
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2018 – 2022

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

At a meeting of the House of Assembly at the Worthing Corporate Centre on Tuesday the May 04, 2020, at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to the Adjournment.

PRESENT:

His Honour A. E. Holder, B.Sc. (Hons.), MSW, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Speaker)

Mr. N. G. H. Rowe, J. P. (Deputy Speaker)

Hon. G. W. Payne, Q.C.

Hon. R. St. C. Toppin, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of International Business and Industry) 4+

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, Q.C., LL.B. (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, Minister of National Security and the Civil Service)

Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, J.P., L.C.P. (Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs) (virtual)

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.

Hon. K. D. Symmonds, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship)

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)

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training)

Bishop 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., F.D.S., F.D.R.C.S., M. Min. (Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance)

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, LL.B. (Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs)

Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

Hon. I. A. Weir, M.B.A. (Minister of Agriculture and Food Security)

Hon. A. R. Forde, RPh. (Minister of the Environment and National Beautification)

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)

Hon. Miss M. K-A. Caddle, B.A., M.Sc. (Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment)

Mr. R. A. Thorne, Q.C., LL.B., L.E.C., Dip. Theology

Mr. G. P. I. Gooding-Edghill, (Minister of Transport, Works and Water Resources)

Ms. T. N. S-A. MOORE, M.B.A. (Virtual)

Prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, March 29, 2021.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my understanding that the Minutes were circulated, and subject to any observations or corrections, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Meeting held Friday, April 23rd 2021.

Hon. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the said Minutes be deferred.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: 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.

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

Hon. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Loan Contract No. 205/03 BA between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank (Global Credit Programme for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors in Employment.)

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

Hon. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the tradition of this Honourable Chamber to take a moment out of its hectic Parliamentary agenda from time to time to remember and to honour the memory of those who once served in either of the Houses of Parliament, or some cases, persons who because of their contribution globally, regionally or otherwise to society, are regarded by this Parliament certainly of being worthy of remembrance. Today, Sir, I have the distinct honour to read into the record of this Parliament our appreciation for the life of service of the late Joseph “Joe” (as he was commonly known to many) Edghill, a former Member of Parliament for the constituency of Christ Church West-Central, a stalwart of the Barbados Labour Party Government, a former Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother to many of the persons who are with us today. He would have died just over a year ago, on the 20th April.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, “Joe” would have celebrated his 75th birthday on May 22nd, which is coming up shortly. He was married to Angela, who is with us here today, and he has left behind three children: John, Nancy and Jeremo. I want to take this opportunity to mention also his grandson Eden, with whom many of us are well-aware that he totally adored and loved. We are fortunate today, while the grandson is not here, to certainly have his brothers Ted and Charles and his sister Elaina present with us.

Let me say at this point that on the behalf of this country, on the behalf of this Parliament I would want to say a special thank you to this family for loaning him to us for the last 14 years, to provide sterling representation to the people of Christ Church West-Central and to this nation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking from a position as a child coming up in politics and certainly knowing how it is when you have family members who are in politics, it is not easy, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and therefore while we will today remember the contribution that he has made to the political landscape of this country and certainly to the constituency of Christ Church West-Central, it is not to trivialize the fact that this gentleman was a family man,

that he was a father, that he was a brother, that he was a son, that he was a grandfather, and certainly a mentor to many as well, because often we do not talk about that side of our politicians, we often are only critical of them in other aspects when it comes to the politics of the day. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the truth is that his family will understand what I am saying, in particular, because they would know the sacrifice that “Joe” would have made in being able to be on the frontline, to be on the firing line, to have to deal with the criticisms and everything throughout his political career in defense of the people of this constituency and certainly his party and his nation.

Many have heard the name Joseph Edghill associated with the Edghill Pharmacy in the heart of Oistins. Let me just say that as a child growing up I did not know the man at the time but as a young child I used to hear about Edghill Pharmacy; everybody knew that this was the pharmacy that you had to go to, to collect whatever medicinal, and also to get advice from “Joe” on several matters. I would just say here, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that there are many (from what my father recounts to me, certainly in this party but across Barbados) men whom he helped along the way to make sure that they performed as exceptionally as they needed to, and for that we are grateful, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many on hearing the name “Joe” Edghill and associating him with the pharmacy in Oistins would also not be aware that prior to coming to the point of being an entrepreneur and owning his own business, he also worked at Knights Limited for some five years and then later at Bookers Agency. It seems as though he always had his eyes set on owning his own pharmacy and certainly blazing his own trail as an entrepreneur. He was able to draw on the early experiences that he would have had in the early years to be able to help him to establish what became known as the Edghill Pharmacy brand. Sir, such was his brand and the impact which he made on the constituency that it was not surprising that he was chosen to represent the Barbados Labour Party Government in the 1994 elections and he held this seat for 14 straight years, before retiring from active politics.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when “Joe” announced that he was not returning to active politics in 2008, in one of his last interviews he told the Press that it was actually his family who had discouraged him from participating further. It sounded like the perfect cop-out at the time; blame the family. After all, the fact is that he had spent the 14 years away from the household and serving the constituents, but the family was also mindful that if he had continued along that trajectory the family business would also have suffered. Therefore, it was also a case of his age at the time and I think he also knew that the time had come to pretty much pass on the baton and still continue to serve in a different than he had served before by giving his assistance to those who were coming after him.

What is commendable about Joe Edghill, though, is that even though he loved being the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Christ Church West Central, he also knew that he had to mentor the younger persons who would follow. Before it was the current representative for that constituency, the other candidate at the time, I believe, was Margo Callender, and Mr. Edghill would have lent certain assistance to her as well. The thing is that even though we speak sometimes of retiring from politics -- and I have been around long enough to hear many people say they are retiring from active politics -- the truth is that you never really retire. Once you have that burning desire to serve and to participate in active political life, it is always difficult to ignore what is happening around you. It is always difficult not to want to give advice. It is always difficult not to be the person to whom people still believe they can come for advice or assistance. Therefore, while he retired from active politics he was very much involved in community affairs and certainly he was the “go-to” person for the current representative for any needed assistance.

Sir, I am sure that the current Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central will speak on this Motion later, because I know that he has spoken openly about the support and the mentorship which Joe provided to him when he decided to embark on coming into active politics. I think that is current testimony to the type of individual whom he was, because there are a lot of people who retire but sometimes do not necessarily give back. They do not necessarily want to mentor the younger politicians and show them the ways and the ropes. We have a way in Barbadian life where sometimes you sit on the outside and wait for people to fall as opposed to being able to hold their hand and let them know exactly what the pitfalls are in being in public life and certainly being a constituency representative. Joe was not afraid to take younger Members of Parliaments and persons who were aspiring to public life under his wing, and to share some of the pitfalls, challenges and triumphs which he would have experienced during his political career.

What has been the takeaway for me from Joe’s life, however, was his service to the people of Christ Church West Central, and that is undeniably what every Honourable Member who speaks today will recall about him. The reality is that regardless of which side of the political divide you may be on, most people who enter politics actually come with a burning desire to serve. Sir, I think you know exactly what I am talking about. We may not always be able to get everything done which we set about to do, but the one common thread always is that regardless of the political party people rise in public life because they want to represent people, they want to advocate for people, they want to be the voice of the people, and they want to transform the lives of the people whom they represent.

Sir, I recall when I first came into politics and I won the Election, I ended up in Opposition and I had very mixed reactions about winning a seat but not being part of the Government. I remember when the votes were counted, Prime Minister Mottley who was then “Mia” to me and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East at the time asked me why I seemed a little daunted by what had transpired. I remember my response to her was that I could not imagine at the time how, having carried all of these people around me to support me, were we from the Opposition going to be able to continue to lead the charge and transform their lives. It was at that point that she said to me, “Santia, you won your seat. You now have the opportunity to learn the ropes, and then when you are in Government, to be able to understand and appreciate better what it is that you have to do.” Sir, I say that to explain that Joe Edghill understood from early as well that service and trying to be able to transform the lives of people was what mattered, but we all go through that phase where we have to pause -- depending on what happens, to try to figure out how we are going to help the people who have put us in the position to represent them.

Sir, what is it that we want to leave behind when we leave politics? I think that is the other takeaway from Joe’s life. I think he recognised that he brought a lot of qualities to the table as a pharmacist and as someone who was community worker, but he also understood that he wanted to leave a legacy, which indeed he has gone on to do because he is remembered as being that individual who got on the ground, who worked with the people, who inspired the people, who made sure that the community programmes were executed, who was not afraid to put his foot to the ground and make sure that he was on the frontline with his constituents to be able to make the changes necessary in the constituency of Christ Church West Central. The fact is that we all want to make an impact on people’s lives. We all want to be able to say that we did things in the constituency; that we erected buildings or were able to get access to people or were able to make life a little easier on people, that we were able to solve the problems. We want to be able to say that we were part of a Government which was able to transform the lives of people.

Sir, I can say today that Joe Edghill had the opportunity to do all of those things, and history will record an individual who not only served the people but made sure that his life of service is a legacy that is left behind, not only for the Honourable Member who now represents the constituency but also certainly for all younger politicians who will follow thereafter. By the time Joe left politics after the 14 years in office and serving under the late former Prime Minister Owen Arthur, he described his stint as parliamentary representative as “very satisfying”. He admitted that most of the things which he had asked of the then Government were completed, and he was able to get

them for his constituency. Of course, when we think of the years of the Owen Arthur Administration, I think it is fair to say that Joe was lucky because his Government was in office so he was obviously able to get a lot more things done. He was also part of an Administration that not only focused on the economic benefits of getting the economy moving but also was very key in making sure that a number of the social programmes that were necessary across the country to improve the lives of people were executed. Even if he did not get everything he wanted, he understood that his contribution was going to be made at the grassroots level, at the community level. He was not worried so much about accomplishing every single thing, but he made sure that his presence was still felt in his constituency so that the people understood that he was one of them and he was one who was prepared to walk with them.

