
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2018 – 2022

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Worthing Corporate Centre on Tuesday, the 12th Day of January, 2021, at 10 a.m. pursuant to the Adjournment.

PRESENT

His Honour A.E. HOLDER, B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Speaker)
His Honour N.G.H. ROWE, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. R.St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of International Business and Industry)(Online)
Hon. Miss C.Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P. (Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs)
Hon. D.D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)
Hon. T.A. PRESCOD, B.A.
Lt. Col. the Hon. J.D. BOSTIC, MVO, B.A. (Hons.), (Minister of Health and Wellness)
Hon. E.G. HINKSON, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C, LL.M.
Hon. D.G. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), (Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Development) (Online)
Hon. Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training)
Bishop the Hon. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, J.P., B.A., B.Sc., PgD. (Leader of the Opposition)
Dr. the Hon. W.F. DUGUID, J.P., B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S, F.D.R.C.S., M. Min. (Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance)
Hon. W.A. ABRAHAM, LL.B. (Hons.), (Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs)
Hon. Ms. C.S.V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.), (Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade) (Online)
Hon. I.A. WEIR, M.B.A. (Minister of Agriculture and Food Security) (Online)

Hon. A.R. FORDE, RPh. (Minister of the Environment and National Beautification) (Online)
Hon. C.McD. GRIFFITH, B.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Water Resources)
Hon. P.R. PHILLIPS (Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security)
Hon. J.A. KING, BSS. (Minister in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for Culture and the National Development Commission)
Hon. C.E. JORDAN, B.Sc. (Hons.), (Minister of Labour and Social Partnership Relations)
Dr. S.E. BROWNE, M.B.B.S. (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. K.D.M. HUMPHREY, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.A., (Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy)
Hon. R.R. STRAUGHN, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Finance) (Online)
Hon. Miss M.K-A. CADDLE, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment) (Online)
Mr. G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL (Minister of Transport, Works and Water Resources) (Online)
Mr. R.A. THORNE, Q.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology
Ms. T.N.S-A. MOORE, M.B.A.

ABSENT

Hon. G. W. PAYNE, Q.C.
Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, Minister of National Security and the Civil Service)
Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship)
Prayers were taken by the Reverend Mark Harewood.

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

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Sittings of Tuesday, December 8, 2020, and Tuesday, December 15, 2020, are to be confirmed.

Hon. Miss S. J. O BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the aforementioned Minutes be taken as read.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Minutes be taken as read was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the mentioned Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Order of the Day.

ORDER NO. 4

To move the passing of a Resolution to approve in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, CAP. 225, the lease to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Barbados Charity of the parcel of land, the property of the Crown, namely Lot 2, being part of the property known as Culloden Farm in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island to be used as a headquarters/base to house the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Barbados Charity and to facilitate its development programmes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be here for this historic Sitting, at which one would never have envisaged that there would be Members sitting at home in front of a computer but yet still being able to attend this Honourable Chamber. It is against that backdrop which I will present to you a simple Resolution to lease land to a charity, but the backdrop

behind it and the significance of how we are having to do business and how we are having to conduct ourselves in Parliament in this modern era is something that will go down in history for years to come. I look forward to seeing a presentation for the first time by one of those Members who may be at home joining Parliament by Zoom. Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is that of a lease, to grant a lease to the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Barbados Charity. That charity has been in Barbados for a very long time; pre-Independence, I am told. The year 1963 was when the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was launched in Barbados. It is Charity No. 214. It does tremendous work throughout Barbados and in fact throughout the Caribbean, I am told, and it is essentially a self-improvement programme so that people can improve their leadership skills, their inter-personal skills and their explorative skills. Generally, it is a means by which people can improve themselves and, to make it seem simple, to be able to get along well with other people because it is also a concept of people coming together and working together to achieve goals. Sir, I understand that we in fact have Members here who have passed through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and look what that has led them to: from the Scheme and from improving leadership to now being a Member of this Honourable House.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Obviously, it is a good scheme and it is something of which I think we can be proud. It is clear that for those who have passed through it -- I, unfortunately, did not go through it since I was more in the cadet stream -- it is certainly something that has made a tremendous contribution to this country, and I anticipate that it will continue. Sir, essentially this Resolution will be leasing the property that was the old official residence of the Prime Minister. You may recall that the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was the Prime Minister who lived at Culloden Farm. The property has now fallen into significant disrepair and dilapidation, and really cannot be used in its present state and has to be refurbished. Mr. Speaker, the charity has agreed that it will put all of the money into the refurbishment. It will cost in the vicinity of \$4 million to refurbish it. The lease will be for 25 years and the charity will be paying about \$1 200 a month to lease the land. After the 25 years, then the property reverts to the Crown. It is certainly an opportunity for us to be able to get what is a dilapidated building, a building that is at risk of having rodents and other health issues right there on the outskirts of Bridgetown right next to the National Insurance Scheme.

Sir, they have committed to us not only that they will continue the programmes which they do, but with this additional amount of land and a home for the first time -- to have a place which they can really call their home -- they will add hydroponics to their programmes, small animal

husbandry, fish farming, green technology as well as other community activities so as to broaden the programme and the community involvement. Mr. Speaker, this is definitely a positive for our country because we need as many people involved in community activities as possible. I have often heard people say that the volunteerism in Barbados is not what it used to be. People are not getting involved in their communities, people are not getting involved and doing community events and activities as they should, and this opportunity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to have a home to broaden their skills is to encourage more and more people to get back to community, get back to volunteerism, get back to being involved, help someone, learn something and then teach it to somebody else so that they, too, can then expand someone else's horizon. These are the simple facts and simple, basic morals and values on which Barbados has been built, and this is what we need to encourage and expand.

Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in recommending that this Honourable House give full support to this lease of Lot 2 at Culloden Farm to the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Barbados Charity. I am told that Lot 1 is to be retained by the Crown for the use of the National Library Service. In accordance with provisions of Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, CAP 225 of the Laws of Barbados, the Minister may with the approval of Parliament sell, lease, exchange, grant, assign or surrender any land vested in the Crown. It is now proposed that we seek parliamentary approval of the Resolution pertaining to the granting of the lease of 15 634 square metres of land, together with the buildings thereon, to the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Barbados Charity, to be used as headquarters to house the charity and to facilitate its development work and further expansion. The Resolution has been examined by the Attorney General, and I ask that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. McD. GRIFFITH: I beg to second that, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to just briefly contribute to the debate and discussion and to support the aim of the Resolution. Let me preface my remarks by taking a moment just to wish all elected Members of the Chamber as well as ancillary staff of Parliament and the Clerks of Parliament the very best of Heaven's blessings for the New Year ahead. Sir, I believe initiatives like this will easily find support for some very important reasons. They certainly do find my support in this particular situation. The aim of the Resolution, to me, is important, hugely because of the target group that ultimately comes into view. We are

talking about facilitating the further development of a programme that targets people in the adolescent stages or stage of their lives. For that reason, it is absolutely important and I see it as a positive thing.

Sir, that is the phase of life and the point -- as you would know, Mr. Speaker -- at which we either get it wrong or get it right. Often we do get it wrong and happily sometimes there is a point of recovery and a second chance, but many do get it right the first time around. I think that insofar as governmental policy is concerned, anything that seeks positively to create a further atmosphere that would increase and improve the chances of our young people getting it right is to be lauded and is to be supported. Mr. Speaker, at that stage in our lives there is much potential for good. There is equally much potential for ill. Happily, you got it right all along the way. I did not always get it right and I thank God for second chances, so to speak, but I think that this international Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and programme is intended, significantly so, to contribute to the personal wellbeing and proper, balanced development of young people to make them into more productive citizens of their respective countries.

That programme has been played out here in Barbados and it has seen and heard of some of the results. I heard reference made today of persons in here who may have benefitted from participating in the programme. I am not sure who they are, but the fact that the electorate thought it fit to give them that signal honour of representing their interest in this Honourable House is testament to the fact that the products of the programme are highly marketable in the states from which they come and are seen as persons who can at the very highest level project themselves in representing the interest of their country and the interest of others.

Programmes like this helps I believe with the important work of reducing the potential for cost and financial liability, which a state like us strapped for finances at all times might incur if we have to treat to problems arising in the adolescence stage of many young people lives. We have to treat it post the problems that they have created for themselves and the problems that they have created for us. The program is intended therefore from the other side of the issue to ensure that young people are pointed in the right direction and are given the skills and the opportunity to go in that direction and that is much preferable, so I am sure you would agree than having to treat to the issue on the other side when once they have gotten themselves in the problems and to be become a liability for themselves, families, communities and the wider country. Hence, we are looking to avoid that potential of the creation of cost liability attaching to some of the ills related to our youth, more youthful, or younger impulses Mr. Speaker.

Of course the important business of the avoidance of criminalisation also, because it is not only the question of cost and liability that the state will have to face, where when young people go on the wrong side of the law or engage in deviant behaviour. It is a question of a system which because of its deficiencies can tend to criminalise young people who have all in which many of them sometimes for the first time and they have gone down the wrong path and our systems or institutes are not sufficiently developed or sufficiently efficient that we see positive results sufficiently so from rehabilitative efforts, but rather the other picture emerges where young people fall into the system and then become further criminalised resulting a more deviant behaviour of a more serious nature even criminal activity. Hence, anything we can do to help avoid that is be lauded. Right now as a country we will all have to admit, not political statement that we are not in a position to be efficient enough or sufficient to the problem as to properly redress it and some of young people come out of the system and a lot of them get help, they become further jeopardised and criminalised.

We as a country have taken a commitment long ago that we will try to avail our young people of their very best of opportunities that a country a very level of development can afford. Perhaps sometimes we even go beyond that which we are able to comfortably afford. We made a commitment as a nation to these young people, perhaps the best and most obvious example is in the area of free education from nursery to tertiary. That is the business that we are into and as a country we have committed to that. We have made a very strong vow of our commitment to that type of policy and that type of program that notwithstanding the challenges even now of most recent times economically, we are still bent on a course where you want to express in very tangible financial terms that commitment to our young people that we will create for them opportunities in Barbados where they can become the best they possibly can be and that they can do the best which possibly they can in the interest of a wider national development.

The programme at its root is intended to create the values of balanced personal self-development, leadership skills, sense of community, and volunteerism. All of these are ideas and values which as a country we have cherished for a long time. If truth be told and if we are to be honest, we have to admit that in recent years and recent is subject to interpretation from one person to another, we have seen a diminishing of the emphasis and the importance of these values that a balanced self-developed person, volunteerism, sense of community, sense of nationalism or sense of what I call in church circles, other mindedness the value of leadership and then other high ideals and values which as a country we have learned. With programs which help towards that must find support, and here is one in which a charity being part of an international global network is

giving its energies and its efforts to and I am happy to be part of a mechanism which seeks to support that.

We have to be conscious and acknowledge as well if we are to be balanced in our view that we run the danger of creating lofty aspirations among our young people in Barbados, only to see them crashing the valleys and sounds cynicism and that is true. The economic situation of today and it did not start today or yesterday. Part of it is systemic, endemic, it is the model of economic orientation that we have pursued over many years. It is the legacy of a system handed down to us we bought into, hook, line and sinker and have not necessarily fully made the effort to revolutionise it such that we see a change in relationship of the majority of our people to the level of economic development in the country. In other words, we have had some development and growth but it has been skewed and a lot of it has been biased towards certain sectors, certain classes and certain interest. That has jeopardised and empowered the interest of the majority working class people in this country. Our young people, having benefitted from an education, going through the systems and growing up in that kind of a context where we create a sense of high expectation of anticipation, aspiration, high hopes, but then the system is unable to deliver for various reasons, some of which I just mentioned. Their noble aspirations then come crashing down in the darkness of the value of cynicism in the psalms of cynicism. That is part of the tragedy and reality in which we live and know, and anything that can help to cause our young people to escape from that kind of syndrome is worthy of being supported. 30 per cent plus unemployment among young people in Barbados is bad. That existed even before COVID and it is certainly worse now and the prospects going forward is not as bright. Chronic underemployment in Barbados has been the story of the working class in Barbados and again it emanates from the kind of system, economic orientation that we have followed, the model that we have chosen to pursue.

