1. The Minimum Wage Bill, 2016

## RECOMMITAL

## FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the first reading of the Minimum Wage Bill, 2016.

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

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

## ADJOURMENT

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, after a wonderful debate congratulating the people of Barbados of the attainment of our 50th Anniversary, I beg to move that the Sitting be adjourned until Tuesday, November 22, 2016, at 10.00 a.m.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*

Seq 52.

## CONTENTS

## MINUTES

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....   | 2 |
| Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 2. |   |

## PAPERS

|                                                                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....                                                          | 2 |
| 1. The Child Care Board Financial Statement for the year ending March 31, 2014. |   |

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....   | 2 |
| Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 2. |   |

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

|                                                                                                                                             |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| ORDER NO. 22.....                                                                                                                           | 2 |
| Hon. D.o'n. Inniss, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10; Hon. Mr. D.G. Sutherland, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; Hon. J.D.E. Boyce, 10, 11, 13, 14; Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 14. |   |

## RESUMPTION

## ORDER NO. 22 (resumed)

Hon. R.L. Sealy, 14, 17; Miss C.Y. Forde, 18; Mr. J.D. Paul, 22, 25; Hon. M. A. Lashley, 26, 28, 29; Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic, 29; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, 31, 34; Hon. M.A. Mottley, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39; Mr. G.A. Clarke, 39, 41, 42; Hon. J.D.E. Boyce, 41; Hon. C. Sinckler, 43, 44, 46; Hon. R.D. Jones, 46, 47, 49, 50; Dr. Mrs. Maria M. Agard, 51, 53, 54; Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 54.

## RECOMMITAL

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....         | 59 |
| 1. The Minimum Wage Bill, 2016 |    |

## RECOMMITAL

## FIRST READING OF BILLS

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....    | 59 |
| Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 59. |    |

## ADJOURNMENT

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....    | 59 |
| Rt. Hon. F.J. Stuart, 59. |    |

## SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

**AGARD, Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. (Christ Church West)**  
**BOSTIC, Lt. Col. J. D.**  
**BOYCE, Hon. J.D.E. (Christ Church South)**  
**CLARKE, Mr. G.A. (St. George North)**  
**FORDE, Miss C.Y. (St. Thomas)**  
**INNISS, Hon. D.O'N. (St. James South)**  
**JONES, Hon. R.D. (Christ Church East Central)**  
**LASHLEY, Hon. M. A. (St. Philip North)**  
**LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)**  
**MOTTLEY, Hon. M.A. (St. Michael North East)**  
**PAUL, Mr. J.D. (St. Michael West Central)**  
**SEALY, Hon. R.L. (St. Michael South Central)**  
**SINCKLER, Hon. C. (St. Michael North West)**  
**STUART, Rt. Hon. F.J. (St. Michael South)**  
**SUTHERLAND, Hon. Mr. D.G. (St. George South)**

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

---

**EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT**


---

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

**EDITORIAL QUERIES**

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

**Q1. Masthead and date.** The convening sentence in the source gives the date as Tuesday, December 13, 2016, but the heading and file name give Tuesday, November 15, 2016, which is used. Please confirm.

**Q2. Masthead.** The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

**Q3. Minutes.** The motion on the Minutes of Friday, November 11, 2016 reads ‘that the Minutes referred to be referred’, presumably ‘deferred’. Printed as in the source.

**Q4. Order No. 22.** The Speaker’s call of the Member for St. James South appears as an ordinary paragraph, ‘Mr. SPEAKER; The Honourable Member for St. James South.’, rather than as a speech heading. Printed as in the source.

**Q5. Headings.** The source has ‘SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS’, ‘ADJOURNMENT’ and two headings ‘RECOMMITAL’ (one before Government Notices and one before First Reading of Bills), though nothing was recommitted. Printed as in the source.

**Q6. Order No. 22, Chair.** Madam Deputy Speaker is recorded as assuming the Chair a second time before Hon. R. D. Jones’s speech, but Mr. Speaker’s return is not recorded before he calls the Member for Christ Church West. Printed as in the source.

**Q7. Speech labels.** The Member for St. Andrew is labelled ‘Hon. Mr. D.G. SUTHERLAND’ as well as ‘Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND’; the Leader of the Opposition appears as ‘Hon. M.A. MOTTLEY’ as well as ‘Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY’; and ‘Hon. C. SINCKLER’ and ‘Dr. Mrs. MARIA M. AGARD’ also occur. Printed as in the source.

**Q8. PRESENT.** The entries for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are run together on one line in the source. Printed as in the source.

**DEBATE SUMMARY**

*(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)*

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 15th November, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., with Mr. Speaker, His

Honour Michael A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Father Mark Harewood. The Minutes of Tuesday, 1st November were confirmed and those of Friday, 11th November deferred. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce laid, on behalf of the Minister of Social Care, the Child Care Board Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March, 2014, and Standing Orders were suspended.

Under Order No. 22 the House resumed the debate on the Resolution, moved by the Prime Minister, that Parliament congratulate Barbados on the attainment of its 50th Anniversary of Independence and hail the efforts of all Barbadians in making it possible. Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, Member for St. James South, regretted that the Leader of the Opposition had not led for her party. Mr. D. G. Sutherland, Member for St. Andrew, spoke of Sir Grantley Adams and of the Barbados Labour Party’s ‘Covenant of Hope’, including the protection of the National Insurance Scheme and better public transport; Madam Deputy Speaker took the Chair during his speech. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce said the Opposition had spread rumours that \$33 million was being spent on the celebrations, and spoke of the monument at the Garrison to be unveiled on the night of the 29th.

After the lunch suspension Hon. R. L. Sealy, Member for St. Michael South Central, spoke of the strides made by Barbadians beyond the ten National Heroes. He was followed by Miss C. Y. Forde, Mr. J. D. Paul, Hon. M. A. Lashley, who said Barbados had some 2 000 kilometres of roads to modernise, Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic and Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, placed on record the Opposition’s gratitude to ordinary citizens, said there could not be ‘two Barbadoses’ in the years ahead and spoke of the state of the roads, naming Well Gap. Mr. G. A. Clarke, who was a teenager when the Union Jack came down, complained of conditions at the airport; when Hon. J. D. E. Boyce said on a point of order that he was ‘deliberately misleading’ the Chamber, the Speaker had him withdraw the word ‘deliberate’. Hon. C. P. Sinckler noted that Barbados had more telephone connections than people and spoke of the borrowing needed to build its social services, and Hon. R. D. Jones and Dr. M. M. Agard, Member for Christ Church West, who called herself ‘a child of Independence’, also supported the Resolution.

Winding up, the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. F. J. Stuart, accepted full responsibility for the sum allocated for the celebrations, recalled attending meetings during the Independence debate when he was 15, spoke of the world economic crisis as the worst since the Great Depression,

and thanked the community organisations that had honoured local people. The Resolution was agreed to without division.

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce gave notice of the Minimum Wage Bill, 2016, which was then read a first time. On his motion, seconded by the Prime Minister, the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd November, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.