Sir, what is remarkable is that he was an organiser of the Oistins Fish Festival for over 14 years. He was also the founding member and the president of the Pride of Gall Hill Club, and then he went on, perhaps having gained the experience from working with the community, to serve as an executive member of the Barbados Football Association. For those who know that constituency, football is at the heart and the core of much of what people in the community enjoy; similar to my own constituency in St. Michael South East. He understood that while he was a pharmacist and he had his business and everything and he engaged with people in that forum, it was still important for him to be on the ground and in between the people, mixing amongst the people, so that he had his pulse on what was happening at every opportunity across the constituency. However, he also had a keen interest in music and entertainment and for some time he was the manager of the Southern Stars Calypso Tent, he was also the manager of the Exotic Sound Band and co-manager of JJ Promotions. Many calypsonians and comedians would tell you that they could go to Joe for the occasional assistance to buy a ticket or the occasional sponsorship to be able to pursue their career endeavours.

Many of the things that Joe felt that he had not accomplished during his time were things that perhaps all of us in this Chamber struggle with from time to time, which is that you want to make sure that you can ensure that your constituents are able to have adequate housing, that we are able as a country to adequately provide for the needs of the people who because of overcrowding in some cases or because of the financial state that they may be in may not be able to have access to proper housing. One of the things that I think that he wanted to accomplish or felt that he could perhaps have done better at doing was being able to improve further the housing conditions of his constituents.

As I said, he was very into the sport, but he also wanted to make sure that there were even additional

facilities provided within the constituency, because again he recognised that even though you might do all of the things to stabilise the economy you still had to make sure that people had somewhere to be able to play, recreate and socialise. The funny thing is that during his tenure, that period 1976 to 1981 was a period where the Barbados Labour Party was very instrumental across this country in making sure that playing fields that we know today which had been overgrown with bush were turned into facilities for ordinary Barbadians to have a space in the community to be able to enjoy outdoor activities. He wanted to build on that as well and he continued to make the case for the advancement of these recreational facilities and community centres within the constituency of Christ Church West Central.

The Honourable Prime Minister Mottley would have entered politics in 1991 with Joe and she is often quick to remind us of Joe's commitment to people as being his hallmark in public life. In other words, he was not a fair weather politician. He was known as Joe to most of his constituents and maintained the highest standards of decency and the quorum whether he was canvassing, speaking on a political platform, on the floor of the House or behind the counter in his pharmacy. He was the consummate community pharmacist during his time. He was a stalwart in Oistins serving the people of Christ Church, but also serving people beyond the constituency. This is because people would come from all over the country to get medication from Joe. People would drive from St. Andrew, come down from St. Philip or they will come down from St. Lucy to be able to have Joe listen to the concerns that they may have and to be able to get the necessary remedy from the pharmacist, not the doctor.

Joe was known as being also a very generous person and perhaps as I was coming here this morning, my father and I were having a chat about Joe's life and he said to me that he recalls him being an extremely generous individual. Anybody could go to Joe and were guaranteed that he would help in some way to be able to alleviate their difficulties and that was the reason why people would come from all across Barbados, not only for some financial assistance, but they would come for him to assist them and to talk through their medical problems with him because he gave them the comfort not only of solving the problem but he was also confidential in nature which I believe was perhaps the most compelling characteristic that he would also have had and I know he has gone to his grave perhaps with many secrets of about many individuals across Barbados.

Therefore, it was not surprising, I believe it was over a year ago that I had the opportunity when the Gall Hill Park was being renamed in his honour to say a few words on behalf of The Honourable Prime Minister Mottley and certainly on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party for him. It

was a very touching event and perhaps very fitting at the time, because it gave us an opportunity to yet again reflect on in his life and his service that he had given his community and certainly to his country. On that occasion, people came from all across the community to remember his life and to pay tribute to him, and at the time his wife Angela and others would have been present as well to be able to let the record show that Joe's life was not in vain, the years of service to the community and to the country were not in vain and that he will forever be remembered by the people of Christ Church West Central.

One of the most difficult things during this period that we are experiencing, which is the COVID-19 pandemic, is that we cannot come together and celebrate people's lives as we would like. Even in this morning as we are here we are still social distancing and wearing the mask. One of the things about this period I think that has been difficult for families and certainly in the memory of the persons who are passing on, is that if we were in normal times I am pretty sure that the whole of Christ Church West Central would have been at his funeral and the entire Barbados Labour Party membership would have been there to support his family. However, I want the family to understand that even though we were not able to come together because of the restrictions, it does not diminish the importance of demand that was Joe to many of us and that was a mentor and certainly a major supporter of the Barbados Labour Party and certainly of the people of Christ Church West Central.

At the appropriate time arrangements will be made to further honour him and we have given that commitment to his wife Angela, whereas when things are a little easier for us to be able to socialise and perhaps even to hug and embrace her and the rest of the family, certainly her grandson and her son. However, this morning's tribute is really dedicated to his life and to the commitment that he made to his country and to his constituency. I want to really say that this legacy that he has left is one that certainly as a younger member of the party, but also as a young politician, for me is one that makes us have to reflect on who we are and what we are doing as politicians as well, because if as the tributes are read today regarding the life of Joe Edghill, it does not cause, whether aspiring politicians or politicians in public life to reflect on whether they are giving their all to their constituents, then I say to you, you need to pause and reflect for a moment on what you have come to public life to do, because that is the record that has been left by this distinguish gentleman.

Therefore, on behalf of the Parliament of Barbados, certainly the people of Christ Church West Central, The Barbados Labour Party, the people of St. Michael South East and on my own family's behalf, in particular my father who would have been very familiar with Joe during his political life, I want to again express condolences to his

family and to just remind you all that the Barbados Labour Party and certainly all of us share with you in getting through this period, because even though a year has passed we also share the memories of the contribution that Joe would have made to this country and his community. Therefore, we want to ensure that you are well aware and fully supported as you continue to go through these difficult times and to reflect on the life of Joe Edghill.

Mr. Speaker, I will come later in terms of the Resolution, but again I would want the record to reflect that the life of this gentleman is one that should not be underestimated and that should certainly continue to be a reflection for all politicians in political life.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. W. A. ABRAHAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to pay tribute to a legend in Barbados and in Christ Church in particular. Sir, I did not come up in a political family and I knew Joe Edghill all of my life from Edghill's Pharmacy. It seems like every Sunday after church we ended up at the pharmacy for something, whether it was sweets or a chocolate. We ended up for something, Sir, at Edghill's Pharmacy.

The Honourable Leader of Government Business spoke about Joe Edghill's connections to Christ Church West Central but as a child and indeed as a young adult, Joe Edghill does not represent Christ Church West Central. Joe Edghill was from Oistins. Joe Edghill was Oistins itself. Many of the young people in our constituency and across the entire south coast belt knew Joe Edghill. He is that person who would remember each person. I never saw him anywhere and he did not ask, "Willy, how is your mother? How is your father? How is Erma?" He never called me anything but Willy. He remembered your name.

He actively followed and was interested in the development of the young persons who passed in front of him. Joe Edghill knew when I sat the Eleven-Plus examination. On my return to the pharmacy, he gave me a chocolate. He knew when I did my Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) examinations. He knew when I did my A 'Levels examinations. He knew when I was called to the Bar. I do not think that I am special in that respect but that was the mark of the man. Each person who came into his business was not simply a customer, they were a friend. They were people he took a vested interest in. I guess this is what made him the standard for what politics and representation should be about.

Anecdotally, the Leader of Government Business indicated that he assisted many men throughout Barbados to hold their head up high and be firm as men. However,

I would not say how old I was but I remember that I went into Edghill's Pharmacy with a purpose. I was shame; very shame, Sir. I walked up the aisle slowly. You would walk up and down the aisle waiting for people to leave. Anyone who might have known your parents, you would wait for them to leave the pharmacy, Sir, for what I would call tongue and cheek in the past, the portable prophylactics.

Mr. Edghill saw me from his seat. I guess I was not the first young man to find himself in that dilemma and he recognized the symptoms of my distress, Sir. He came, put his hand on my shoulder and took me to the counter. He slid me a box and said, "Use those." I did not have to ask but I guess the look of stark guilt let him know that I was on a frolic of my own. What he did say to me was that to never be ashamed to protect yourself. Sir, I have remembered that for many years. This is when Joe and I moved from being customer and pharmacist to what I would call being friends because if I could not be comfortable with him thereafter, then I could never be comfortable with anybody.

This is the sort of person that he was. You had to feel comfortable with Mr. Edghill. Throughout my entire life I called him Mr. Edghill. Even when I got into politics and he insisted that I called him "Joe", I still called him Mr. Edghill because that is how I was raised. Joe Edghill was for a lot of Christ Church residents not a pharmacist but a doctor. Joe was never ashamed to make his own suggestion. He did not hold back at all. If you went with a prescription, he would say, "Look, this is what they have prescribed but to be honest with you, what are your symptoms?" You would tell him. He would say, "This is probably better." You did not question Joe. If Joe Edghill said X was better for you, regardless of what the doctor stated on the paper that was what you were going to take.

He never gave me wrong advice, Sir. The other person who fell into that vein and followed closely in his footsteps in terms of his educational pursuits, professional disposition, professional choices and his willingness to share, advise and educate is the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Sir. I wish him from here through you, Sir, as successful a career in politics as his predecessor had. The one thing I was glad for is that we often honour the persons who make a difference in our lives after the fact. Often, we honour them when they are gone.

We have ceremonies for them when it pretty much means nothing to them. I am glad that we had the chance in some small way to recognize the contribution that Mr. Edghill made to his constituency by the renaming of the Gall Hill Park. I was present, Sir, and heard stirring speeches from Eyre Sealy who was synonymous with the Pride of Gall Hill football team. He was goalkeeper extraordinaire representing Barbados. Persons spoke about

the contribution that Joe made to their lives and positive influenced he had in many young persons' lives who might but for the influence of Mr. Edghill might had taken a different path. He guided generations of young people to honest pursuits through sports, constructive recreational activities and to recognizing the potential you had within you to maximizing that potential.

At one time, the Pride of Gall Hill football team was the foremost team in Barbados. We recognize the Member for Christ Church West Central and we call him fondly, "Medic". He effectively did what his predecessor did. He got actively involved in football and teams by providing medical services, recuperative services and getting hand son with the young people that he then chose to represent. Let us not underestimate the importance of the development of the Pride of Gall Hill football team. It became known as the Bayer Pride of Gall Hill football team because I think it was sponsored by Bayer. I remembered my mother who loved Joe Edghill insisted, "No Bop in here. Baygon." Baygon was from Bayer and that was Edghill.