As I said before and I say over because I feel it strongly, I do not say it to target anybody here today. We have to kind of continue to create those high ceilings for our young people that they may have those lofty and noble aspirations and we cannot afford ourselves to fall victims as leaders in politics and leaders in enterprises and business in Barbados, such that we settle for offering to the young people of this country. Visions influenced by the low ceilings with respect to the aspirations.

In simple language, it is not just to find a seasonal employment of weeding along the roadways or cutting the grass. Someone must do it and it is an absolutely necessary task. It is absolutely vital in Barbados. I have never seen Barbados this bushy in my entire life, so it is absolutely necessary now. However, I am talking about a situation where we settle for signaling to young people that this is all that we can offer, what they must aspire to and this what

they must expect which is to wait for a seasonal job of weeding along the road and cutting the bush at the behest of a politician when it suits the politician.

It is not a criticism or accusation of anybody or any political party. It is part of the reality which is life in Barbados working class people. Anything that improves on that situation, moves us up, onward and beyond that I am willing to support. I support this today. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, there is one other aspect of it to which I would like to refer. I ask your permission because I am actually referring to an article which appeared in the media because the reference to the land to be leased here is the Culloden Farm area. I think this was an article under the name of Sir Henry Fraser and he talked about our attitude as Barbadians towards our heritage and heritage sites.

He mentions the home of the Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow in St. Lucy. The reference for it is the Barbados Advocate entitled, "The Things that Matter: Culloden Farm, The Garden and Other National Tragedies". The Clerks can have this to be shared as a document of the House, Mr. Speaker. He makes reference to Errol Barrow's family home in St. Lucy which is still in ruins. He goes on to mention what he calls "The Dirty Dozen of Heritage Properties" to which little or scant attention is paid because of the inaction of those responsible principals of Government.

It states as follows:

"This inaction associated with a lack of maintenance is neither new nor unusual. While the abandonment and lack of maintenance of Culloden Farm is particularly sad, dramatic and truly tragic, it repeats a pattern all over Bridgetown—from the Old Eye Hospital (restored 30 years ago with Canadian funds), the Empire Theatre, the Old Supreme Court, the Carnegie Public Library, the St. Mary's Boys' School, the Marshall Hall, Delmany in Pine Hill and the old Chief Justice's house on Philip Drive, Pine Plantation House, Erdiston House, the old Tercentenary Ward—what I call the Derelict Dirty Dozen of Historic Bridgetown. Of course, most recently there is Glendairy Prison."

He is speaking to the fact that we have not done, perhaps, a good job of treating to our heritage sites recognising the historic significance of these sites but also the economic value. We are a tourist destination and Bridgetown is now a world recognized heritage site. Yet, we have these ruins lying all around. I think the call is clarion and clear that we need to treat to this. I am glad to see that some proper use is being made of some of the precincts of the old Culloden Farm.

I support this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. M. K.-A. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that I am the kind of person that likes to celebrate small things. I feel this is the occasion to celebrate that I am the first to make an intervention via this new system that we are using. I feel quite honoured to be able to do so given the realities of the pandemic that we are faced with and having to manage. It means that we now need to introduce new ways of engaging with each other and the people of Barbados, so I am happy to do that.

I rise, and I say that metaphorically, to lend my voice to this Resolution that seeks to see the allocation of lease arrangements with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for the property in question at Culloden Farm. Mr. Speaker, I may be begging your indulgence a bit to do some storytelling this morning because those who listen to me even a little would often hear me make reference to my time in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme while I was in secondary school. It was one of the transformational activities in my life. Almost a year ago when we were beginning to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the things that I had the opportunity to emphasise was that even as we are dealing with emergency issues, this BLP Administration is still focused on the business of transformation.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West eluded to it as well in his intervention in support of the Resolution which is to say that we cannot take our eyes off the transformation project for Barbados. This activity to give support to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in its role in supporting the development of young people is extremely important in that transformation. The Member for Christ Church East Central in some of our discussions on this topic made such an important point.

He may not have realised it but he said something that was very true and resonated with me personally. He said that for many of us, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was seen as the alternative to the Cadet Corp for those of us who were not so militarily minded. He may have been suggesting that the Cadet Corp was superior in some way, but for those of us who did not see ourselves having come out of a very structured school system to then after school hours be part of another highly structured system, I was one of those young people, Mr. Speaker. You could not get me into another uniform after the uniform that I was compelled to wear when attending school. It just was not going to happen.

I rejected Brownies. I am not saying it is not a worthwhile endeavor. It is for some people. My two sisters were involved but I completely rejected it. I said to my mother that one uniform was plenty for me. However, there is another part of it that I do not think that we should minimise. It is something that I feel quite strongly about. I saw the Cadet Corp as place quite frankly, and I am sure I

am wrong, where their approach to discipline was one that I know I would not respond to. I use myself as an example, if you would indulge me, Mr. Speaker, in this intervention this morning because I think it is important to recognise the different characteristics and personalities of young people.

When we say young people, it is not a single group that all behave in the same way, as we know. Therefore, we need to be able to structure different kinds of activities for young people. I am the type of individual who does not respond to attempts to strong arm, demoralize or to break you in order to get you to submit. It may sound like strong language but it is something I very much believe in. I think one of the important things about leadership is that you need to be able to recognize what will motivate the people whom you seek to lead.

One of the things that we have to recognize as leaders, and I do not always get it right but I am sure my colleagues in this Honourable Place would agree that one of the things that we have to challenge ourselves to do is to be able to understand what will allow him to get the best of the people that you are seeking to lead and to get the best from them. There are some people who may respond to the yelling of instructions and these kinds of things. I am one of those types of people who absolute rejects it because I feel as if when you educate a child, a person, or a population, you do not seek then to shout them into submission. Your education system, I would hope, is seeking to create and establish reasonable people and reasonableness and to the extent that you have been successful in creating or establishing reasonableness in your society then you need to use it. You need to, as we would say, use your words. Then you need to be able to meet people as peers and simply communicate to them in milder terms what you would wish for them to do or what you would wish for them to do collectively, so I would say that I was one of those young people who choose the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards because it was structured, yes, it gave goals but it also did not seek to demoralise or to make people feel less than in the attempt to build character or to establish discipline.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, if I can say a little about it is one where it was established at the time, in an attempt to have young men, I believe it was, between the ages of 15 and 18 who perhaps were not finding structure and discipline in other places, it was created in an attempt for them to have that structure.

Let me say that I believe there are things, there are programmes, there are buildings, there are institutions created that were created historically in other places during colonial and post-colonial times. There are institutions that are created in the context of systems that are or were or used to be or continue to be imperialist. I think that is clear. I think that we have to be very practical and I think that we

have to understand that it is quite possible for us to see and accept the value of an institutions or of a programme and to claim it and to make it our own and to decide what we want to do with it and what we want it to be. It is the reason that we sit in This Place today, Mr. Speaker, because this was once a place that represented a certain kind of oppression that we have made sure that successive generations have sought to root out, yet today we are able, by our very presence here to claim it, to make it a place that we want it to be and to structure and present it and to engage with it in the way that we, as Barbadians, choose and to have it be what we want.

I see the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as now different, notwithstanding the origins and the fact that it referred to conferring an award from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to young British boys between the ages of 15 and 18. What I very much appreciated about the scheme in Barbados and in the region is that those of us who are a part of it were able to make it exactly what we wanted it to be, notwithstanding for whom it was intended. I do see the value of having an award that is giving at that time by the highest leader or one of the highest leaders in a country. At some point, I am sure, we might have the Prime Minister's Award Scheme similarly to how we have the Prime Minister's Award for Innovation that we would soon be making active. I think it is important that young people be made visible and that we show young people that we see them and that we are willing to acknowledge their contribution to this country. We, as I mentioned before, we may wish to do it through a Prime Minister's Award Scheme and eventually have something that is similar or that rewards some other kind of activity. It is the reason that we did the leadership badges that colleagues presented to representatives of schools at independence time. It is because it is very important that those in leadership in a country engage in a meaningful way with young people to show that their contribution is valuable. I keep hearing that children are the future and I reject that because children are the present. They are living their lives now and they are making their contribution now.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has three levels, bronze, silver and gold and it is really about awarding achievement. At the time that I was a part of it, I do not know if changes may have been made, but there were three parts of it you had to fulfil expedition (that was what we called it at the time which was a hype of some kind of physical activity), a skill was the second and a service, very important, was the third. This programme looks very much like others that we are a part of similarly to the youth advance core although this one is not at all paramilitary in any way. It looks similar to, perhaps, others like the Nature Fund Ranch Programme, any other kind of public service or public engagement or community development programme that we might note. This one has its origins in another place but I want us to focus on the

beneficiaries and the fact that so many young people from Barbados and all over the region have been able to benefit. I would say that it was, for me, extremely empowering to be able to select the service.

There was a young people's mall, in my community that at the bronze level I selected that as my service to be able to go and engage with those young people similarly to how some of our community health workers are going house to house engaging with older people to make sure that they are read to, to make sure they have communication and interaction. What I did at the time, at least at the bronze level, to be able to go to that senior citizen's home to engage with them and to realise really that there is someone other than you, to kind of 'small-up' yourself and realise that you are not the most important person.

Certainly the expedition, which is where I developed my love of hiking that I have to this day, was a place where you did not have any cellular phones to call and ask somebody which way to go. You had to practice your skills of navigation. You had to be able to pitch a tent, which to this day I can still do in under five minutes. You had to be able to cook on an open fire and what was the point of that? That you are not always going to be comfortable, sometimes life will be inconvenient as we are seeing now and it is not always that a situation can be created for you where you will be able to operate in complete comfort without any kind of discomfort or inconvenience, sometimes life will be rough. In the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Programme when you were on hike, if you did not cook you did not eat. If your fire did not catch you better hope one of the other groups would share some of what they cooked. None of it tasted good, Sir. It is very hard to make gourmet meals on an open flame but the point is it did not have to taste good. All you needed as some calories to make sure that when you break camp at 5 o'clock the next day, that you could take up your backpack, which had to be of a certain weight, and that you could continue on the expedition.

The other thing that it taught, Sir, was that you had to bring people along so a group, if it were comprised of 5, 6 or 7 people, you would only pass, at each level. You only satisfy the requirements to get the award if everybody finished and that was except in cases where there were medical emergencies, so there was a moment where a friend of mine who is one of my best friends to this day had to put one of our other group members on his back going up a mountain because we knew that if the rest of the five of us finished climbing that mountain it would not have mattered because if we had left the 'weakest among us' at the bottom of that hill we were no better off and that is the lesson that it taught at the time.

I want to come, Sir, to the issue of the current Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and to reflect on how the institution operated when I was a part of it. The institution had assessors and evaluators, local people who had finished the Gold Award and who then would come back and serve the Scheme to be able to assess and evaluate and to be able to go with us on expeditions and so on. Now, when you complete the Gold Award and you become an assessor or an evaluator then you have a responsibility to plan expeditions with young people, you have a responsibility to have meetings, you know you just cannot go up in St. John and start walking, you have to plot a route, you have to plan if you are going overseas, you have to have meetings and you have to have fundraising and at the time it was very difficult because the Scheme really did not have a home that we could all go to and make these plans and engage with young people and so the reason that this Resolution is important is that it provides the Scheme with a home. We do not want our young people just showing anywhere and meeting anywhere. We need to give them a certain sense of security and we want to make sure that the Scheme is properly institutionalised so that where meetings have to take place and where activities have to happen that they have a home. Sir, it is not only that but if there is a person who wants to be a part of it and they know where it is headquartered it may then be possible for them to make contact and to suggest that they want to be a part of it.