Sir, it is these little things when we look at what we as Members of Parliament can do. You may help someone find a job; that is one person you help. You may give someone a voucher; you help one person. If you develop a culture of success, aspiration and excellence, then you do not help one person. You do not even just help the 11 people who play or wear the uniform at any one time on the field, but you help an entire community to pull itself up and believe that it is the best at something. It is the only sporting team there is in Barbados that actually has the word "pride" in its name and it was that. It was the pride of Gall Hill.

When Gall Hill's team went to the stadium to play in a finals match, you could have run a cat through Gall Hill and it would not see anyone. The entire Gall Hill community was out to support their team. When Gall Hill was playing in a domestic competition, it seemed like the entire Gall Hill community was out to support their team on the playing fields across the island. This is what it was. It instilled in the people in Gall Hill. It instilled in that community a sense of pride that we are the best in Barbados at something. It instilled that pride in the members of the team; youngsters who often came from challenging circumstances that got a chance to be the best at something.

You walked down the street and people knew your name not for something bad, but for something good. When Eyre Sealy spoke about Joe Edghill and the difference he made in his life, Eyre Sealy would tell anyone what Joe Edghill meant to him. Do you understand he was not a Member of Parliament alone, he was not simply a politician, he was a father to a community, he

raised a lot of those youngsters from Gall Hill and, Sir, I feel good to know that this was not a case of a legacy being left to fall but this is actually a case, Sir, where the seeds were planted on fertile ground and the tree is bearing now fresh fruit.

Sir, we come and we give tributes to people and we give tributes because the persons where worthy Barbadians, the persons made their mark and you can go an google whosoever the person is and get some facts about them and we can speak because we acknowledge that they deserve to be spoken about, but, Sir, this is difficult for me because for as long as I could remember myself, Mr. Joseph Edghill was a part of my life and if I did not call him Mr. Edghill I would probably call him Uncle Joe because, you know people say, I call them uncle, he was that person and I would call him uncle. I just want to say to his family, I know that politics is not easy on a family member who has dedicated their life, not just to their own family, but to other families and individuals that you have to split your time with that person, not in half but almost all of their time goes into their constituency and helping other people, who you do not necessarily know, but you have to have faith that the persons they are helping need that help as much as you need them to be home. It was not easy with him being in that pharmacy every day and him going to tend to his constituents at night, but I think, in this case, that was a worthy sacrifice that was well made, that made a difference to so many people that now you think back on it that time away from his family was time well spent. It does not help to ease the reality of it, but as you walk in Christ Church and as you walk down the main road through Oistins and you see what is now Joe's Pharmacy know that for many, passing there was almost like passing the centre isle in a church, you had to acknowledge that it was there and you had to acknowledge that was the home of something very good and something meaningful.

On the behalf of my family, my mum, Velma Abrahams, my father, James Abrahams and my sister Erma, and on my own behalf, I want to acknowledge the sterling contribution of someone who was an icon, he was in himself and institution and he was a hero to many young persons who had the chance to meet him and had the chance to be influenced by him, so from my family to yours, and on the behalf of the wider Barbados Labour Party (B.L.P.) and my constituency of Christ Church East, many of whom knew him just as I did, I want to thank you for lending him to us. I want to thank you for understanding that he had, in addition to his own family, he had another calling that was no less important although it was at many times painful to deal with. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, "Medic", only because that is how you are known through the Pride of Gall Hill, I challenge him, the current representative through you, Sir, to be half the man that Mr. Joseph Edghill

was in his constituency and if he only reaches half, then his political future is indeed secure.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

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

Dr. the Hon. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for recognising me as well as both myself and my good friend, the Honourable Member for St. James South/central/North got up. I think today may be considered a little bit of a Christ Church thing. First let me apologise because I do not think you could get through a speech like this without calling some people's names and as you would appreciate even the presenter would have called names and the Honourable Member who spoke before me so eloquently would have called names. It is very difficult to get through a speech like this without calling some names, but I promise there will not be in any pejorative manner at all.

Let me first start by saying Mr. Joseph Edghill, to me, was more than a Member of Parliament, more than a colleague, which he was, more than a patient, which he was. Mr. Joseph Edghill to me was one of my greatest friends in Parliament of Barbados, if not my greatest friend. Indeed, as I was showing his widow earlier, one of my prize possessions that I have is visiting Mr. Joseph Edghill's home and his widow actually took this picture of Joseph and myself together and whenever I look through my pictures, I look at that picture very, very fondly.

Let me first give you a little background. When I entered the House of Assembly in 2003, you know when you go in for your first day, they have a little name in front of you to say where you would sit down and I tend to be an early person, and Mr. Joseph Edghill was there and when I got in I was on the Back Bench and Mr. Joseph Edghill was the Deputy Speaker so he was in the first chair. The second chair would have been the current Honourable Member for St. Michael West so the name was there. Mr. Joseph Edghill said no, and he switched the names and put my name and the current Honourable Member for St. Michael West might even recall this. Mr. Joseph Edghill switched the names to put me to sit next to him and the current Honourable Member for St. Michael West would then sit next to me so I was sandwiched between the two of them so when the current Honourable Member for St. Michael West came in, he made it very clear and, in fact, he was a little upset because he said he had worked too hard and too long to be third in line and I do not know if the Honourable Member for St. Michael West remembers this and he said very clearly, "I worked too hard and too long to be third in line" and Mr. Joseph Edghill said to him, "This is a Christ Church thing and you cannot get in between the guys from

Christ Church" and that was the end of it and I sat down there for the whole time that I was sitting in Parliament. It was a good thing and I will tell you why it was a good thing, because Mr. Joseph Edghill and the Honourable Member for St. Michael West both mentored a young Member of Parliament and they helped me not only to understand the rules and because he was the Deputy Speaker, he obviously knew the rules well and how to engage in Parliament and he helped me to understand the rules of Parliament and he also helped me to understand the workings of Parliament and the workings of Government and I am truly indebted to Mr. Joseph Edghill for the mentorship and the stewardship and the leadership that he provided to me in my early years as a Member of Parliament. The Honourable Member on the Other Side to my right, he also assisted that but he assisted more in the intricacies and the nuances of Government and also the importance of religion and so I had both Sides in Parliament. In a way I am sad about this current COVID-19 situation because the younger Honourable Members having to sit six feet apart you cannot really share those conversations and those deep understandings like we used to do in those early days that I was in Parliament, but it was instructive, it was interesting and it was fun.

Mr. Speaker, I was also very proud when his son Jomo chose the same profession that I am in. In fact, I think I had influence in suggesting that that is the profession he went into. I believe he went to the Dominican Republic where he studied dentistry and I believe he still lives there today. Jomo like Joseph "Joe" Edghill is very tall. He is six foot four I think or something like that, very imposing and exceedingly intelligent, because he came and observed me in the practice from time to time, very much like his father and very much a people's person. Joseph "Joe" Edghill was the epitome of a people's person. I remember when he would have introduced me to his twin Ted and who actually lived in my constituency and we developed a very strong bond and a very strong relationship that continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, we did not only share in a parish but you would recall that in 2003 prior to the election the Sergeants Village community was in fact part of Christ Church West Central so we in fact shared a boundary and Joseph "Joe" Edghill and myself walked that constituency in advance of the 2003 campaign and I remember Joseph "Joe" Edghill saying you got to go and see the Catos because that is a big family out there and you got to go and see the Prescods, come with me, and we would go around Saturday after Saturday after Saturday and he would introduce me to families. In fact, he introduced me to the current representative for Christ Church West Central who have also become not only my patient but my very, very close friend as well. Mr. Speaker, I only have fond memories and good memories of Joseph "Joe" Edghill. I remember that we put on football competitions at the

Sargeants Village Community Centre and field and we have continued that tradition with the current Honourable Member. We have not put on football but we certainly put on some cricket competitions in Sargeants Village.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the people of Sargeants Village appreciated, respected honoured and loved Joseph “Joe” Edghill. You could not meet Joseph “Joe” Edghill and not feel that bond, feel that commitment that he had for his people and feel that respect that they had for him and that he had for them. Joseph “Joe” Edghill strove every day to give of his best to the people of that constituency not only in Sargeants Village but in Gall Hill and in Silver Hill.

Mr. Speaker, we also then ventured to see the late Mr. Duncan Carter, he was not late then. Joseph “Joe” Edghill and I went to Duncan Carter’s house, we met with him and spoke to the family. This was right after Duncan Carter had demitted office. We had a very special bond and up to this day the people of Sargeants Village and the people of that constituency speak very, very fondly of Joseph “Joe” Edghill.

I remember another very interesting story. One day in Parliament I was discussing with Joseph “Joe” Edghill who was going to be running against him and I told him I heard my friend Maurice King son, I would not say the name that we used to call him at school but the St. James... would know that very well, and I say: “Man, Joe this guy is very intellectual and erudite, he is gine give you a rough time” and Joe very calmly said: “William, let me tell you something very simple, I beat the father and I could easily beat the son”. That was the epitome of Joseph “Joe” Edghill, very calm, very collected and very precise. Joseph “Joe” Edghill understood and knew what he had to do and when he had to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I have, as I said, fond memories Joseph “Joe” Edghill. Joseph “Joe” Edghill was very much my friend, very much my colleague, very much my patient and very much a person I looked up to a person, I respected and my mentor and I am deeply remorseful that he has passed and happy, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said, that we were able to honour him before he passed. I think this is an important thing. I think too many times we wait until somebody has passed before they can appreciate an honour that a Government has bestowed upon them like the simple naming of a community centre, the naming of a park or a road, these kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, talking about the naming of a road I remember as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East was talking about the pharmacy the late Sir Harold St. John. Many times we were sitting in a tree discussing and Sir Harold looked at Joseph “Joe” Edghill and said: “Man, Joe but how you manage, for the amount of drugs that you gih way you gih way three pharmacies to the people of Gall

Hill and Silver Hill” and Joseph “Joe” Edghill laughed and said they are not only the people of Gall Hill and Silver Hill, they are my people, and that is Joseph “Joe” Edghill.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I am so happy to have been able to give this short tribute to a man that was a colossus in Christ Church. I thank you.

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

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too would just wish to make a very brief intervention. Obviously as I listened to my colleagues it provokes memories of not just a man but a man who has become a good friend, but provokes memories of a man who has himself become a memory. I say, Sir, if you could forgive me for being tempted to stray down the anecdotal path as some of my colleagues have done, I listened to the Leader of Government Business when she commended Joseph “Joe” Edghill on his life of service and it is a point that must not be taken lightly. Many people would not be able to comprehend the degree of fear that a 12-year-old boy felt one day when his parents were actually overseas for about three or four days. The grandmother in whose care, custody and control that little 12-year-old boy was left took sick. That 12-year-old boy had two brothers, one age nine and one age six. The nine-year-old also took sick. Now, I confess Sir, that that 12-year-old boy was me. I remember it, Sir, almost as though it was yesterday because my grandfather though possessed of a car had left home early and wherever he was, those days we had no cell phones, he was unreachable so grand-gran sit and my little brother is equally unwell, and I think it may have been a bout of food poisoning or something like that, anyhow I know he has a roasting fever, et cetera and as I said, Sir, nobody can easily comprehend the amount of fear you feel when there is no immediate adult to go to, and I said to my grandmother, well, gran-gran what should I do and she says look into the phonebook for Edghill’s Pharmacy and speak to Joe Edghill so I did so said so done and I said Mr. Edghill, because at that time he was as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said Mr. Edghill to me, this is Kerrie Symmonds here, and he said: “Oh, Dru’s boy” I said: “Yes, Sir, I have a problem” and he said “Well tell me what it is”... and I explained to him the circumstances. He said, “Oh dear! Oh dear!” As he was saying “oh dear” my heart was getting heavier and heavier in my chest, Sir. Then he asked, “Can you get to me?” I said, “I can do so but I have no money or anything like that.” He said, “Do not worry about that. Come.” I got on my bicycle. We were living at Gibbons in Christ Church at the time -- my father still lives there -- so that is probably about two miles down the road. I rode down to Oistins, went into the pharmacy and he sat me down on a little stool next to the cash register. He said, “Now go through the things with me again. Let me understand how your brother is feeling. What

are the symptoms?" I explained to him, and he said, "Okay, this is what you will do," and he gave me the necessary medication and the same thing for my grandmother. He asked, "Will you be able to manage them when you are going back up the road?" I said, "yes, Sir," and I was gone.

Sir, that gesture! I think it was the first time I had ever interfaced in my life with a politician and he was not yet a Member of Parliament but he was a person of stature in the community. I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has put it very well. Joe Edghill, though he represented Christ Church West Central, really was a representative for all of Christ Church. Even before he had been the elected representative, he was the person to whom you would go if you had a problem in the Christ Church community. Growing up in Christ Church, we all came to understand that. The fact of the matter is, Sir, that in that very personal way, when he then went into public life, there was no doubt in my mind that this would have had to be the sort of person whom you should support. I remember then, as I remember now, how it was without batting an eyelid. I mean it was as natural as day following night that he said, "Come. Let me see how I can help you. Go along," and not a word was ever said thereafter other than perhaps to inquire about how the family was doing.

Sir, I feel that this personal and perhaps a lot less titillating anecdote than that of my friend, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East -- that personal reflection -- has also helped to shape not only my understanding of Joe Edghill but my understanding of what representation of people really has to be about. Subsequently, I started to frequent in my adolescent years and also in my adult years that pharmacy on my own volition, and it was an opportunity to sit down and chat and learn about society. Many people in this Chamber can attest -- the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is one of them that you went by Edghill Pharmacy if you were passing through Oistins and Joe would tell you, "Come, let us talk," and you would go in the back where he is dispensing. People would come and do their business there, and he would pause the conversation and deal with them and talk to them about the problems and so on. In every single instance that I can remember, Joe Edghill was the source of information, the source of guidance, the source of support. People would go to him. I think it is very true to say they would go to him just to ask his opinion about what they should do about problems which they had.

Many times I would have sat there in that inner room where he dispensed his medication and Joe would be talking and an hour would pass, an hour-and-a-half would pass, and Joe would just be holding forth but sharing information, sharing knowledge and sharing his perspective on the parish of Christ Church and of things of a social and economic nature in Christ Church. It could have been about, for example, housing. He was a passionate believer

in the improvement of the quality of housing and some of the things which the National Housing Corporation should have done and perhaps ought to do still. I am sure that the Honourable Minister knows well that Joe felt very strongly about housing. The first time I have ever heard the argument advanced that we have to rethink the way in which we allow people in Barbados to go through what he called "the torture", Joe Edghill was the person who first described it to me as the torture of applying for housing units because of the fact that you could have so many people lost in the system; simply because Government does not have the ability to offer the housing solution to everybody who applies. We experienced this problem in my constituency at Lancaster only a few weeks ago, where you turn soil and within a week you invite applications for what is 200 houses, and the reality is you have in excess of 12 000 applications for 200 housing solutions. That is a reality, and Joe made that point to me early, even before I went into public life myself, that this was a problem which we had to grapple with for successive administrations.

Sir, he made the point as well that it was not just a party thing. It is a national thing, because you can find people who have been waiting on a National Housing Corporation solution for 15, 20 or 25 years, and I came to experience that in my own constituency where I met a lady who had been waiting on a NHC solution for 27 years, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is a reality. He shined light on that from his own perspective. He shined light, I remember well and, as I said, I really felt privileged to be able to sit down and talk with this man who would make time for young people and share his views and experiences socially but also in terms of public policy. When we talk about Pride of Gall Hill, it is a fact that it was near and dear to him, as was Oistins and the development of Oistins and the Oistins Fish Festival and all of the enterprises in Oistins.

Mr. Speaker, Sir that Bay Garden project which you see there is as much the heart of Joseph Edghill as it is Bernard St. John's or anybody else's. Sir, he would have worked with those people night and day in order to make sure that their circumstances were improved, and it was his greatest joy to see people who came out of that as young and small entrepreneurs growing and developing. It was the same thing with the football, Sir. For Joe, this business of politics was about developing people. As I said, Sir, it is a sad thing because you are provoking memories of a man who has become a memory himself, but I think he has left with us a lasting impression of how the business of public life is best done.

I feel a sense of gratitude that I have been able to live in the time when Joe Edghill was alive. I feel a sense of gratitude that I entered the parliamentary group where there was not only Joe Edghill but there was also Bernard St. John in 2001. When I would have gone into the Senate they would have been a part of the parliamentary group in

2003, when the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and myself entered Parliament together. I think Sir Harold Bernard St. John would have left the parliamentary group by that time, but it really was an opportunity for one to learn and to experience this business from the perspective of people who really gave their all to the development of opportunities for the people whom they served.

To his widow, Angela, I know that it cannot be easy. I have, on not one but two occasions, come to understand how hard it is on a wife when you are a husband in politics so I know that your journey could not have been the easiest and I think that we are all indebted to you for that which you have sacrificed in terms of family life and time and those other things because your husband had fulfilled this passion. Equally to Ted and Charles, I know that he relied on you all as towers as support. I know Ted better than I know Charles but I do know that you all have been towers of support to him, and I want to extend my personal sympathy to you, and especially now a lot of time has passed, but I do feel that we as a society are much the richer for having Joe Edghill with us and certainly we as a Parliament are much richer for having had him sit as one of the Members of the Parliament, one of legislators in this House of Assembly. I am obliged to you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker and other distinguished Members of the Honourable House of Assembly and a good morning to you all. I shall in a short way seek to honour the life and contribution of one of the most handsome, tall, important men in Barbados and in the political arena as well. Joseph Edghill, a grandfather, a friend, and a confidant gave distinguished service for over 15 years, but indeed I believe that his service to community and the society surpassed that 14-year stint because he would have been a man of the people and for the people on the ground before that, making sure that he offered service to the people of Barbados. We would have heard that as a distinguished pharmacist people came from all over the country to go to Joe's pharmacy in Oistins to be able to receive not only medication but proper guidance and service. I think that speaks volumes of the man.

I know that his overall vision was for the employment of his constituents where he never became callous minded, bias or victimised anyone because of their political persuasion, colour, class or anything. He was just that kind affable guy who would listen and who would seek to get solutions to the challenges that may have been placed before him or if he had heard of them to want to follow through. He remained humbled and I think this is most significant, because a lot of people are of the opinion that

politicians are rambunctious and they do not hear anybody and they are out of touch. Joseph Edghill remained humble, connected, accessible, and rooted in the principles of service and I am sure that many of us are emulating that example that he set because we know politics is about people, by the people, for the people and for me, Joseph Edghill exemplified that kind of relationship and indeed offered that kind of service.

Mr. Speaker, his representation to Christ Church West Central was part excellence, because he was the perfect grassroots man who came from among ordinary people and was for the people and he exemplified that in every sphere of his life.

We all know that politics can be very challenging and we can get some tall kicks Mr. Speaker, especially when people sometimes do not know anything about us, but they just look and make their own assessment. However, Joseph Edghill, a wonderful man and an ordinary man, performed extra ordinary feats in Christ Church West Central with the kind of representation he offered to his people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I know of him ensuring that when that project, I believe it is Briar Hall, I do not always remember the names of these areas, but when those spots were being sold by the Government, he made sure that his people were included in reaching that position of receiving the majority of the spots and I agree. If spots are being made available in a constituency, I believe that the Member of Parliament despite whichever persuasion that Member of Parliament is, we are equal in that respect, should be able to get at least 60 to 70 per cent of the house spots. I know of the morning when he and the late Honourable Professor Owen Arthur were in the in courtyard at Parliament, and he became so upset, he did not have all of the facts, but he so wanted for his people to receive housing, because I believe that they should have been the first beneficiaries as well and that matter was settled. It blessed my heart the manner in which he spoke for his people to be given the opportunity to have a piece of the rock right here in Barbados and indeed in Christ Church West Central.

The other thing I admired about Mr. Edghill was his love for nurturing young people. He too played a particularly keen interest in our males that many people shunt aside because young boys are not always settled as girls and therefore people just shunt them aside and say you are rude and disrespectful. However, I saw Mr. Edghill nurtured the youth, not only of his constituency, because how constituencies are laid out as we all know there are borders, so he would have been bordering other people's constituencies, but he did not make any distinction or difference among them. He made sure that those young men followed what we continue to push acknowledging that Barbados now has a high percentage of persons living

with non-communicable diseases and so on, I believe that his vision was similar to that of the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness now looking at how we can eat differently, making sure that we get the adequate exercise and so he nurtured those youth whom he would have seen in another 5 to 15 years going down the line that they would have fallen through the cracks. For me, the image that would have been developed through Mr. Edghill's guidance and nurturing lifted many of those young males in that constituency and the adjoining ones to a level where they became Barbados football members to be able to show the pride and joy that they would have received and the kind of gravitation towards higher goals as they were intimately involved in the exercise. Hence, his investment was to pass on the good standards of living, discipline, service, care and of course healthy living and healthy bodies that would lead to longevity. For me, that sealed off most of what the late Honourable Member would have extended to us.