Mr. Speaker, one of shortcomings I felt of the Scheme at that time was that those schools that already had very built in structures and were well-organised for extracurricular activities of this nature had high levels of representation and those schools perhaps did not have the history and the Scheme and so on they did not have groups so it meant that some students from other schools had to come and join our group. Regrettably, it meant that some of the older secondary schools like Harrison's College, Queen's College and others had very strong representation and some of the others did not, but I would tell you Sir that one of mine many pleasures with being a Duke as we call it was that I was able to meet people from other schools through that programme. There was a young woman who joined us from another school and I will tell you that none of us wanted her to leave our group because some of the perspectives that she brought because of the kinds of other activities that she was engaged in were so beneficial. They were skills that none of us had because in our curriculum in our school we were not doing those things and so to me this Resolution allows other students who would ordinarily not have access to be able to be a part of the programme, and that is very important because we have to make sure that these kinds of activities are available to all and that no one is marginalised from being a part of this.

In my closing, Sir, I want to say something briefly about the idea of heritage preservation. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West made reference to it and it is

critical. Now, we as Government have talked a lot about the importance of partnerships and the fact that while we may not always be the ones that are able to invest in the restoration of historic properties and so on, there are partners who are willing to make that co-investment with us and so it is very encouraging to note that what is contemplated as part of this initiative is the restoration of the property at Culloden Farm by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. It is no small investment. They are aware that they would have to comply with the heritage guidelines for the restoration of the property and they have agreed so to do but it suggests and perhaps it is encouraging note on which to start this 2021 that I can so freely agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, but I think it is important that we not lose sight of that mandate that while we must develop or while we must continue to invest in the physical and other development of the country especially Bridgetown that we do want to preserve some of those parts of our heritage that make Barbados interesting and unique.

Mr. Speaker, there is a whole other conversation to be had about the extent to which we also want ourselves to reclaim some of those spaces and to reflect some of our original heritage from whence we came. Mr. Speaker, that is a conversation perhaps for another day but I think that it is important to make visible the fact these kinds of partnerships also allow us to draw in other resources from other places to be able to fulfil our commitment to heritage preservation. Sir, I want to close by saying that I fully support this Resolution. I think that the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is one of those institutions like The Pinelands Creative Workshop, like the Israel Lovell Foundation, like the Danse Nationale Afrique as it was called at the time when I used to have on my dancing shoes and like so many other community organisations that while it may not have originated with us I think that those of us who have been a part of it for so many years have been able to make it our own and have very much enjoyed being able to do that and being able to make sure that our young people benefit, and so with those few words, Sir, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme during my school days it would probably be remiss of me not to offer a few words in these Chambers.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of very good organisations come up in Barbados but their longevity is hardly guaranteed. If I tell you that I was in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme when I was 17 years old that would give you an idea, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was here for quite a few years before I got involved, of how long it

has been around. It is always a challenge, Mr. Speaker, for philanthropic and community-minded bodies to sustain themselves. I reflect on the fact, Sir, that very few of them enjoy enough support to reach the point where they can have a headquarters. When I joined the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as a lad it was being administered by Richard Goddard. I think everybody of a certain vintage would know who Richard Goddard is, I hope as opposed to be was. I am embarrassed to say that I do not know.

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: He still is. I am happy that he is in esse as the Latins would say but you know when I asked the Honourable Member who just spoke about Richard Goddard she had absolutely no idea who he was. In those early days the Scheme was administered from the verandah of the Goddard family home at Fontabelle which was on the premises of Goddard Supermarket and when we in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme had to have meetings, senior meetings were held in the living room of the Goddard family and group meetings were held on the veranda. A lot of organisations, Sir, are desperately in need of their own housing (of their own headquarters) so as to be adequately able to satisfy demanding needs of today's beneficiaries. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suppose some would argue the fact that we thrived on the veranda of the Goddard's family would mean that we do not need to have a home, but the starry-eyed enthusiastic young men and women of the 1970s and 1980s are very different to today's young men and women. I do not think [that] my son or daughter would go anywhere, unless that place had Wi-Fi. In fact, as a family, when we go to visit other people, my son, who is a little bit more rabid of a IT person than my daughter, his first question is not at whom are we going, or why are we going, or whose birthday is it, his first question is: "Do they have Wi-Fi?" Mr. Speaker, Sir, an organisation like [that of] the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is forced to stay in touch with, be compatible with, and meet the needs of -- perhaps in many ways -- a more intelligent, aggressive and worldly viewing client class, it become important for them to be able to satisfy the need for a permanent headquarters that can cater to those things.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was also a member of the Barbados Boys' Scouts Association; one of the things that allowed the Boys' Scouts Association of Barbados to thrive -- in fact, I can say that I was a member of First Barbados Combermere School Scout Troup - was precisely because it had its own Headquarters at Hazelwood; it had a home where the band could practice; it had a home where its business could be satisfactorily administered; it had a home where young men could camp; where scout troops that did not have a place to meet and have their own activities, it had a home that could be offered to those entities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not every organisation that would benefit from the largesse of the Crown, I suppose. By Crown, I mean the Crown of England and not the local Crown that we talk about here; it is not every organisation that would have that backing (that support) but to the extent that it does, and to the extent that resources are available to support an organisation that has done a tremendous work for Barbadian young men and women, the Government of Barbados would do well to match those efforts. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if in matching those efforts [that] it requires us to make a contribution of a piece of real estate that lays idle, historic though it might be, then it is the least that we can contribute. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you [were to] measure the value to our young men and women of the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme, you would find, I believe, that our contribution is far smaller in real terms than the good that the Scheme does for Barbados. Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the things that we have recognised over the years, but increasingly so, is the importance of having wholesome alternative activities for our teenagers, for our young men and women. Sir, as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, I believe that I perhaps see it more often than others, but the harsh reality that we face is that our young men and women are urgently in need of intervention of a positive kind, such that it would steer them away from the negative side of society. Sir, where there is a void, that void is going to be filled, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Where there is no leadership [being] offered in our homes or in our communities, then there are rapacious individuals out there who are anxious to fill that void. Where a young men and women grows up without the role models that they need, there is going to be some fellow on the “block” who is more than happy to step in and to become the role model -- [it is] plan and simple. And if as a Government we can support organisations in a more meaningful way, organisations, yes, like the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme, and yes, like the Barbados Boys’ Scouts Association, the Barbados Girls’ Guide Association and others, then, Sir, as a Government we are contributing in a tangible way to making sure that those voids, if they exist, are filled by wholesome activities and role models that will point our children in the right direction.

Sir, for me, this is a no-brainer. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Barbados spends millions of dollars putting up community centers that are often empty. We spend millions of dollars putting up pavilions that have been allowed to fall to ruin. We spend millions of dollars putting hard courts and lights that do not get used as they should. And in part, Sir, because we end up providing the physical space, that as an Administration or as a public service we are not really geared to adding in those ‘softer’ things. Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps I am not making myself clear. You see, we will build a pavilion for a community but unless there are people in that community [who are] trying to get our young boys and girls to start playing cricket, or to start doing things, it just becomes an empty edifice that will

wither and be worn away by the ravages of time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, and no Government gets our young people interested in cricket or in football. Sir, I hope I am making myself clear; it is not that Government does not have a role to play in sports but as a little boy there was no out-reach officer or anybody from any Government department that used to come out and tell us come go play cricket, we made cricket balls out of wet newspaper and black tape; that did not come from any Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, so that what I am trying to suggest is that wherever the Government can put physical things in place, then we must, but equally important are those underlying things that make the space have value. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have seen too many community centers [being] empty. I have seen too many playing fields with grass growing on them, almost a foot tall. And, yes, in St. Joseph. Because all of the things that the Government will do will often relate to nothing more than putting in the infrastructure. What are needed are those things that are hard to find where to spend money on. You cannot spend money on leadership, you cannot spend money on enthusiasm. You cannot spend money on those things that cause young people to want to gather. You are not capable of spending money on that, which has to come from a different level. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme, as a young man, those things, that ‘softer’ side was inculcated in me as a young man; it was inculcated in the Honourable Member who has just spoken and in many of us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I take my seat, the bottom line [is that] we have put physical space at the disposal of many organisations over the years. We have put physical space at the disposal of many communities over the years. This is an opportunity for us to put just the land because, because the Scheme, as I understand it, will be completely renovating the building. They are going to restore the historical aspects of it, which is something that we also need to do in relation to things like the Carnegie Library and others, so they are going to be making an investment which -- perhaps, if we had the actual resources -- we should be doing. This is an opportunity for us to restore an important part of our history, provide a physical space that a valuable organisation can call its home, and in that process help to build our young men and women, Sir. I can think of no better value, no better value-added, that we can have to vesting a building in an organisation than that it helps to build our young men and women. I therefore support this Resolution wholeheartedly.

Asides.

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

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Speaker, let me place this caveat up front. In previous discussions I did indicate that I would not participate in this discussion but I have listened to some sordid attempts to rationalise the irrational this morning. Sir, this party has signalled to me that there is an attempt to go on a new cultural trajectory. I was very impressed by the fact that we removed the statue of Nelson. I was impressed by the fact that we demolished a massive building at the corner of Fairchild Street in order to develop a park in the main city in Barbados, in Bridgetown, as a centre that represents the struggles of the 1930s. Obviously, everybody knows we have Independence Square. I thought we were on a journey of consistency without any ideological encumbrances that would affect the smooth thinking of what it is we are trying to achieve in terms of self-determination and of building our sovereignty and so on.

Sir, I began to hear voices speak in a very progressive manner about our heroes and I thought that the Government would have been moving towards not just that physical transformation of the City but also the symbolic and ideological representations of what it is we want to achieve. I do not know if I am a weirdo and, therefore, I have extrapolated from this behaviour a sense of a clear vision of what we want to do, but I am a little confused at this point and probably it is a common part of my attributes to be a little confused at times. Probably it is a curse. Mr. Speaker, there is this Duke of Edinburgh International Award and the placing of this Duke of Edinburgh title, because Prince Philip is the founding father of this institution, but I am now going to pass by a building that represents the founding father, our founding Father of Independence, not their founding father of any Duke of Edinburgh Award or founding father of independence: A Black man, in 1966, who lived in this house in Culloden Farm and would have held many meetings in that house about making sure we sliced the fabric of colonialism. I would love to see the Minutes of this same founding father of the institution whom people are speaking so nobly about and who is now responsible for imparting all the great endowments that Jesus could not impart to them.

In terms of this institution which persons had the opportunity to be a part of, all of a sudden it is now sacrosanct because it is not what their mothers or fathers taught them. The teachings include when we boys get up on mornings we should make sure we clean our teeth and comb our hair, and the girls should make sure their hair is plaited well. The teachings are also about deportment and decency and all of these important virtues of life, but a rationalisation for why we must accept this is because they are what they are as a result of being part of this institution. This is over 15 000 square metres of property. In my view, it is an historic site and should be representative of who we are, not Prince Philip. There have been so many different institutions in life that imparted positive values, but at this

stage when we are on this path you would tend to believe that we would be grounded in something and that we believe in something.

How could you not contemplate an alternative site to preserve this building in remembrance of Errol Walton Barrow? It was not his personal house but the State provided that house for him, and he was breaking the back of the same colonial masters whom this man, the founding father of this institution, represented. I wonder what he would have been saying in the 1950s when he established this institution. Do you not believe that a more refined thought from black, working-class intellectuals ought to be put into this before this matter comes before the House of Assembly? I was only reserved this morning because I know I am outnumbered. If there are 6 000 in here I know that I am the only one who likes to say these things, and I do not want to go down in history as an insane man in Parliament but I know this is not right. I know that I do not have the power to turn this back, and I twisted and turned and looked up in the ceiling all around here to ask myself whether I could breach a commitment which I gave. I like to know that if I give you a commitment, I can keep it but after hearing that I had all the intentions of deferring any views which I have until the Government achieves what it wants to achieve. I have to ask other persons in this society if we are going to allow these things to just flow through this society.