In 1994, I would have been a civil servant so I remain very quiet and peaceful, adhering to the general orders of the country, but I stayed on the side lines at meetings and I listened. I admired him and the late Duncan Carter and of course Sir Henry and all of the other who were some of the valiant men in the constituency of Christ Church who made sure that they devoted time, energy and service to the people of those constituencies. Joe was also an integral part of it. I heard the Honourable Member for St. James Central just spoke about the centre in Christ Church, I called it the Aberdeen Centre and I remembered how he fought tooth and nails at our parliamentary meetings to make it happen, because he too had a special interest in small business and how people living in the environs of that centre would have become empowered as well. Hats off to him and all others who would have worked acidulously to make sure that Mr. Edghill's dream for people in his constituency and the adjoining constituencies get a piece of the State of whatever would have been happening in Barbados.

As a pharmacist, I learnt of a lot of stories. I live too far to go up to Oistins to get medication but indeed I was impressed with everybody who had gone up to Joe's pharmacy in Oistins. They spoke highly of the service and his capacity to listen as people raised their concerns and Joe would always provide a remedy to be able to fix whatever that situation would have been.

Mr. Speaker, I want say as I come to close that I really and truly admired the personality and the contribution of the late Comrade, Joseph Edghill and what he has done to change the whole social and economic landscape of Barbados.

I believe that as we reflect on his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Barbados,

we will all remember with fondness and also keep in direct contact with his family who would have suffered as most politicians' families will suffer or have suffered because people try to ill-treat them and do all kind of strange things. I pray that we will continue to work closely with the family as we let them understand how we have cared, loved and respected him. It was no small matter when the current Honourable Member for the constituency was able to open up the park in memory of that late Joseph Edghill.

Thank God he was still alive and was present. I was there, so I know. I so loved him that I followed him all over and I was so proud to see that that has been named in his memory. However, I believe that as time goes by, we will have to as a people and country honour the contribution of the late Joseph Edghill in a different way, so that it goes into the annals of history that this ordinary working class man who has been committed and dedicated. He was a community worker. It was par excellence in respect of him. I hope that we will continue to remember. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to extend to his wonderful wife Angela, his children, his brothers, the remainder of the offspring and indeed the people of Christ Church West Central, our deepest condolences at this time.

We all know that his contribution will be etched in the annals of history but as time goes by, we will all pull together not only as a society but as a labour party to start documenting further contributions of the outstanding Barbadians who have been able to make and change the entire atmosphere and the environs of this small island, and help to empower people to the extent that today we can all say that his labours were not in vain. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you very much, your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: Opposition.....

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May I begin this brief tribute by offering courtesies on behalf of the residents and constituents of St. Michael West, and myself to the late Joe Edghill, his wife and other relatives present with us and those not privileged to be with us today. There are those in political organisations who are perceived not to have loomed large in the organization, that is, as large as others seem to do but whose role in contributing to the well-being and development of those organisations and the service that those organisations rendered to community and country is invaluable. I think that could honestly be said of Joe Edghill.

Perception would not be held that he was one of the brightest stars in the firmament of the BLP or perhaps even in Barbados politics because of the measurement or the measure that people usually apply. When one applies the

measurement of genuineness and a wholehearted sacrificial attempt to serve your community and country, then the true value of service is found and realized. I think that can truly be said with reference to Joe Edghill. I want to begin by saying that. I did not have need to call on Joe for any medical assistance in any emergency as the Honourable Member for St. James Central did. Neither was I a beneficiary as the Honourable Members for St. James Central and my friend, the Honourable for St. Michael East were.

I was never a beneficiary of his abundant generosity with respect to the provision of performance enhancing supplements. However, I applaud him for his willingness to come to the aid of those who were in dire need and able to adequately meet what was required for their particular circumstance. It is the behaviour of a true colleague. I salute him for coming to the aid of his colleagues and friends. I sat with him in my first parliamentary term from 1999. I sat next to Joe Edghill in the Parliament of Barbados.

There is one thing that I can say that he gave me during that first term. Notwithstanding the fact that all of us are involved in the practice of politics and notwithstanding the general perception held of politicians out there in the wider society much of which is unfounded, we would have if we are to be honest admit of some measure of truth to the view that politicians are in it for themselves. Even though you come to this Parliament with the desire to serve, you may be possessed of that view to some degree as I was at 1999. I sat with Joe Edghill in the first term and what he gave me was the confidence that not all politicians are in it for themselves because clearly from how he conducted himself, the level of quality representation that he gave and the focus of his speeches when he did speak, there was a clear indication that he was about the people of Christ Church West Central.

Yes, it was true that after the 1999 to 2003 term and I walked into Parliament at its start, I saw the name plates set out and I saw next to Joe Edghill, William Duguid. My name plate had been removed from its accustomed place and put lower. I was taken back a bit by that because I was led to believe that in Parliament there is some measure of rank or seniority observed. Here was this "whitish guy" who I came to learn had some money and I really presumed that he had placed that plate in that position. I challenged it but, of course, not being one of the persons within the party who was as highly regarded as some others I had to take my place and give away to the new arrangement.

I came to soon learn though as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has unwittingly admitted today that it was the intention of Joe Edghill that we should place this rather Greenhorn upstart coming out of Christ Church between us so that somehow he may benefit from

that which we had acquired by dint of experience and that which we had developed in terms of character building in the context of politics over time. We worked on him and he is turned out for much the better. I have to admit that even with respect to spiritual matters, I think he has actually gone on to study theology. I do not know why he is still sitting in this place. This being as it may, that was the situation and we really had some good times. Joe Edghill, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and myself would talk a lot.

Mr. Edghill spoke more in asides on the Back Bench than he did from his feet standing in the House of Assembly. We talked a lot and I learnt a lot from Mr. Edghill in terms of politics, the politics of Christ Church, the politics of the Barbados Labour Party (B.L.P.) and the politics of Barbados. I learnt a lot from the former Honourable Member for Christ Church West and mostly about business and money because that was his focus in the early stages when he sat with us. I will not tell you one or two of the specific things that I learnt from the former Honourable Member for Christ Church West about money, but hopefully as I go on, I would be able to say one or two things that I learnt from Mr. Edghill about politics and representation.

Mr. Joseph Edghill paid me a compliment is perhaps the biggest compliment I have ever been paid by any colleague Parliamentarian or perhaps in my public life and I have not ever really repeated that in public. I have said to one or two people that he paid me a compliment which I would never forget. I do not think it turned out that he was prophetic, at least not yet, but it was a compliment that encouraged me because fool not thyself, in politics one needs a lot of encouragement no matter where one sits. You can sit as a member of the governing party with 29 seats but you still need encouragement to get up and face the day, encouragement to get up and face a situation, encouragement to get up and be the type of representative first of all for the people, that the people have elected you to be and you need encouragement to stay the course and be focused on the business at hand which is firstly about representing people's interests, secondly, about the development of your party in the interests of helping people and I would not repeat the specifics of that compliment, but I have never forgotten that.

Mr. Speaker, now Mr. Joseph Edghill, you may know, was not a frequent speaker, as I said, on his feet in the halls of the House of Assembly. He was certainly on a flamboyant speaker. As a matter of fact, my senses and if I am wrong the Honourable Member for Christ Church West can correct me, he dreaded having to stand in the House of Assembly and speak especially on occasions when the debates were carried live via the media, for example, in times of Budgetary Proposals and times like that. He was not the type of person that hankered for that. If he could

have gotten away from it he would have and I remember him distinctly offering every time the Budget Proposals Debate came around and he had to speak, offering to speak at 9:00 o'clock in the morning or at 9:15 in the morning when perhaps you had not many people listening. Of course, on the basis on the need to observe discipline of the Parliament the Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly at the time would say, and Mr. Joseph Atherley, you have to speak after Mr. Joseph Edghill because I cannot count on the others to be early. Let there be a lesson learnt from that. That perhaps still continues to be a problem. He was not a frequent speaker nor was he a flamboyant speaker. Mr. Speaker, his was not the language that was flowery, his was not the tongue of a St. James Central Member of Parliament and others in here who have a clear skill, talent and gift for speaking, but it is not so much about the loudness of the speech. In my view, it is not so much about the length of the speech nor even is it as much about the language that you use as it is about the heart which speaks and the values that heart exposes and the interests that it espouses, the causes it supports and if that is the measure then Mr. Joseph Edghill did a marvellous job when speaking on the Floor of the House of Assembly representing the people of Christ Church West Central.

When I challenged, Mr. Branford Taitt Senior, a former Honourable Member of this House of Assembly in 1999 General Elections, one of the themes I repeatedly used, since Mr. Taitt had been a representative for about a quarter of a century in Democratic Labour Party (DLP) stronghold and a senior member of the Administration over those years, one of the themes I repeatedly used, Mr. Speaker, was, "point me to the monuments that stand in record to those years of service in this constituency. What are those monuments, those memorials that you have established?" In my inexperience, Mr. Speaker, I was looking for physical structures, I was looking for those infrastructural development, those capital projects in St. Michael West that represented a reflection that the then representative, Mr. Taitt, had given good service to the people of St. Michael West and just challenging him on that basis and there was hardly any to which he could point and I remember him saying then and I thought it was an admission of failure, the monuments and memorials are in the hearts of the people and in my own heart. I dismissed that as a cop-out or an excuse, but I have come learn since then that it is good that you can have these capital development projects, these infrastructural projects, but in fact, there is a lot more that you can do for people which not necessarily reflect itself in visible, tangible infrastructural objects and the like, but you can serve people valiantly from the heart and do things change the lot and the plight of people in significant and meaningful ways and I think that is the way that Mr. Joseph Edghill sought to serve, not that he did not seek to get anything done on the ground in terms of facilities and capital projects just

like anybody else, but the part that I am underscoring here is that perhaps there is an alternative measure and there is a greater value to be attached to a measure which tries to weigh what you have done in the interest of people by the degree of change that you have made in the experience and the existence of people. Mr. Edghill's legacy, perhaps, is not best to be found in any capital or physical or infrastructural projects, not in the tangibles of community monuments infrastructure wise, but perhaps in his efforts to build a sense of community and that has already been testified of here today. To build a sense of community in a constituency that had develop in some of its more prominent centres a reputation which was more negative than it was positive. You have to build a community such that Gall Hill, Silver Hill and these kinds of places do not attract a sustained reputation of being a place where people want to escape from, do not want to visit, do not want to live, no good thing could come out of Nazareth and I think the effort to change the community, to build a sense of positive image around the community is extremely important. It was already referred to and I got learn of this in talking to Mr. Joseph Edghill himself and in hearing from other people, is unpublicised and sacrificial kindnesses which made a material difference in the lives of people, perhaps, to the detriment of self and perhaps to the detriment of family. There are those who sit here, I am sure, and who know similarly and already it has been alluded to that when you seek to serve people in the political context in the circumstance that constitutes our context here in Barbados, you cannot just do it outside of yourself, relying on that which the system provides for you to use to help people. No! You have to make the sacrifice and often pull your own pockets. You have to find time which is not there because there are only 24 hours on the clock and when you are called at 2 o'clock in the morning and you are sick with the flu on your bed of fever and there is an emergency in the constituency and people's homes are threatened by flood and water damage and people lives are threatened, it is a serious situation and the call comes at 2 o'clock in the morning, then you have got to go. When that lady comes through those doors of the pharmacy and she needs this medication desperately and she does not have the money, what do you do? It is not business as usual. Hey, you have what she needs. Hey, you heart embraces her. Hey, your hands have driven and moved to help her even at the expense of self and when that is done and replicated many times in the context of Christ Church West Central as it was, as I understand, through Mr. Joseph Edghill, then you are talking about the kind of legacy that really makes a difference to the lives of people and I understand that to be the kind of representation that Mr. Joseph Edghill gave.

We underestimate in Barbados the value of sports and I still think that some of us underestimate the value of culture and what that could mean to not only our development but what that could mean to the whole

business of what it is to be Barbados, the whole idea of Barbados, and Joseph “Joe” Edghill as was said by the Leader of the House gave much of his energy and attention to sports and the development of sports groups like the Pride of Gall Hill Football Club and cultural involvement in activities that would lend the kind of sense of wholesome development to people who stood in need. I remember clearly one young man who is known nationally in paying tribute to Joseph “Joe” Edghill, I think it was when the Centre recently was opened, talked about the fact that it was Joseph “Joe” Edghill that helped to make him and others like him men. That is testimony to the type of service that makes meaningful difference in the lives of people. The therapeutic value to societies beset by negatives and ills cannot be underestimated and if a Member of Parliament finds that this is one of his principal medium for ensuring that that level and quality of development takes place in the lives of individuals and gives himself to that, embraces it personally, then it is something to be saluted and I salute Joseph “Joe” Edghill for that.

Mr. Speaker, you have come to realise by now, this is your first term, that this parliamentary allocation which they give monthly to help you to represent constituents with their needs is a joke, and may I take this moment, no matter who is offended, to ask kindly that that be by this Government properly reconsidered because it is a joke. It is gone before it comes and it puts people like Joseph “Joe” Edghill in a position in which he found himself, not that he was unwilling, because the system does not provide the help you need to give to constituents. You have to fall back on your own resources and then we hear mouths across this land talking about the amount of money that politicians are given, that is foolishness, and because we use it as a tool to divide us one from another the situation will continue to remain. I appreciate the applause but say something to the powers that be because it is a joke especially in these passing years, more than a decade of bad economic performance, coming on the heels of COVID-19 with a shutdown totally of the tourism sector. It is rough out there and this allocation that parliamentarians receive to help constituents is a joke. It goes nowhere. It can be gone in one fell-swoop.

Asides.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: If that is not your experience in St. James..., you serve the wealthy up there I suppose, that is my experience in West and that is the experience in the east. I live in the east and I see people at my colleagues' doors and I hear stories of the early knocks in the morning and you cannot say to people ‘guh way, I ain't got nutten’. The system does not provide you with it adequately but you have to find it. Not all of us here have friends in high places that we can pick up the telephone and call and ask them to come through for us.

You understand that, Mr. Speaker. We need to pull our own pocket. You have to do that and the Honourable Member for St. Michael East has to do that and I have to do that and when I am not in a position to do it I have to call my colleague from St. Michael East and say ‘Trev, trouble. The system needs to better provide in terms of the allocation, it is insufficient. Genuine representatives would pull their own pockets and they do and I would dare to say that if that has not been the case with you, you either have a good few friends in high places carrying high dollars to whom you have easy access or you are not a genuine representative of the people but Joseph “Joe” Edghill was.

I will share, as I come to a close, an illustration which I thought twice about sharing but I will share it nevertheless because I am seeking to be positive in the use of it. Some might tend to suggest it reflects that Joseph “Joe” Edghill was possessed of a quick temper and maybe he was and that is always such a bad thing perhaps. I have a reputation of being a bit too cool. Some people have a reputation of being totally uncool and Joseph “Joe” Edghill might be perceived by reference to this illustration and by some who know him perhaps as being a bit quick-tempered and ill-tempered sometimes but in a good cause. I remember words, which I would not say myself, used of by Joseph “Joe” Edghill with reference to the former late Prime Minister and head of the Barbados Labour Party. I remember not only hearing of those words used, I remember witnessing it myself, directly to the face of the former late Prime Minister by the Joseph “Joe” Edghill himself calling a spade a spade and trying to put him in his place, that is Joseph “Joe” Edghill putting the Prime Minister in his place, that does not happen now, you fellows are quiet.

Asides.

Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: “Not wunna”. Not a fellow dare. If I am wrong correct me when you stand up to speak Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Not a fellow dare but Joseph “Joe” Edghill would. I do not remember the specifics of the project but I know it was an ongoing matter in Christ Church for a long time. Joseph “Joe” Edghill had been promised housing and the former late Prime Minister was promising and dilly-dallying and not coming through and not performing so to speak and Joseph “Joe” Edghill was mighty upset and he expressed it and you could see it all over his face and you could hear in his voice even in more exaggerated terms than I have witnessed this Honourable Member Honourable Member for Christ Church East speak with reference to the same former Honourable Prime Minister in Cabinet meetings letting him know: “Listen man, this is the way it is”. Joseph “Joe” Edghill did that but the rest of you...

Mr. Speaker, what I want to illustrate is this. I saw this with my own eyes because I was present, nobody told

me about this and I think the Honourable Member for St. Michael East was present and the then Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central was present and it was after Parliament ended and we were in the Parliament yard a night and I saw Joseph “Joe” Edghill ready to literally go to blows on a former Honourable Member where it not for the presence of this honourable gentleman to my left and the former honourable gentleman for St. Michael West. Joseph “Joe” Edghill that night would have put some blows on that other Member of Parliament who I would not identify by name or description. You could corroborate or otherwise. I saw that, and I mean it literally, and Joseph “Joe” Edghill was going to put some blows on the man in the Parliament yard and we had to get between and stop and I could only imagine the front pages of the newspapers. I had to try to help to stop Joseph “Joe” Edghill because I could see the newspapers now, the party in trouble, the Parliament in trouble, vagabonds you all are. I could see it here but we got the fires quenched that night but Joseph “Joe” Edghill was still steaming. You know why? Because this honourable former Member was playing the fool with the interest of the people of Christ Church West Central and Joseph “Joe” Edghill was tired talking about and not having any more of it, it was now time for blows. I will not exaggerate, that other Honourable Member is here. Honourable Members could think that is a reflection of an ill-temper, but no I saw that that night as a passionate concern for the interest of the people in Christ Church West Central and the desire to move any obstacle out of the way of seeing those people’s interest served and their needs met.

Mr. Speaker, representation for far too many politicians is about how my own circumstances. For far too few it is about the change in the circumstances of others, and I think with reference to Joe Edghill it was primarily about the positive change in the circumstances of others. I salute him for his service.

Asides.

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

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce my perspective on Joe as a follow-on to what the Honourable Member who just sat, the Leader of the Opposition, said. I was a bit reluctant to really go this far because, based on convention, it is not the normal thing to do to sometimes speak the truth about the deceased. Everybody wants to say he was the greatest man, he had great relationships within the institution; but if I had to construct a figurative epitaph of Joe I would make sure that the narrative is much wider and certainly not that kind of mundane, almost repetitive, approach to describing persons when they are deceased. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said during her presentation that Joe was a

working class man. She said he was committed. She said how loyal he was to the institution. The institution was not as loyal to Joe as Joe was to the institution, and it is always a very hard, harsh thing to say but it is the truth and I believe that Joe, wherever he is at present among the ancestors, would be expecting people to speak the truth about who he is and who he was, and I want to be able to do that without indicting anybody for any major wrongdoing, but truthfully I cannot speak about him unless I try to keep within the parameters of truth.

Sir, Joe Edghill appeared very much, as indicated by many speakers, to be a very passive and a very conservative individual, especially in the House of Assembly. I do not believe that he did not speak because he could not. The measurement in this country of an intelligent man is when he goes to Harrison College, and a Harrison College man cannot be seen as a man without ability, but I think that Joe recognised that he was never part of the inner core of the parliamentary team. He was never. He was never even given the opportunity to serve for a moment.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Probably it is a Joe thing. He was never given the opportunity for one moment to serve in a ministerial capacity. Joe Edghill, I think, served as Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Sanitation Service Authority and he had a short period at the National Sports Council. He served as Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly on occasions, and most of the time he did not occupy the Chair. I believe that these opportunities to serve in the mainstream was a mirror more so of how they felt at the specific time about Joe Edghill, so Joe was actually marginalised. What you saw in the Christ Church West Central area was Joe in constant conflict on the Aberdeen Jones Centre. Joe was passionate and fully enthused about the construction of this Aberdeen Jones Centre, and he kept talking to me and Minister Hamilton Lashley at the time about this centre, but at the end of the day he did not get one job from a centre constructed in his constituency. He did not get one job in the centre, and he was upset.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: I saw that. He fought hard. He fought hard for the reconstruction of the resource centre in Gall Hill, and I went on a tour with him when I became Minister. It had no water, it had no electricity. I went and I dug up the mould underneath the basement and I saw the water line and I got a fellow from the community to reconnect the water line and run water back into the centre, because I had no time for long drawn-out, bureaucratic practices while the young people in the community could not use the centre. Probably that is a weakness or a level of ignorance in me, but I felt that Joe had to see somebody

responding to him across that area. I can also tell you. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke about conflict. Joe did not speak that much in Parliament on issues, because I felt that he respected the Speaker, he recognised where he was and he would sit quietly, but as soon as Joe found himself outside the halls of Parliament he would express himself, not demonstrating that he was any academic at all, but the passion which he had, it was akin to physical confrontation.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: It was also flowery language, of course.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Colourful language. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition talked about two cases but I can tell you that I was present in the Yard one evening and he felt so angry about the manner in which he was treated that he opened the back door of his car, backed his jacket, threw it onto the back seat and walked across to the western side of Parliament.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: He went to “grabble” the tie of the Member of Parliament. He asked, “You think you dealing with ... an ‘F’ word? I am not sweet. You cannot unfair me. I beat a man at the airport and I will beat you too.”