We are not trying to highlight consistently the contribution of our own people to society. I have been hearing about community centres not being used. Community centres are not used because the administrators of the community centres would not allow the people in the communities to take charge of the centres, and when the people of the community come home on evenings the officers in the Public Service are closing the community centres and one cannot get access to them. I am surprised to hear him say that. That is known. It is not the lack of the ability or the passion of the community in participating in these exercises. I hear other views about having a place, a central location, because this is an old model and what constitutes a well formal institution itself. However, an organisation that emerge from out of affluent groundings and all of sudden the state that struggling in these days believe that it now has a responsibility to rescue that institution to continue to do all the work that it has been doing. I have known many institutions that contributes to the development of young black Barbadian children. That institution was born, when they talked about the young people of the day, where were we in the equation. At the time who were these young people and what did they look like and who they were at the specific time. Do not talk to me about people with these generic views about people this and young people this. Where were we in the 1950s? Listen to the discussions of 1966, listen to the discussions in the

early 1950s, Where were we? So do not tell me that we have to facilitate them, it cannot be motivated by that.

We have arms of Government that must be very clear and I know that where I am there are time when I am going to see these things because they are people who are seasoned and they are going to perpetuate this nonsense in the political culture of Barbados, they are going to continue it. I just want to register my voice on this matter because I do not want it to be said that I am responsible for addressing some of the inequities in Barbados. I have seen something like this happen that Sir Errol Walton Barrow will turn in his grave 3 000 times tomorrow when he gets up and he sees a sign saying the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, all of this kind of pretty language, on a building that once was the building that the founded father of our Independence lived in, slept in, and kept meetings in and we did not allow the Ministry of Culture or allow any of the other departments of Government to use that building. I do not even know how much they are going to use for what they say they are going to use part of it for a museum or library. 15 000 square meters is a reflection of a specific mind-set that feel comfortable doing these things, just moved Lord Nelson but now would allow these same people to come back and have procession. Don't mind that it's a lease hold. Wherever people hold onto to land across the universe it is always an issue, but it seems not be an issue here. When the Mau Mau so called group that we degraded to the point that they called the Mau Mau gang struggle in Kenya, a country that we are now trying to establish a good relationship with. It is not about the land. If somebody owns land, processed land, living on the land illegally the reality is that land is in the hands at present and we have to struggle to get it back. 20 years they will hold procession of this land. I do not want to get down to the individual aspect of this individual man, because this man true in union is part of royalty. However, his contribution to mankind is not as wholesome as you all think that it is. It is because elitist intellectuals in the Eurocentric society, especially in Britain and the BBC always treat him with special gloves when they are ripping off the face of the monster, they will always talk about him in a very subtle way because of the kind of remarks that he makes, not only about black people but about people all across the world. He was held in secondary role within England. I do not mind how much philanthropic attitudes you see, how much money he gives or how much gifts he gave. You have to watch people who gives gifts because sometimes the most demonic individuals in society are the people who give gifts. They are some people who holds some level of remorse and will give because they feel guilty of the wrong that they have done and we call that reparations, even though they do not think that it is reparations.

However, we are a sad state and while some people talk about all of the different authors, intellectuals and the

people who influence their lives. I talk about this because I am not influenced by those people, I am influenced by the philosophies and opinion of Marcus Garvey and reinforced by Tony Martin. These are the things that influenced my thinking on these issues. The problem is that many people know the truth but they do not like to say it in here because they believe that these mahogany desk with a lot of lights around them and unfortunately they are not down town. Lots of people will never believe up here is Parliament, because Parliaments do not look like this. This is an alternative in the interim period, but everybody wants to gets back to where they call the real Parliament. There is a special mind-set, a level of damage that has occurred and the reality is that unfortunately today the reason why they want to get into this is because they want the spin in it, because they do not believe it is the appropriate time to express their views in this matter about this. Sir I could not help doing different. We are now talking about moving from where we are, not only where Sir Errol Walton Barrow was in 1966, but we are now talking about moving from where we are. People call it a sovereign state. Some people believe we are not as sovereign as we should be because we have a Government who is surrogate of the Queen of England. We are now saying that we are going to do something so fundamentally different to create a new political configuration this year in the republican form of Government which requires public discourse and probably internal discourse as well. We want a republican form of Government because we do not only hold the symbol of a Governor General as representative of the Queen of England. People do not like to hear the hard facts and I do not like to talk about it, but this is where we are going. Hence, you are signalling one thing to the people and you are saying we are on a different track. Many people in here are in conflict in their conscience and they do not want to say it, about what it is we were knowing, nothing about anything, but in conflict with their conscience on where are we really going. I am not surprise to hear somebody saying not me. That is the level of the profound nature of the ignorance that exist. Sir, I am not tied up, the Prime Minister has a weapon which she can use, but I am not tied in no collective responsibility, so I can say I am not and I can change my mind halfway into my speech and say that I am going very opposite to where I started because I tell you how I feel.

I am no lackey, no salary or status. I tell you how I feel and I am in here because this is how I feel. I like to believe that I represent not just myself but at least a national constituency of people who feel the same way as I feel. I am only the messenger in the circumstances just like I am only passing through. Sometimes, I can say this thing Tuesday and then, next Tuesday someone might be coming to my funeral if they so desire. I do not really care if they come or not. I do not care if Mr. Tudor buries me. I do not care about anything like that.

These are things that are not right and only because you are in a position of power you cannot do it to all of us who came in here as a consequence of the support of the masses of people who represent true democracy. This is why you have problems because Donald Trump is just like the same Duke. This is why you have problems in the United States of America (USA) and you are down here debating it but Mr. Trump got 70 million or more votes, so it says something about that society. I would not like the people to say the same thing about Barbados. I would not like people to talk the same thing about our House of Assembly. Regardless of whether we like it or not, the margins were relatively narrow if you speak in terms of millions. The truth has to be told. Something is wrong.

I believe that if we are at this point in our history presently and get the impression based on things we are seeing happening, and all of a sudden you see as though someone spins in the road in a vehicle, turn and go in the opposite direction. People become confused. People begin to doubt you and if 1 000 people are orchestrated in such a way to express a view in order to address these wrongs and make people believe it is not, then you cannot justify it. You have an intelligent population. You have to fight and do something that resonates and impacts on the society that is even greater than the wrong actually committed in order to continue in the credibility of the people of Barbados.

I really feel, Sir that if I did not speak on this that it would be a betrayal of the trust that my brothers and sisters put in me. I consult with them. This would be a betrayal of trust. If I was in a stronger position, I would ask that this matter be deferred. I prefer you to defer this and tell whoever you give the commitment to that on reflection you believe there are a number of considerations. If you read the history, not of the bourgeoisie intellectuals but of the founding father of this, you would be better able to appreciate why I want to preserve the symbol of the founding father of Barbados' independence.

The things this man said in a very subtle way to people not only of the black race and you do not even have to read a textbook now. You google and everything comes to you. How could we sit down, plan this, attempt to justify the behaviour of the colonial masters and help to perpetuate an institution that is a reflection of that same behavior from back in the 1950s. You are then going suppress the image of an institution that represents the founding father of Barbados' independence. This is what I would like to ask the people who are the major people in the forefront and advocacy of whatever it is they are trying to sell to people who they believe have malleable minds in the society.

They are not taking people seriously. There are too many secondary schools and tertiary institutions to ignore the concerns of the people of Barbados. You have to put it right now or not you will suffer the consequences later for

getting it wrong. This is all I am saying. I really wanted to say a few words to you and sit but probably the demons inside of me were agitated, and I had to respond. The reality, Sir, is that this is a wrong. Records of history would prove that this is a wrong and if we cannot move it now, then we have to take all kinds of actions to constantly deal with these issues.

It is not going to die today based on any vote in this House of Assembly. This matter has to come up. I would feel very strong and if I had the authority to indict people, they would be indicted too for this wrong. It deserves some kind of punishment, not just asking for trying to resolve the issue itself. This Resolution ought to be one that should be deferred but I know that I cannot defer it as a one voice. However, it is a bad signal and this is a clear case of who we truly are if we allow something like this to continue to pass through our House of Assembly.

Thank you very much for entertaining me standing as the representative for St. Michael East in the circumstances, Sir.

Hon. R. R. STRAUGHN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to add my voice and I rise virtually to participate in this debate for this Resolution this morning. I reflect on some of the words of the contribution of the previous Member who participated and it is clear that his passion remains strong. However, I just wish to put on the record that this Government has been involved in a process, Sir, where we are seeking to ensure that all of our young people but certainly our population are provided with the broadest range of opportunities with respect to being able to participate not just in our democracy, but certainly in order to ensure that we can change the mindset and create a new national consciousness with respect to who we are in a real sense, and how we will participate in this global community.

This being said, Sir, the matter at hand depending on one's perspective and I want to make it clear that the Government's role and actions in relation to this specific Resolution I fully support because the expansion of extra-curricular activities for our young people is precisely that which creates an atmosphere for grooming leadership. We have come to office and as you are aware, we have introduced those leadership badges which we give out on Independence Day. To the extent that we now in a real sense throughout educational system, ensure that we can provide as much opportunity for young people in this country to be involved as early as possible in figuring out how do we

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motivate each other as citizens and how to create the space where we understand and listen each other's perspectives I think is a worthy endeavour.

To the extent that this is just but one element through which we can do that, I fully support. As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central intimated, I was a cadet, Sir, a proud cadet and that notwithstanding that obviously the No. 3 Cadet Company remains the No. 1 cadet company in the country but that is subject for another discussion, I think it is important to recognise that the landscape with respect to extracurricular activities, I think, in the country, has evolved and we need to ensure that we have an equal system with respect to the support of the former curriculum that allows our young people to flourish and to be very confident about who they are and what aspirations they can realistically look forward to and push beyond any perceived boundaries that may potentially exist as barriers for their development. I want to indicate that whilst I was a cadet I did not become a member of the scheme. I was involved, Sir, as a schoolboy in the Key Club, I was involved in the Environmental Club, I was an athlete as school and I participated in the cadet band which in a real sense was separate and distinct from just being a cadet and the reality is that represented for me personally a full slate of a range of activities that allowed me, not just to understand how people are motivated, but, I think, in a real sense to get into communities and to be involved and immersed in different aspects of what it means to be a citizen. That was my particular path and when the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme came along with respect to what it was offering in addition to what I was doing already, I recognised that I was already through my participation in this suite of different extracurricular activities, that in a sense, I was already doing some of the basic tenants of what the programme offered. Obviously time management is critical with respect to what one does at school and I think that is equally important and if the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme like any other extracurricular activity can create an atmosphere where young people can be exposed, at least in a single programme, to some aspects of leadership and the building of team work, I think that is something I fully support as someone who has come up in an environment where the culture that we have created, Sir, within the context as I know it as a schoolboy coming up through school, that how you expose young people to being able to take responsibility for, not just their own individual actions, but certainly with respect to how do you take charge of a situation, how do you motivate people to be able to move from one direction to another. I think it is absolute important for young people to recognise that in a global environment that it requires consistent leadership and that the school is really the place where one can be exposed to the fundamental or the basic avenues for training to be able to become effective leaders in adulthood because you would recognise, Sir, that we have had some challenges in

this country over the last few years and we continue to be faced, I think, with some of those challenges simply because we have not had avenues where we have a real expansion of extra-curricular activities which allows young people the space to learn to make mistakes and to be able then to emerge from that as much more confident people and to the extent that we know as Barbadians we always like to have the meeting after the meeting where we do not discuss issues in a confrontational way, I think that is one of the aspect that I would dearly love for us to be able to change but the only way we can do it responsibly is to create the atmosphere, I believe, Sir, where we allow our young people the best possible opportunities to be able to do that. That may mean the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for some people, it may mean cadets, for others it may mean Girl Guides Association, Boy Scouts Association and you have a range of extracurricular activities that take place within our school system that allows for that. The more of that we can have our young people participating in after 3:00 o'clock at school. I believe it is absolutely critical for the future development of this country and I fully support any opportunity where we can further scale up the opportunities for young people to be able to learn about themselves, their communities, the persons that we have to interact with certainly as Barbadians first, but equally to recognise that there are people with different perspectives and I listen very carefully to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East and he share a completely different perspective than I do, but by the same token, we would not allow ourselves to descend to the level which we are witnessing currently in the United States of America (USA), therefore, I want to give the people of this country and especially the young people that this Barbados Labour Party (BLP) Government will not in any way, shape or form allow any discussion to be able to tear at the very fabric of the nature of this society because our commitment certainly is to ensure that first and foremost, whilst we accept that we have to navigate a national development process which is tricky with respect to how we choose to engage the world, we do so as Barbadians and that we will not allow any perceptions that are externally driven to drive our mandate internally because the fear of watching what you see on the various news networks across the United States of America (USA) or some of the injustices that you see externally, and do not get me wrong, Sir, there are real, we have families in the diaspora who experience on a daily basis many of the injustices that we witness, but, Sir, we do not have to take on in the same visceral way that others do that same type of approach with respect to how we as Barbadians seek to treat to those issues. Whilst I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael East very, very clearly with respect to how he sees this particular Resolution and in that context, I do not share the same fear or concern in the same way that he may wish to express them, but as Barbadians and as a young person who has come through a framework of engaging not just in formal education but equally different