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: The individual took off the jacket and, small as I am, I refereed the entire battle and I was able to get both of them to settle down. Joe was breathing heavily out there, but I tried to stop it because we were close to the rails on the southern side of Parliament and I felt that we did not want the public to see that. That is another case in addition to what you said, but it shows you what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas described as commitment to an institution. I asked myself why these things must happen on all occasions to a special social type of person who, after the communities recognise the positive aspects of their attributes and believe that these people are best fit to represent their interests in Parliament. Then when you get to Parliament, you are sandwiched by a ‘cabral’. Sorry, I hope I mispronounced the word. I do not think it was parliamentary. However, that special chosen group who never thought that Joe was ministerial material kept Joe on the periphery, totally marginalised him from activities. Trust me, this is not something that you would like to talk about, but why should we have records in history that there is a misrepresentation of a man who I believed was a great and super intelligent individual,

because after Parliamentary sessions and you sat down and talked to Joe, apart from his commitment, if you hear how Joe would explain in detail how he thought a project should go, how it should be structured, especially talking about the Pride of Gall Hill. Joe up to the eleventh hour of his life enjoyed talking about the Pride of Gall Hill and what he wanted to do for the entire community.

However, although he was at the National Sport Council he could not get many things done because other people did not see him as meaningful enough to the institution. If the chances of victory before the poles were marginal, then he would have been important if he could tie off the seat for the party, but as long as the party felt comfortable everybody ignored Joe. Hence, Joe found himself on many occasions very close to me as a friend, must have felt that in some case I was fully aware of what was happening to him and I want to say a little more about that, hence Joe kept close to me and Minister Lashley. He was not a man who was in search of friends or inclusion. He never had the kind of autonomy as a Parliamentary Representative within his own constituency. Everybody knew what the constituency that he represented ought to have or what it should not have. Joe could not function in the way he wanted to, but he was carrying all of the blame, so at the eleventh hour of his political career, even before he got slower and I am assuming he was ill, many things he put on the agenda for the general development of the people. His first interest was not because he was a great pharmacist, his interest was improving the quality of life in that community. He was thinking about how can I develop an infrastructure that would allow me to etch my name in the history of that constituency, that when I leave Parliament people would have a reflection of change in the community itself and he was not able to do that. That is probably what others wanted to say but everybody window dressing the whole thing. You cannot go to his constituency of a man with that kind of intellect and commitment and a man who a willing to work hard. The records that most people spoke about was his personal contributions, not contributions because he was so institutionalised that the institution delivered. The contribution was Joe’s personal contributions to human development, so you go to Joe if you are sick. He drew on his pharmacy, the responses of a pharmacy out of his pocket. Nobody went into the area and construct things and then gave Joe Edghill the credit for constructing or getting things done, because even when something was built in the area, and you can go back and check them, the employees came from different area altogether.

It is that kind of intrigue that was damaging to him. Hence, when you saw Joe in Parliament not speaking, he was unable to restrain himself, because he had at any time stood on his feet to speak the truth he would have ended up with everybody in Parliament, probably with the exception of the Opposition becoming his enemy, so Joe walked out.

I saw it on more than one occasion. Anybody else in here that are talking and say they have never seen it telling lies, straight talk. I saw it on more than one occasion where Joe stepped down the stairs and the late Prime Minister Professor Owen Arthur, Representative for St. Philip South then, Representative of St. Michael. I saw Joe on more than one occasion said look you see me I cannot get through to you in Parliament, come out here. Probably it is an unorthodox way of doing things, but that is the way how conditions forced him to be. I believe that that experience which he had should be a lesson especially to the working class Parliamentarians. Study it well. I saw one in here, he is not deceased, but I saw him being pulled down for and ackee tree for \$11 000. I wish had no money out of it. I am saying the Joe's life for those who speak the truth should be a lesson that if we are to build an institution of harmony and respect for each other, then no man or woman should be treated as unequal in this environment at any time and we need to resolve it. I think that is Joe's contribution. It is like George Floyd where the World understood the behaviour of the Police Force wherever it occur as a result of what happened to George Floyd, and as long as you tell the Parliament and the World at large the role that Joe played and explain do not let him leave this earth being seen as a man ineffective and incapable of speaking, never execute a programme, unfortunately never given Ministerial status. In other words, if Joe went to Oxford the institution was not prepared to acknowledge that he had to pass some exams but he should be able to read and write and he should be able to do some level of analysis.

He might not do it because of how they treated him but he knew, he critiqued and understood and he understood very well. I would like to see if we are to redeem ourselves some interest should be paid to the grave of the Joseph Edghill. If we have learnt anything from the experience of him in Parliament, some interest should be paid to what we do at the gravesite with an arrangement between Parliament and the family and I would love to see a headstone on the grave even if it is finance pooled by individual Parliamentarians on Joe's grave. It is an honour that we can do and at least once in a while a visit and I will urge the Parliamentary Representative to make sure that every year on the date of Joe's burial that you visit his grave and pay respect to the contribution of a great man who wanted to do more but was not given the opportunity to do as much as he wished. People brought his political career to a halt even before he died.

Those are the realities that we have to face. Stop with this caroling poetic pictures that we are painting when we know that we did not behave in the way that we ought to have behaved towards the man at the specific time. I saw him cry and I do not want to talk about that story. I saw him cry because he wanted things done and could not get them done. When he returned to the constituency, he had to face the pressures. I was at the gas station in Graeme Hall

and heard young men blaming him for doing things that I knew that he wanted to do but just could not get it done. If you can extract the morality of the man's life experience and use that morality as a maxim for guidance on how we can improve an institution and not to leave the institution as we found it.

In this same Parliament and outside in Barbados, men steal big money. The whole of the society is trying to argue that it is a gift. People talking about bribery, treachery and extortion. They say, "Politicians take gifts." What gift? You want to take money for something in return that is far more valuable than the so-called gift. I do not know what gift that is. You want to protect that level in the society but then, you have a man who wants to do something great, and begging for an opportunity to do something great and the people gave him an opportunity to do something great. You then come here and if you are not part of the inner circle, everybody treats you like a Pariah. When you speak like this, they hate you. However, whoever hates me I am sorry because I am going to be me until I die. I think that is what Joe was. Joe understood what his purpose was. He felt that people would not allow him to do what he wanted to do and, therefore, you got the kind of reaction. He was not born with these special antagonistic qualities but if you live in an environment that is hostile towards you and do not believe that you are worthy of being seen as a positive entity in the society, then you have to react to suit the demons that are around you. For me, Joe Edghill was one of the most humane to serve in Parliament for 14 years and was able to sustain himself.

It took a while before the popularity in the community began to wane but he kept that momentum going because of his personal contribution not only in the House of Assembly, but to the people of Christ Church West Central. Sir, I find myself having to talk like this very often, so I understand why Joe behaved like that very often. Treat people as human beings. You do not have treat somebody that do not treat you good, well. However, treat people good that treat you good. Simple. You do not have to read 10 text books. This is one line.

Treat people good that treat you good. Personally, I believe that if that man did not have to endure all that he did, probably today he might be very much alive. It was pressure for the 14 years and then, judged by people who did know what the dynamics on the inside were. For me, this man tried to contribute to everything that a parliamentarian could. Do not believe that his politics divorced him from concerns about health because Joe was concerned. He would sit at the lunch table or in the Members Room and talk about diabetes, hypertension and all the forms of diseases that affected his own people. I do not talk about other people business. People talk about their business and I have no problem with them talking about their business.

He talked about our business and Joe would tell he that he does not know why so many black people in Barbados suffer with diabetes. He would tell me what I should and should not eat. The Honourable Member for Christ Church would tell you that we have had good classes behind the counter on how we can improve our health and whether we should take Vitamin C, Vitamin E or Vitamin D. We had those conversations with Joe. The Honourable Member who now replaces Joe, he also has been shaped by that model but he is not as effective and efficient or even efficacious as Joe in this regard. Joe was serious.

He was concerned about if there were excessive mosquitoes in Christ Church, what type of mosquitoes they were and what is happening around him. He talked about all these things like anybody else. He talked about sports and although he was how he was, he loved sports. Rightfully said, the Pride of Gall Hill football team was his baby. I was there when the current Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central had the service at the opening of the park and I heard Eyre Sealy, a remarkable Barbadian footballer. He spoke about Joe with passion. He actually had tears when he was talking about Joe. Unfortunately, Joe could not even understand. Joe was there. He clapped when others did.

I sat beside him and he could not understand. Do you know how pathetic it is to know a man that you sat side by side in the House of Assembly and now you happen to now see this man probably at the last official ceremony he would be attending at Gall Hill? I still feel that we should do more for Joe. I believe that we do not do enough. I have heard people come into this House of Assembly and talk about this person's father or mother, but I know the level of the contributions by certain people when certain people die that they feel should be immortal. They have individuals that talk about certain people that they believe are special human beings and should be immortal. When you hear them talking about it, you would feel that they have cursed God and that God should not have caused that person to die.