forms of extracurricular activities that we need to instil in our young people very clearly that whatever positions we may or may not hold on any particular subject that we are Barbadians and that we do not take for granted, certainly as a Government. I certainly do not take for granted as a private citizen that any democracy obviously have to be carefully guarded. We see the signs of it very clearly playing out across the world and as Barbados we will continue to chart a path that empowers our young people to recognise differences where they exist, but that we always have the capacity to sit down and work through whatever the substantive differences may be and that is all the more reason, Sir, why any programme that exposes as early as possible our young people in a responsible way to global way but issues in terms of how we will craft solutions from a Barbadian perspective, that we have given a commitment that we want our citizens to be global citizens but rooted in Bajan values, Sir, that any exposure that we can give to our young people to engage responsibly and to be aware that Barbados' story is extraordinary, but we do not take it for granted therefore, we will not allow ourselves to descend into any open warfare as we see certainly in the US Capitol and therefore to the extent that as Members of Parliament we continue to engage with all of our constituents across Barbados to ensure that the issues and the matters that obviously are of import to them that the Government is seeking to address but we seek to address them in a way that is as progressive as we can to do that given the current context in which we find ourselves.

Sir, the reality is that that is important to understand because when we look at what Barbados with respect to where we are at the moment is intended to move, part of how we respond - the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central raised it tangentially -- is the reality that in Bridgetown to a large degree we have a large number of facilities across Barbados which have fallen into disrepair. They are not being used in the most productive way and right now the Scheme is currently housed in a back office at Sheraton Mall with little or no visibility.

The reality, Sir, is that we have to bridge the gap between how we regenerate activities certainly within urban Barbados and to extent that we can allow that to happen while at the same time having an expanded programme across our school system for young boys and girls to be able to be exposed to a range of activities, I believe that this Government has a responsibility to be able to facilitate. Mr. Speaker, I think that if we can understand or help our citizens to understand that our path to not just development but certainly providing expanded opportunities for Barbadians go just beyond what the Government may spend from a fiscal perspective but equally in working with civil society in order to ensure that we can continue to provide opportunities and to provide hope for all of our citizens given what we are seeing taking place in a global environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps even more important in my mind especially in COVID environment that this is a matter that we have to ensure happens because while I accept that they still present a public health threat my fear is that this COVID environment has thwarted those opportunities for extracurricular activities which are so critical to the education system. It is a subject, Sir, that has not necessarily had as much attention because we have been focusing on the public health pandemic and wanting to get children back to school, but extracurricular activities I believe is perhaps even more important than the formal side of education because that helps to create the kind of citizen that we want to be able to take charge of this country in 15/20 years. I believe, Sir, that we have to be very careful and I take this opportunity to ask Barbadians again to continue to follow those public health protocols so that we can get back to as close to normal as possible because the extracurricular activities that take place at school I can say to you without a shadow of a doubt form a critical part of what our system offers by way of education for your young people.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution because I believe firmly that those opportunities that we can provide for our young people post three o'clock during school days or on weekends when they are actively engaged in whichever curricular activity they are involved in which is expanded that that is the very thing now obviously given the COVID 19 pandemic which is clearly missing, but I do not want to have a situation where going forward that side of it is thwarted much further.

The reality of it is that this is a particularly challenging time for us to be able to respond to on a whole host of fronts and I want to give certainly my support to the Resolution from that perspective and to stress to all parents and to all of the stakeholders, not just as it relates to this particular extracurricular activity, to relook how they are currently looking at... There seems to be a lessons epidemic that has exploded across the school system which has taken away some of the time that students would ordinarily engage in extracurricular activities and I believe that if we want to create global citizens with Barbadian roots and Barbadian values that we have to find a medium whereby we can allow our students to have more relevant participation in extracurricular activities because I believe that over the long term that would redound to the benefit of the country because we would have been able to invest in ensuring that at that very critical age, 15 to 18, that our young people would have the greatest possible exposure with respect to being able to learn about their country, being able to practice the art of leadership and how to motivate people long before they get into the formal workplace and into adulthood whereby those decisions now actually have real consequences in the context of being able to help either to move their communities and their career path and it would certainly guide I think the

development of the country with respect to being able to ensure that we provide as sound an education as we can with respect to your young people.

Sir, I fully support this Resolution but let me reiterate to the Honourable Member for St. Michael East that this Government certainly will not descend into or allow the country to descend into any type of divisive manner in which we are seeing expressed outside of Barbados. We must be mindful that what we watch on television we do not necessarily bring into a Barbadian context where it really has no real place and to the extent that we have to engage our citizens within the context of the diaspora in terms of helping us to craft a citizen that is not going to become a cynical as those which we see expressed across the world now that as Barbadians we will continue to chart a path that is relevant to continue our path to development, so let me thank you very much, Sir, for making this contribution virtually and I certainly give this Resolution my full support. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Miss C. S. V. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to be able to join the discussion today looking at the issue of the Resolution for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme being able to use the property at Culloden Farm. Mr. Speaker, I will share with you why I think it is important and why what we are doing today is so critical in terms of what we can do for our young people going forward. I want to support what would have been shared by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph because my own experience has taught me absolute importance of those tertiary socialising institutions to a country.

Culloden Farm, Mr. Speaker, was a Georgian villa that was built by a colonial back here in Barbados in 1789. That colonial was able to display the grandeur of his home, was able to display his wealth and to enjoy facilities that we could not even begin to touch. Certainly we would not have had the opportunity to enter and to participate and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Our past leader Errol Walton Barrow, the first Prime Minister of Barbados, was a man who was very deliberate, a man who understood absolute importance of symbolism, the importance of helping Barbadians to understand that they are as good as anyone in the world and to do things that helped Barbadians to understand that we are wise and in so doing he selected Culloden Farm as the place that he was going to make the residence of the first Prime Minister of Barbados showing that we were taking over from a colonial period and now we are into self-governance and

we can occupy any space that that is available to us, any space in Barbados and to be able to rule and govern ourselves well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I well-remember as a teenager listening to the elders around me discussing and talking about politics and one of the things that would come up was the level of hospitality that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow used to engaged in at Culloden Farm, making it a welcoming place for Barbadians to come, for intellectuals to come and discuss politics, for 'ordinary' people to come and enjoy socialising with the Prime Minister and so this symbolism became important in building a sense of dignity, in building a sense of our independence that Barbados going to. Over the years it fell into a state of terrible disrepair and was allowed to deteriorate and successive Governments, [both] Democratic Labour Party and Barbados Labour Party Government just simply did nothing about this residence of the first Prime Minister of Barbados and it was indeed in a very sorry state. The amount of money it would have taken to be able to restore that building to be able to play a role in impacting on the ordinary Barbadians, this means that we would have to do something deliberate for another generation of Barbadians to be able to continue and pick back up from where the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow left off and so today what we are doing is that by leasing the property through the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Barbados Charity, which is going to be renovated, based on the Maria Holder Trust being able to provide millions of dollars to be able to take and to convert this into a useful building that can now impact hundreds of Barbadian young people, I think this is a good thing. I know it is a good thing, and the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow would salute this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a scheme that did not have the privilege to be a part of but I have always heard of it and have always interacted with any number of people who were connected with it. I myself would have been a Girl's Guide and therefore I knew and understood the absolute importance of young people having the opportunity to be a part of these types of community outreach programmes that helped to build them, that helped to complete the process. While at home you would be given certain instructions, grooming and so on, every child does not always have the privilege of being able to be exposed to all the things that would make them successful. Therefore, the role of clubs and groups was to help finish the work of grooming and preparing young people for the world. Indeed, that is the motto of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, it is there to be able to make people ready for the world. Now, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has done a lot, not just here in Barbados but across the world, more than one million young people in 140 different countries have had the opportunity to be a part of the programme. What this

has done is that it has literally sprinkled leadership across many villages, citizens, and towns, and here in Barbados we have done extremely well with the Award. What we have been able to do, approximately 250 young people are included in the programme every year. Between 2007 and 2017, close to

2 500 young people were able to be part of that Scheme. At the moment, they have an explosion because they have close to 420 young people in this current crop. What this says to me is that not only is it growing numerically but by putting out more and more leaders, that more and more leaders are available to help give the training, report and coaching that is necessary for young people to help them to develop the skills that make them ready for the world.

Now, this is something that is very dear to my heart because in studying Sociology, one of the things I read when we were looking at how you advance the development of your society, is the role of the tertiary level socialising institutions; that home and school were just steps one and two. But to complete the work coming out from school was this tertiary level socialising institution, whether it was the Girls' Guide or Sorority House, whether it was the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme, or the Junior Achievement programme, that this tertiary level socialising institution was critical for any society that wanted to build a strong economy and a strong society, because it completes the work.

Now, what is the benefit that the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme has given to Barbados and to your young people? For our young people it has helped them to build self-esteem, it has helped them to build self-confidence and it has helped them to understand the importance of team and cooperation and determination, and you would have heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South-Central sharing what she got out of the experience and what it did for her. I can endorse that because the number of Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme persons whom I have encountered all demonstrated a certain set of quality; one that is remarkable and repeated among them is the issue of service. If it is one thing that Barbados needs to do in general is how you are going to build strong leadership and this is how you will build strong families and strong communities, so it has done a lot of good for young people, but in addition to being able to build self-esteem and confidence, just being able to state internationally that you are part of the Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme made you a part of a grouping that gave you a higher level of acceptance as you move through the world. Certainly, as a person who has done a lot of recruitment, I know that a lot of human resource recruiters look to see what types of organisations a person belongs to and they have been able to use this information to know what are some of the values and behaviors that they can expect to experience from this

particular person were they to hire them, and so it has done a great deal of good to young people by giving them that extra boost when it comes to getting employment. Now, in terms of Barbados, it has helped us to rebuild the fabric of our society and to be able to integrate more of the new ones and keep young people within the general stream of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the things that was mentioned by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, I want to echo it because sometimes people do not understand the danger a society is in if you do not have enough of those organisations, clubs, groups, et cetera, to keep young people engaged and to keep reinforcing the values and behaviors that are important for keeping this society strong, for keeping the society connected and for keeping the society anchored to a common vision. Therefore, this Duke of Edinburg Award Scheme, yes, it is pursuing a programme that flows from another place but it also forms part of what we are seeking to do here in Barbados. If you look at what the Government's programme has been in relation to how we are going to rebuild and strengthen the social fabric of Barbados, how we are going to reach out to our youths and empower them, how we are going to prepare them to engage in the youth economy, it would have to start at looking at ways to gather them, train them, mentor them, support them and then enable them to be able to pursue a path of development that would take them where their dreams are. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is it that we have done as a Government? Well, we have had the Youth Advance Corp. We have already in society people like the Israel Lovell Foundation, the Junior Achievement Programme, 4-H Clubs, church groups, youth groups, Pathfinders, et cetera. You have a whole slew of them that are currently working to try to help us rebuild. But one of the issues they experience is being able to find new leaders who will be able to carry on the work of the institution. This is the problem that we found with the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides; being able to find those persons who would be able to give the leadership and mentoring which our young people need, especially in this time. The interesting thing about the Duke of Edinburgh Award is that it does not just groom the young persons but it grooms them for leadership. Therefore, our other institutions would be able to find leaders from among them to help them to keep the fabric of our society, so I want to congratulate them on the work that they have done.

Sir, the other element that has been of concern to me is not just globalisation but the whole issue of the online world. When we started the community technology programmes in which our people at the community level were able to go to the centres and learn how to use technology and to do online things, one of the things I really wanted to see was how we were going to help them to be able to use the access online platforms well. You can

go in there and engage in anything, and one of the things which I have noted is that as more and more people, young and old, have engaged on these various platforms they can disappear into a world of their own in which they are really not engaging much else outside of that particular world. Therefore, what is happening, in other words, is that this is now the new neighbourhood. The neighbourhood is not necessarily the people who live around you, and this is what is breaking down.

Therefore, in the online world the challenge that societies will have is what our young people are being exposed to, what information they are being given, what filters are there to help them to make good selections and choices when they disappear into a world where they are being taught that which may be inimical to the future of the country and inimical to their own futures. This is a very present danger which the online world can present -- as wonderful and as powerful as it is -- unless people enter that world with sound values and sound personal vision. Without those it would be difficult for them to navigate and not find themselves victims of the online world. We do not have to look far to see what the impact is when people are engaging a particular group that seeks to brainwash them into seeing the world from a particular perspective, and then you get this terrible explosion in the society as they seek then to either impose their will or react to what they consider to be negative and seek to correct that wrong. We do not have to look far to see where that happened. Therefore, for any society that wants to be able to provide opportunities for the people to be well-informed and to have a set of values and behaviours that would help them to make excellent choices, it is very important that you have these community-level organisations that would help to shape their minds and thinking and give them the protection as they engage in the virtual world.

Sir, today as we are seeking to pass this Resolution to make available Culloden Farm to empower the Duke of Edinburgh Award to continue to work with our young people, indeed to give a new generation of young Barbadians the chance to work and operate within a space that was once colonial but now will be their own, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and I thank him very much for bringing this to fruition. I think this will help to accelerate the work of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to produce even more and more benefits to Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the privilege of being able to share on this very important Resolution for the benefit of Barbados and a new generation of young Barbadians. I am obliged.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADHSAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not aware certainly this morning that this Resolution, a simple one seeking to give permission to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to have possession of a property for lease, would have generated so much discussion and so much debate. In a way I am glad that it has, Mr. Speaker, because it has given us the opportunity to, in a sense, start to peel back the skin of the onion that resides very much in this country and certainly across the world. I say "peel back the skin of the onion" because when you start to peel back the skin of an onion there are many layers and you start to discover that there are some things underneath the skin and you may not like what is looking back at you.

Mr. Speaker, we have to have a Barbados when we finish coming through this pandemic, and I start there because I feel sometimes that despite all of the work which Members of the Cabinet Subcommittee are doing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the big-picture things that we have been trying to accomplish as a people to be able to stay the course, to be able to make sure that our institutions do not fall apart, to make sure that we can maintain the social fabric of our society after this pandemic, there are some amongst us who from time to time are hell-bent on not being able to see the long-term vision. Sir, I am in a House of Assembly, a place where you may not fully understand all the rules and regulations and things which happen here if you are on the outside. I remember when we were in Bridgetown, I used to often comment that when I looked at the stained-glass windows, the representation of the people on the windows were not of people who looked like me but I appreciated the struggle to have allowed people of colour to be able to make their way into the halls of Parliament and certainly to be in a position to have also been able to grace the walls of Parliament and be part of a legacy -- through my father -- of someone who had served the people of this country in a modern-day Barbados, Sir.

I questioned those things about the stained-glass ceilings and the stained-glass windows, but I also dismissed them because I also understood that having been educated, I was able to make the distinction between the fact that we had a history of which we may not always be proud, but at the same time having been given the opportunity through education to be able to travel and understand how society works and how the world works, I also was in a position to be part of the transformational change. Many of you may appreciate that there was a time when I had long dreadlocks prior to my medical issues. Just like you, Mr. Speaker, I was one of the first persons with dreadlocks to get called to the Bar as an attorney. I perhaps was one of those people who went against the grain, given my background, but I knew who I was and I will always know who I am. At the same time, I also understand that

there has to be a Barbados when we finish this process and come out of this pandemic.

Sir, it therefore means that Resolutions such as this and all of the others where we have looked, as a Government, at structures which have been allowed to languish for several years under both administrations, we have a responsibility to the people of this country and particularly to the future of this country to do a few things. The first thing we have to do is ask ourselves whether we have the money to be able to go after all of the properties that have been identified by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition so as to be able to repair every single structure because they are a part of our heritage. That is the first thing we have to do. If we cannot find the money, Sir, for one reason or the other, because the tourists are not coming or because we have not generated enough monies into the economy because of all the global factors which are facing the Barbados economy, we then have a responsibility to figure out where else we can look and where else we can turn. It does not mean that we do not understand our heritage when we enter into negotiations with entities, but what it means is that there must be a Barbados at the end of this process.

Asides.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADHSAW: Sir, in so doing, when we looked as a Government and certainly when the Ministry of Finance -- both of the Members who operate out of that Ministry have spoken and alluded to this issue -- would have looked as a team regarding the state of play in Barbados, we would have recognised a few things. We have buildings that have been there for several decades that are rich in heritage, but at the end of the day we do not have any money and we basically cannot have the building remain in a dilapidated state because it does not look good in terms of the heritage that it represents, but it also does not look good on us as a society. However, we have options available to us to allow ourselves to partner with other persons, but at the same time we are doing nothing to ensure that we get those properties up and running again. That is the first consideration.

The second consideration has to be the purpose for which the applications are made in respect of this type of investment. Sir we are not willy-nilly about decision-making in relation to the historical significance of buildings that people might want to erect structures on. We pay attention as a Government to the purpose for which people step forward and say that they would want to be able to have an opportunity to lease lands in this country to be able to assist to the development of this small island. Hence, whether you have the Maria Holder Trust entering into arrangements with the Barbados Government over the last couple years building out nursery schools in this country for poor black Barbadian children and middle class

Barbadian children, I am sure if you went through the lineage of a lot of the donors in this country, they are going all the way back to the United Kingdom and to the monarchy in the United Kingdom. However, we as a people, because of who we are, we understand that even in respect of our history or the history of the persons who come to our shores and want to give back to us that we understand that we live in a modern day Barbados and there must be a Barbados after we have long gone. For that reason, we do not keep these likely. I also like my colleagues have been a product of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and I understand, it was not an elitist club. It was not because someone went to Harrison's College or Queens College as many would want to jump on the bandwagon and say it was for the big boys and the big girls. I am a proud product of the Christ Church Foundation School. Sir for me it is not a case of which school had it and which school did not. It is a case of there must be a Barbados when we come out of this pandemic and we must prepare ourselves working with people who have been on the ground working with other Barbadians who have been working in service to make sure that young people got something to do. However, when we come out of this, with all of the impacts that are there for us in relation to our young people now who are going through the separation from the school environment that we got something in the couple of years that had been built out by an entity that has demonstrated that they have a track record in this country to be able to help us as a community to build out and create opportunities for our young people. That is what this Resolution is about and it pains me. Sir we are a wonderful party because we take in everybody. This is the beauty about the Barbados Labour Party, we does take everybody and it because we are enriched as a party because we have people with divergent views. It is what allows us sometimes to press the pause button and to say hold on we might be going a little off track but we need to get back on track. We do not condemn people for having a difference of opinion, we allow them to come into Parliament and share their opinions and there have been many instances where many of us have sat here in awe and recognition at the same time of the differences in our society, because that is what makes us who we are, but we do not silence anybody from saying what they feel. However, I will not sit in a Parliament having been through all that I have been through and allow the impression to go out there that this Resolution is about a misdirection on this Administration. I will not sit here and allow a misrepresentation to be put out there that thought has not been gone into the ideology behind this or even the direction for what we must do as a country to make sure that we not only preserve our history but we also ensure that we partner with people who can help to accelerate the cause a little faster.

Sir, I have serious concerns about where education will be in the next couple of years. Concerns because you sometimes it feels as though every time you are getting

ready to hit off again something happens in terms of this pandemic and you have to change direction and daily we are trying to figure out how do we make sure that when children can return to school they are activities that will allow us to be able to engage those children. How do we look at the school day and make sure that we have extensions of the school day that we have extra circular activities? How do we make sure that we prepare ourselves for that transition back to a full face to face environment? We have started those discussions and I am glad that we have the foresight to be able to look at entities like this to be able to partner with them to ensure that they can build out something that no doubt gives them a headquarters but also will give us something back in return across the landscape of education in this country. I do not hold any brief with anyone, I never will and I have not done so in my entire political career. I know right and wrong and I know that we have a number of entities in this country who have gone above the call of duty. I do not care what colour they are and I do not care what shape they come in, I know who I am and I know that my leader understands and the Cabinet of Barbados understands who they are as well. When we make decisions in the name of the people of this country we do so with the best interest of the people of this country at any point in time.

I am not going to get into no debate about how long the building sat there and where were all the critics and the pundits and all of the observers, while the building is allowed to languish. I am not going to go there, Sir. I am not going to go to a place where within my own constituency, the late Errol Walton Barrow has a park in his name and for many years the park has not even been developed and sometimes not even cleaned. I am not going to there. However, I will say those things to make a point that if we are going to fight for one thing we have to fight for everything, but trying to be selective in what we fight for. We have to make sure as a Parliament, as black people in this Parliament that we send a message out there to investors and to anybody who has an interest in this country that we have a history and a heritage to protect. However, at the same time, what we cannot do, is sit down and behave as though we have all of these great options, because we do not as a small economy, therefore we must find a balance in every single thing that we do because we recognise that we are a small economy. Yes, we punch above our weight, but there are certain realities that we must face. We want vaccines for the rest of the world to be able to make sure that our people can get back to work, where are we going to get them from? The same people who are connected to the monarchy, so do we pull down, degrade, and dismiss people because of their history, or do we say look, we know our history, we know what you have done, we know what your forefathers have done, but we draw the line in the sand because these are the things that we need to do in order to make sure that we move forward as a society. Hence, it does not mean that when we

negotiate we forget our past. It does not mean that because we allow any charity in this country to be able to have lands vested in it to develop things for the people of this country that we have lost our minds and we have lost our way. What it means is that we understand the economic and social implications that will result from doing nothing, from sitting down year after year and saying we have not knocked down this and we have not renamed this, as opposed to sitting down systematically and looking at economic investment, looking at the social impact of what is happening in our society and taking hard decisions. I get it that some cannot see what is around the corner. I get it that some people can only see what is in the past. Yes, you must know your past in order to know the future, and they are some of us who understand and are steeped in the historical knowledge of who we are as a people and what we have been through, but I am not prepared to allow that to be like a noose around our necks. We are not prepared to be lynched in the trees on the plantation. We are prepared to take the knowledge and to negotiate and to put things in place to be able to make Barbados a better place for us and for our future generations Sir. We have to make sure that we can speak to things like the Barbados Youth Advance Corp, which the Barbados Labour Party put in place when it came in instead of running from them, because the last administration did not look at the fact that we had young people out there who had nowhere to go or nothing to do.

They talked all over their faces but they did not put the programmes in place. This is a party that has allocated at least \$20 million to put into that programme and continue to put into it. This is party that can stand proudly and speak about the national heroes and all the things that it has done in relation to even the papers on the removal of Lord Nelson, Sir. I am not going to run from my history in the BLP. I am not going to sit here and allow anyone to distort the history of this party that has made so much achievements in relation to our heritage. Sir, I am passionate about this because I believe that we have a lot to do in terms of building out this society over the course of the next few months and years.

The only thing I would like to see happen faster in relation to this Resolution is that the people can start to break ground tomorrow, so that when we are able to go back into a face-to-face environment, we have the systems up and running, Sir. I would like to see that we have more organisations coming forward where Government can partner with the Third Sector to give them opportunities to take the bull by the horns and run with it. This is what we need. Within the Education Ministry, we have set up a committee to embrace people who are interested in running after-school and after-care programmes even before school starts.

Why? As other Members have said, we are in a situation where a lot of those programmes would have

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had to come to an end as a result of the pandemic. We have a situation where a lot of our young people are simply just going to school and lessons, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said. We are in a situation where they are not doing things to learn anything else beyond sitting down on a device daily. If it means that we have to look at an extension of the school day to ensure that we have a rigid set of activities planned for young people, then that is what we must do.

If it is Junieur Achievement, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the current Fun Ranch and the Brewster's Trust Football Programmes, we need to include those things and not try to resist the very things that give support to our internal systems. I agree with the Honourable for St. Michael East on one point that he made about the fact regarding our community centres and that they could be utilised more for the benefit of communities. This is something that we will continue to

address and I know that the Minister is working on plans to ensure that these facilities can work almost around the clock because as we sit in here as Members of the current Government we were all disadvantaged in our communities by people who did not appreciate that the very institutions that were in the communities were not servicing the people in the communities which they lived.

Therefore, we are working on getting to that point. It may not happen fast enough for the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. It may not sometimes happen fast enough for me but I know that we are working on it. I know that our mission is the same as when we started. It is the same today as it was when we embarked on this journey, Sir. We may have had a lot of stumbling blocks along the way as it relates to the economic challenges but our focus is still the same. We have even agreed that Cabinet, and I believe that the Honourable Minister of Housing, would have indicated to this Chamber that we have been looking at all of the abandoned buildings under the Crown.

Therefore, this is not a programme where we are just talking about buildings that we want to give to organisations that connected to the monarchy. We are talking about a systematic plan to look at the things that will allow us to have economic investment, allow us to get community programmes going that we do not have the funds to do, the things that allow the Ministry of Housing to look at all of the lands it has to see how we can encourage investment and perhaps the most burning one for me is to make sure that we get housing over the course of the next few years because for me, and certainly the Member for St. Michael East and others, is a major issue for us in our communities.

It is not a one-sided approach to this thing, Sir. I get that as we talk about reparations, our history and heritage that these things sound catchy. We want to jump on the bandwagon and put a position that allows people to feel as though we are doing something wrong but I want to tell this country that this Administration is not doing anything wrong. This Resolution is about protecting what we have but at the same time being able to build out the future, Sir. I have been approached by entities such as the Achieve Foundation. We had the Princess Trust approached us. We have had all kinds of entities come, even entities established in Barbados coming to Ministry of Education and requesting of us to partner with them to assist in doing things.

I want to tell the country this. We do not just say to come, set up your structure and run the programme. No. We sit and ask them what they are doing. How is it going to benefit our young people? If they come with something that does not make sense, then this Minister tells them to go and come again. They may come and want to do something for secondary schools but my priority is primary schools. Hence, find me a programme that can fix that, Sir. This is me and I that is the case of many of my colleagues as well because we do not just take what they bring. We understand the history as well. We want what we want for who we want and we must do so in a respectful way.

I am not going to stand here and pretend as though we do not need the assistance from outside. We must get assistance from outside. We must get assistance internally as well. As I started I want to end because I want Barbadians to understand that there must be a Barbados when we come out of this pandemic. All of the things that seem ideal presently in terms of talking about two Barbadoses, there was always two Barbadoses. Even in trying to remove the Common Entrance Exam, if there is no greater understanding of two Barbadoses it is in dealing with education and the 11-plus examination. This is when you see the animal coming out of people in relation to a change in an examination, so no one cannot come and tell me now that we suddenly have a new way of doing things or we do not like this set of people.

We have become who we are because while we are fighting to gain our independence and ensure we create our own identity; we also share a space with people who do not look like us. I remember going with the Prime Minister to a Sandy Lane Trust function and her remark to them was that she did not know how we would have gotten to have so many opportunities for people who could not afford medical attention in this country if it was not for charities like that. Indeed, we also find ourselves in a situation where if not for the last few months we did not get assistance in terms of the voucher subsidy from the Sandy Lane Trust, many of us would not have been able to support families across this country.

Sir, I am no hypocrite. I am not going to stand here and say, "Thank you" in one breath and then, cut down the very people who have genuinely been assisting us in this country; people who probably have lineage to the same monarchy but I do not care because they have made Barbados their home and assisted Barbadians, including all of us in this Chamber and persons across this country who have benefitted from it. Therefore, I ask this country and Chamber to endorse this Resolution not for any other reason that this is who we are as a people and this is who we are as a Government, Sir. I am obliged.

Hon. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the lower Chamber and those Members who are attending Parliament virtually. Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on this Resolution to lease a parcel of land for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award. Mr. Speaker, I sat and listened to every contribution this morning and it would be remised of me as the Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment not to say a few words and to be brief. It is only yesterday that I met with officers in the Ministry to carve out plans and strategies that lies acutely with our responsibility of creating and implementing programmes with a view to building stronger communities and well-rounded young citizens through the empowerment and full involvement of youth and communities both in social and economic development of this country. Mr. Speaker, while doing that, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was mentioned and research indicated that the subvention from the Ministry to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme started back in 1995, that is when the Ministry of Youth was created and, Mr. Speaker, this Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is a global framework for non-formal education and learning as stated by most Honourable Members, especially by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

This programme challenges young people to discover their potential and find their purpose, their passion and place in the world. Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East mentioned clearly the whole aspect of citizens being the responsibility of Government and Government cannot do everything by themselves. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme it is one of the programmes that offers young Barbadians, I know it has expanded, from between the ages of 14 to 24 years, the opportunity to earn three levels of awards but more importantly, the awards are achieved by regular activity in voluntary service, skills, physical, recreation and adventurous journey. Presently, I heard the Honourable Member for St. James South quoting figures, but in 2019, 44 persons completed bronze, silver and gold awards in this country and the most recent statistics show some 354 active participants spread across all aspects of the organisation that offered the award.

Mr. Speaker, when we speak about building global citizens, I had to support my colleagues. This is one of the programmes among many other programmes offered by the Ministry of Youth that seeks to build global citizens and I often use the phrase that youth development is national development and national development is youth development. Mr. Speaker, we are at a stage where our young people are indeed challenged. We have unemployment, some would argue, among the youth that is at 40 per cent. That is debatable but it certainly is a high number and it certainly is over 30 per cent. Mr. Speaker, what these programmes like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programmes do is offer lifelong skills for our young people that we can leave these shores and also if we do not leave these shores we can enter organisations and display leadership, have the spirit of volunteerism, have high self-esteem, operate with a passion with what we do and to be honest and upright citizens. I cannot sit here, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsibility for Youth and allow this debate to occur without making the point that we have over 60 young people in this country presently. School-leavers amount to some 4 000 persons leaving school every year and our programmes as we execute and our fiscal challenges does not allow us to find all the money to cater to all 60 young people and while we have started the Youth Advance Core that take in over 900 at risk youth annually that I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East mentioned, the Nature Fund Ranch which is very close behind, that is not a governmental entity. At least 600 young people pass through that programme so we have to embrace the third sector, the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) that seek to give our young people the opportunity to become global citizens and seek to give this Government the opportunity to make Barbados the best place that young people can work, raise a family, do business and as we say, a place of good vibes.

Mr. Speaker, I am here supporting this Resolution. I am not at all focussing on the whole aspect of the removing of the statue of Lord Nelson, which I supported, and where the Duke of Edinburgh came from and the Prince came from because at the end of the day, a true statement was made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East. We have to prepare Barbados for 50 years down the road. I do not know if I will be here. Fifty years from now I will be 101 years old and I would love to live that long to see my son take his rightful place in this country as a youth at age 13 so we have to be mindful of the statements that we make.

While the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is my friend and while the Honourable Member for St. Michael West is also my friend this debate is about providing a space so that we can continue to develop and build out the programmes to empower our many young people. What is our biggest challenge in this country? Our biggest challenge in this country, Mr. Speaker, is deviant

behaviour among our young people. How do we solve it? We focus all of our attention on the Royal Barbados Police Force. They need assistance and they need assistance before the crimes are committed. We need to change behaviours among our young people. How do we do that? With programmes offered like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We have to get into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, some comments were made earlier, some I agreed with, but some I do not agree with because I see a fundamental roll for community centres to play in this country and if we are talking about creating the scale where more young people can enter non-formal educational programmes, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI) we visited as a Ministry, I was a part of that team and it was clearly agreed upon that we have to utilise our community centres as satellite stations.

Only this morning I received a message from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, we are on the same wave length, the Honourable Member and I, and we had to understand that if we sit and if we continue to, what I call, fight among the minor as oppose to focussing on the major issue at hand and what we have to do to really position this country 50 years down the road, then debates like this would degenerate into where this body came from and why this building was left unattended and why we should not touch it. I am not going there this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. My focus is on letting Barbados know that the responsibility of this Ministry of Youth, we focus on youth leadership. Presently, we have a programme that will cater to some 120 young Barbadians across the country from St. Lucy up North back to Christ Church and St. Philip down South. We have 120 young people we would be training in terms of youth leaders in this country. We have a major community programme that we execute annually and part of that programme is to identify leaders within our communities and provide the necessary training, counselling and mentorship that they too can pass on to their peers because peer mentorship is very fundamental among the youth. We know very well that a young man would want to listen to his peer more than he would want to listen to say the Honourable Member for St. George South which is myself because at our age we seek to tell the young people what we went through but what those young mentors are doing is seeking to inculcate the way in which you can become more positive. You can be influence in a manner by your peers whereby you too whereby you too can add value to yourself to your family and to this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Youth will embark on a major youth engagement campaign. We also will also embark on a major anti-violence campaign. Currently we have someone within our ministry working with us to go into our communities to address this matter with a view to changed behaviours. We are not going to send people to the

Police to say lock them up, we are going to have meaningful discussions with the young people of this country on the blocks. There are leaders 'on the blocks' as well. I do not subscribe to the notion that we do not have leaders 'on the blocks' because those 'block leaders' are very influential leaders. They are not all negative so we have to shift our mind-set on how we can engage three out of four young persons or four out of four young persons of every household and in every community and shift the goalpost from 50 per cent to 100 per cent engagement and to have them involved in some activity whether formal or non-formal after school activity such as building self-esteem, teaching them motivational skills and teaching them leadership. We as a Government do not have the resources to do it alone so we welcome the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, we welcome the Princess Trust, we welcome the Brewster's Trust we welcome Maria Holder Memorial Trust and all of these associations that would add value to the next step training initiatives that we have that we seek to focus on some 350 young people.

The summer camp programme, the cultural programme that we call Youth Achieving Results, the performing arts programme and the visual arts programme are the programmes being offered by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment. We know the time has passed where our community centres will be closed day by day. Since coming to office we have seen the increased use of community centres for various programmes whether it is sporting programmes or cultural programmes and we have focussed our attention on having these community centres open not only to 4 o'clock but to 11 o'clock. Our goodly Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, would like our community centres to be open 24 hours and I welcome that as well but we will get there. We are not doing it by baby steps because the mission to have our community centres open to 11 o'clock is not a baby step. Sir, we are on track and by June this year we will form at least 50 new youth groups or community groups across Barbados within our communities. Why? Because we need a place where our young people can positively engage their minds and do something constructive. We want to bring 'the blocks' to the community centres. We are not telling you that you cannot 'lime on blocks' but we are telling you that you have a place that you can go to learn lifelong skills and that is our community centres.

Mr. Speaker, if we do our research we would see that within most communities we have catchment areas that can account for over 500 to 600 young people between the ages of 7 and 35, so what do we do. Should we ignore the Duke of Edinburgh Ward? Should we ignore the Brewster's Trust? Should we ignore those persons who want to come to Barbados to set up sports academies? We have to embrace them in order to save this nation and in order to

build global citizens and to provide opportunities for our young people.

Mr. Speaker, like I said I will be brief and I want to thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church West for bringing this Resolution. Mr. Speaker, while some may think it should not have sparked so much discussion, I am happy just like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East because what it told me is that our people are indeed thinking about Barbados' future 50 years down the road, and I will end with the phrase again that national development is youth development and youth development is national development. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. First let me thank all Honourable Members who contributed to this debate. The benefit of being in a great party like the Barbados Labour Party is that we encompass all voices, positive voices and negative voices, voices that approve and voices that dissent and at the end of the day we weigh all information and come to firm decisions at the end of it all.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know, maybe it is my experience as a young oral surgeon. Mr. Speaker, when I think back I lived in about 14 different places because we were encouraged to move from place to place and hospital to hospital so that we would get a greater experience learning how one consultant did a procedure, how another consultant took out a tumour, did a neurological procedure or an oral surgical procedure, a maxillofacial procedure or whatever it was. We moved from place to place. I think I would have lived in 14 different places over the time that I was training as an oral surgeon, but what that did for me, and I do not know if for others, is that it made me realised that there is no real emotional attachment to a building and it makes me think of the church. A church is not a building, a church is the body, the congregation that is what a church is, so by extension, to me a building yes has some significance but it also has a utilization, and utilisation is just as important being a pragmatic person. We cannot do it all on our own. The Government cannot do it on its own, we need assistance. We need help. We are a small nation and we need those to come and help us as best they can and to give us that assistance that they give us.

We cannot change our history. We know our history. We know what our people went through but what we have to do is make our future better for all of our people, give our people opportunities, give our people a chance to do better than we did ourselves, help our people to see a better life that we have had to see and build a better foundation for our people, and that is all we try to do every single day as a Government, as a party and as a nation. It is not one

person who can come here and speak emotively. We all can. We all can speak but what we have to do is understand that our past is our past but let us chart a better future, let us understand that we must bring people together, bring hands together, bring resources together and make things better for the next set of generation that follow us. Mr. Speaker that is what our job is, not to look at a building. Mr. Speaker, because a building has in a different person that does not change the history of what the man that lived in it did, it could never, because the building is not the man. I respect Errol Walton Barrow. I knew Errol Walton Barrow. He took me flying in his plane. I knew him as a boy. He shopped at my father's place. I would not do anything to disrespect a man...

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Shopped at my father's place. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, sometimes the mask 'cuffuffle' what you have to say. He shopped at my father's place. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would give you a little story. I was fortunate enough to win a Barbados Exhibition in 1986 and Errol Walton Barrow was the Honourable Prime Minister. He met me at a funeral, it was my grandfather's funeral, and at that funeral the results had not come back as yet but Errol Walton Barrow came up to me and said: "Young man, I have known you for a long time - I cannot do his voice. "Young man, I have known you for a long time and congratulations are in order." I did not understand but I gathered what he was telling me about. The news then came back that I had gotten an exhibition and so on and so forth. I was thankful. I was appreciative. But it did not go just finish there, when I got to England and I went to the High Commission to report to them, as I was told to do, it was Vernon Smith who was the High Commissioner at that time. He told me that the Prime Minister of Barbados had contacted him and told him to take very good care of me. He told me that the Prime Minister did not have to tell him that because many days when he did not have money he would have gone to my father's store and he would have gotten a bottle of whisky and a carton of cigarettes and my father did not charge him for it.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vernon Smith told me so in 1987 when I arrived at the High Commission in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, he told all the staff members there to make sure and take good care of me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this opportunity to lease a building, in fact, to me is not a disrespect but an honour to put it back into the state in which it should be, to not leave a building in a dilapidated condition, a health risk, but instead to recognise our history, to recognise our heritage

and to improve on what we have. It is no way taking away from what the man has done for this country. If it were not for “Tom” Adams, I would be a member of the Democratic Labour Party. I will tell you that. But Rawden Adams was in my class and I got exposed to “Tom” Adams and it was through “Tom” Adams that I got into the Barbados Labour Party Government. Honourable Member, please forgive me...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please follow the rules.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Senator in the Other Place was in my class for five years. We went to the same class from 1979 to 1985, when the Honourable Member left Barbados. The Honourable Member was my friend from then till now. I have visited his house on many occasions and met with his then father, the Prime Minister of Barbados. His father would speak to us, as young eleven and twelve year boys, and it is from that that encouraged me to be the person whom I am today, and to join the party I have joined, and to serve the party as best as I can every single day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to be clear; we have a duty and a responsibility to respect those on whose shoulders we stand, on both sides, but we also have a duty and responsibility to those who will follow us and it is on that that we are doing this lease to the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Barbados Charity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with that I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. R. PHILLIPS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 3

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF A NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 9(1) OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 DECLARING THE ABANDONMENT OF THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT HARRISMITH IN THE PARISH OF SAINT PHILIP IN THIS ISLAND, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you have the Floor.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very, very simple matter; it is an abandonment of what was an acquisition for 10.9 hectares of land at Harrismith.

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Crown had anticipated that we would be paying \$10 million for this parcel of land to be able to construct housing and also for tourism development. However, subsequent to that, the then owners put in a claim that it should, in fact, be \$24 million and not \$10 million, bearing in mind that they had been paying land tax at around that value for a while. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that being said, the Government has made a decision that with the current pandemic situation, and the cost that it has been on the economy, we have decided that that \$10 million, or north of \$10 million, would be better spent [in] trying to provide jobs and opportunities for people in Barbados, other than this development at this time. Therefore, we are asking that this acquisition that was first started be now abandoned. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution to abandon this land acquisition at Harrismith do now pass.

Hon P. R. Phillips: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put to the Honourable House and agreed to in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, you have the Floor.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not to be very long. I understand the Honourable Member to be saying that there is no intention related to the acquisition for the purposes of housing and tourism. I would imagine that the Government’s perception of the need for such projects at the time would have been based on some substantial evidence that [would have] given them the persuasion that the project should be undertaken. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact that you are having an issue with the cost seems to be the suggestion of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West the reason you are now abandoning the attempts at this acquisition. Now, obviously the need still exists; we are hearing that it is because of the expenditure related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation that we are pulling back from a housing project, and housing continues to be a problem in Barbados. Now, I really do not want to be mischievous but you are telling me that you are abandoning a housing project because of the possibly inflated increased cost and [that] you are not prepared to spend that increased cost, although it is not a settled sum -- I could imagine that there could have been negotiations, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are a lawyer -- but you are pulling back from that because of the expenditure that Government now finds itself faced with relative to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the same Government that is promising the world that it will afford them free tickets to vacation in Barbados. This is the same Government that is spending money on all kinds of other stuff, despite the

presence of COVID-19 pandemic threat and having to deal with that. But you are abandoning the prospective housing project which must have been thought to be worthwhile in the first place and in a context where the need for housing in Barbados still persists. Now, I wonder if the Minister would advise us as to whether or not there were any issues relative to the acquisition, apart from the moving cost. Did the attempt to acquire that property take place in a context where there was clarity of title over the land? The information I have is that there may have been some incorrect understanding as to the title of these lands and that the acquisition itself may have been faced with some issues as a result of the lack of clarity around the title relative to that property. It would be good if we could be reminded of the owners from whom the acquisition was attempted, whether or not it was Marriott's, whether or not it was Grants Hotel Inc.?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on that matter I have raised in here two or three times the issue of Government's outstanding liabilities to the owners of the Sam Lord's Castle property. I am still to be properly informed and advised on that, so I raise it again. My information seems to suggest it is \$50 million and more still outstanding to the owners after all of this time and that Government is not moving with any seeming decent haste to settle that liability. I find it difficult that you are abandoning a housing project because there may have been some upward movement in cost without negotiating further on that. You are abandoning a tourism project because you are faced with the constraints now caused by expenditure relative to COVID-19 and yet you offer to the world a free ticket and a chance to come back since we will pay that for you. Please tell us whether or not there were any issues related to the initial attempt to acquire the property; issues revolving around lack of clarity on title. Since some connectivity exists here, while I am on my feet I am asking again for about the third or fourth time whether you have some information with respect to Government's outstanding liability to the former owners of Sam Lord's Castle -- I should say the Sam Lord's property -- because I hear it is upwards of \$50 million and is taking long to come to a point of settlement with the owners with respect to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just for the sake of clarity, of course I cannot give much information on things that have not gone through Cabinet but, needless to say, not only is the Sam Lord's Castle acquisition payment gaining the significant attention and negotiation but we are certainly in the process and are very close to completion on that. I want to go further and say that we are also looking at all acquisitions which Government has made for road improvements, house moving, whatever they are, over the last 25 to 30 years. All

of those, every single one, we have put together and we are taking them to Cabinet very shortly with a move to being able to settle all acquisitions that are outstanding.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: It would be a misrepresentation for me to sit here and suggest to the Honourable Member for St. Michael West that we are not working on it. Yes, we are working on it and I cannot tell you what Cabinet will do but I am definitely working on both of those matters and we are going through the process as we speak. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. R. PHILLIPS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that very interesting morning, I believe we have now come to the end of today's Sitting. Let me just say that this is a very historic day for all of us. It is the first time we are meeting virtually. I know that some may have had their reservations in terms of how the process would have worked, but I am glad that we have been proactive in making decisions as they relate to this pandemic. One of those decisions has been to certainly allow Parliament to be held in this way so that the people's business can still be conducted. Let me just thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who also would have stepped in at the time with his concerns and certainly was able to allow us to finalise plans to be able to engage in this particular way.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Sitting be adjourned until February 2, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Hon. K. D. M. HUMPHREY: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting do now adjourn until the 2nd Day of February, 2021, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the Sitting accordingly.

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MARSHALL, Hon. D. D.
PHILLIPS, Hon. P. R.
PRESCOD, Mr. T. A.
STRAUGHN, Hon. R. R.
SUTHERLAND, Hon. D. G.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 3. After Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid's opening, the seconding is run into a paragraph ('Hon P. R. Phillips: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second that, Sir.') and the question is recorded as put and agreed; Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley then speaks, Dr. Duguid replies, and the question 'that the Resolution do now pass' is recorded again. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 4, Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw. The Member's name is spelt 'BRADHSAW' in two speech labels; elsewhere it is BRADSHAW. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order of business. Order No. 4 was taken before Order No. 3. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at the Worthing Corporate Centre at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 12th January, 2021, with Mr. Speaker, His Honour A. E. Holder, in the Chair; some Members took part online. Prayers were taken by the Reverend Mark Harewood. On the motion of Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, seconded by Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, the Minutes of 8th and 15th December, 2020 were taken as read, and Standing Orders were suspended for the rest of the Sitting. Several Members noted that this was the first Sitting at which Members attended virtually.

The first business was Order No. 4, a Resolution under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to approve the lease of Lot 2 at Culloden Farm, St. Michael, to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Barbados Charity for use as its headquarters. Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, Member for Christ Church West, said the charity would add

hydroponics, small animal husbandry, fish farming and green technology to its programmes, and that Lot 1 would be kept by the Crown for the National Library Service. The Leader of the Opposition, Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley, supported the Resolution as an investment in young people, and Hon. Ms. M. K.-A. Caddle, the first Member to speak through the new virtual system, recalled her own time in the Award Scheme. Hon. D. D. Marshall recalled that the Scheme had once been run from the verandah of the Goddard family home at Fontabelle.

Mr. T. A. Prescod, who said he had intended not to speak, objected that a Government that had removed Nelson's statue should not hand to this institution a building associated with Errol Walton Barrow, and asked why an alternative site had not been considered. Hon. R. R. Straughn and Hon. Miss C. S. V. Husbands supported the lease, Miss Husbands describing Culloden Farm as a Georgian villa built by a colonial in 1789. Miss Bradshaw said the State lacked the money to restore heritage buildings and needed partners to keep them from falling into disrepair, and the Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Hon. D. G. Sutherland, described what the programme offers young Barbadians. Dr. Duguid replied, and the Resolution was agreed without division.

On Order No. 3, a Resolution under section 9(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 declaring the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition of land at Harrismith, St. Philip, Dr. Duguid explained that the Crown had expected to pay \$10 million for the 10.9 hectares, intended for housing and tourism, but the owners had claimed \$24 million; given the cost of the pandemic, the Government had decided the money would be better spent on jobs. Bishop Atherley questioned abandoning a housing project and raised again the Government's outstanding liability, which he put at \$50 million or more, to the owners of the Sam Lord's Castle property. Dr. Duguid said that payment was close to completion, and the Resolution was passed.

Miss Bradshaw thanked Members and the Leader of the Opposition for helping to make the virtual Sitting possible. On her motion, seconded by Hon. K. D. M. Humphrey, the House adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.