It is not the same speeches when the talk about Minister King or Mr. Prescod who some believe he should have died long time. Sir, I do not like to involve you but you are a Rastafarian. Some do not even go to the funeral home to sign the book but you just bury Joe. You could go and get money from the Welfare Department if necessary and bury Mr. Edghill because nobody feels that Mr. Edghill deserves anything and we must at least set a new trend. All I am saying to this institution over and over again, we are not here to leave things as it was when we took over the Government. We have to have a new humanism. There is a necessity to have a new humanism and whenever external social facts try to push us off track we must have principles that we must hold on to because we are only 29 or 30 in here but there are all kinds of forces in this country that

want to make a government believe that they are the natural selection from the divine and they must tell you what to do and they must say who must be respected and honoured. It is what is happening in this country. We have to stand firm so that when this Government comes to an end in the next General Elections that you have a record that you can go back on, not to tell me you patched roads because the civil servants could do that without you, but principles and setting a new model. I said to you all already, I think that is what hurt Mr. Edghill because how could you sandwich him? I told you nothing made Barbadians prouder than having to face the battle for independence in 1966 that is on the record etched deep in history and cannot be erased. When Mr. Grantley Adams (now Right Excellent) did what he had to do, etched in history in 1951, it cannot be erased. Mr. Edghill's life as we reflect because it means nothing if we wait X amount of months and allow it to begin to pay tribute and then when we pay tribute all that we do is to sing a hymn manmade by the Party that he was a great man. He was greater than that great because he was an example to all of us. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talking about par excellence.

He was all of that and I want these things to have meaning, words have meaning. You do not speak words because you are speaking meaningless poetry. Words must carry meaning and I want all of you to respect him and show it, not put on a dress or a pair of new shoes and a suit and go up to the funeral and some did not go. We can do it now and when we come out of this we make a commitment that when people serve as long as he did, because you may not want to do it to a person who served two days, but you cannot tell me that a man served 14 years, elected by the people to serve a specific institution and that institution cannot recognise his worth. It is not right. It is not right. We have to do something different.

Sir, if what I said falls on deaf ears it is not my fault. I am telling you how I feel about it and I am telling you I feel that way because I am a grassroots man and I strongly believe that I have faced victimisation more than once so nobody cannot victimise me now. I understand it, I do not expect any favours but I saw him cry. I saw him trying to beat Prime Ministers, beat Ministers, everything, all that he wanted was them for understand him. He was equally as important in this House of Assembly as they were. They won a seat he won one. That is what the lesson is you know, 'you won a seat I won one'. I do not want to know if I am handsome or if I have locks. That is nothing to my credit. If my mouth big or anything like that I do not hold anything of those things. I know it already, I have a mirror. Mr. Edghill did not want to know that even if there is a way in which we can connect with the spirits he does not even want to hear that. Joe wants to know that all of us recognise his contribution, that which he wanted to do and that which he was not allowed to do and those concepts and the commitment that he gave to the people of Christ Church

West Central and I want to say I deeply regret that this man could not live to eternity. He was that important to me because almost every lunch time, the Leader of the Opposition and to some extent my friend, the Honourable Minister of Energy, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, we would journey up to Christ Church to pay him a casual visit from time to time and we know the importance of his contribution to our personal development and our personal longevity as much as we know the contributions he has made as an individual to the body politics of Barbados and to the development of this institution.

Sir, I thank you and I hope with those brief comments you are quite satisfied with what I have said.

(A rousing round of applause)

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

Hon. Ms. C. S. V. HUSBANDS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I rise on this occasion to share a few thoughts about the man Mr. Joseph Edghill. I grew up in Christ Church West Central and Mr. Joseph Edghill lived in my constituency of St. James South. The life of politics is a life of service and Mr. Edghill's life breathed an example of service at every turn. When I was a child, he was well-known. You always heard about Edghill's Pharmacy, you always heard people speaking about the man 'Joe Edghill' and what he meant to the people who lived around the environs. As has been shared by my colleagues, Mr. Edghill was a man who was very genial, affable, I always admired his tall and elegant bearing, but he was a man that was consumed with what was best for people and it is the quality of that type of politician that needs to be held up in this country. For too long, Mr. Speaker, politicians have been vilified. The moment you become a politician you are told that you are automatically a liar and a thief. Citizens hustle pass wonderful examples of political life in the lives of people like Mr. Edghill and rush off to the sensational and they seek to paint us all with the same brush. This is unfortunate because if there is one thing young people of this nation must be able to do is to look to the leaders who stand in front of them, whether there are Members of Parliament, Ministers of Government, teachers, whatever position they hold they must be able to see people of sincerity, people of ability, people of compassion, people of principle, and Mr. Joseph Edghill was all of that. As I listen to the personal stories of my colleagues sharing their personal experiences with the man Joseph "Joe" Edghill I said to myself that these stories should be captured and distributed. Our children in our schools should constantly have before them these wonderful examples of people who serve, who think about community first, people who give of themselves at every turn.

Politicians, we all know it well, are not universally loved. There are people who loved us and then there are people just simply because you are a Barbados Labour Party member or simply because you are a politician you got to be a bad person. They are not interesting in anything else. They do not want to know who you are. What Joseph "Joe" Edghill was able to do was to show to the people of Christ Church West Central who he was, his heart and his mind and they bonded with him because he bonded first with them and showed it at every single turn.

Mr. Speaker, I heard one of my colleagues shared something that I too wish to echo and it is this. It is important that we have mentoring, that you have people like Joseph "Joe" Edghill willing to take under their wing new politicians helping them to understand what is the cost of a life in politics. We need people like Joseph "Joe" Edghill who demonstrated what it means to serve people, to get on the road and knock on those doors, to respond when the telephone rings, to get up and go and do whatever you can with the little that you have to see what you can do to alleviate the suffering, to alleviate the care and the concerns of people because believe me as you and I know, Mr. Speaker, it is not easy.

Mr. Speaker, I remember my first introduction into politics was in St. Michael North East, I was a constituent in St. Michael North East, and as I started looking at the possibility of being involved in politics I took the opportunity to try to observe what it really was about so I sought to educate my eyes to see and when I watched and I looked at what it meant I said you have to really love people and love your country to want to serve under these conditions. It was something else. When I saw things that disturbed me I would ask and say but why, what is this all about, how could you let this go on, you need to stop it and I was told there are some things you cannot stop that there are just some things you have to bear and there are just some things you have to tolerate. There is just some abuse that seems to be a normal part of what it is to be a politician and Joseph "Joe" Edghill knew what that was about but he bore it, he stuck with the people and he stayed in the interest of the country because that was the quality of the man that he was.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the country becomes titillated by those who stumble and they become engrossed with those who step out of line and they get caught up in their fear, and that is how I see it, that if every one of them is like that we are in real trouble. That fear causes them to just want to disgrace you, pull you down and misunderstand you. Mr. Speaker, it is necessary that if we are always going to be able to attract genuine people to politics, people like Joseph "Joe" Edghill, it is necessary that we raise the standard and that we raise the image of politicians and not take the easy cheap shots that we often take in an effort to win an election without regard for the

truth because in Barbados people have come to regard us as political demons and political Santa Clauses all in one and we are treated from out of that lens, but if we look at Joseph “Joe” Edghill live we can see that he was no political demon but rather a shepherd, a pastor, a career, a community man. When we look at Joseph “Joe” Edghill we do not see a political Santa Claus. He was not able to pull everything out of a hat but whatever little he had he gave so he felt the spirit of generosity and compassion and concern even if the resources could not meet every single request that was put to him. This would have had an effect on his business, this would have had an effect on his family and it would have had an effect on his health and so today we honour him for his willingness to put all on the line to make a difference in people’s lives.

I feel honoured that Joseph “Joe” Edghill lived in my constituency because St. James South seems to be the nesting place for many politicians. We have so many who live in St. James South from the late Right Honourable Owen Arthur, former Prime Minister, Mr. Joseph “Joe” Edghill, Mr. George Payne, Mr. Leroy Sisnett and Ms. Maxine McClean, you name them and then there were served by a pantheon of champions. We are talking about people like the late Mr. Lionel Craig, we are talking about Ms. Elizabeth, “Liz” Thompson and Mr. Keith Simmons, people who understood what a life of service and what a life of sacrifice is about, that it is not about self, it is not about ego, it is not about position and it is not about grabbing at riches.

As I walk this road for me people like Joseph “Joe” Edghill are the people I watch, that I seek to learn from. Having the honour to serve St. James South I want to be able to bring to them what Joseph “Joe” Edghill brought to Christ Church West Central, that people feel cared for, their lives changed and empowered, their opportunities widened, their environment well-managed and that they come to live in that constituency and are able to experience the prospects of living a wonderful and prosperous life because they have a good Government and they have a good representative.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph “Joe” Edghill could not have achieved what he did without his family and so this occasion is also an occasion for honouring his wife. Families are often forgotten people in the background, who are giving up, who are scarifying, and who are doing without, who have to put second and third their needs because the constituents needs have to come first. They are the ones that perhaps when they first joined themselves to us did not anticipate that a time would come when they would find themselves in a political arena but they follow us, they support us and they give up their dream of what their family life was to be about to allow us to pursue this life of service and so the sacrifices that Joseph “Joe” Edghill made every day were the sacrifices that his wife

made and his family made as he walked this road. They supported him. They loved and cared for him. They stuck with him through thick and thin, and so we honour his wife and his family today for the sacrifice and service which they gave. We want to thank you for the gift of Joe. We want to thank you for your patience and care of him, that he left this life fulfilled knowing that he was able to serve a people, to make a difference in their lives. As much as he wanted to do more, he still did a lot with a little, and they will continue to bless him and bless the memory of his name for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

Asides.

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

Hon. A. R. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me acknowledge the family, and may I say my extended family, the family of the late Joseph “Joe” Edghill, for being here with us as we pay tribute and homage to one whom I call a great man. Secondly, I want to say ditto to every single thing that was said previously by every single speaker as it relates to Joe Edghill and how he would have contributed to the political and social landscape of this country. While constructing my speech last night, I happened to revisit a quote that Joe gave me when he first met me while canvassing the constituency. It is one by the great American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and I quote:

“You can never do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

When I asked Joe what he meant by that, he said, “There is no appropriate time to do a kindness. There is no right time to do a kindness. A kindness can be done any time.” I want to say today that this kindness which we are paying to Joe has come at the appropriate time. It has come at a time when I know Joe himself would want to tell the young men in the constituency of Christ Church West Central who, for the wrong reasons, are doing the wrong things at the wrong time. I know Joe would, even if he is there in the spirit world, would like to tell these young men, “It is now the right time to do the right thing.” That is the mantra of the man Joe Edghill. Recognising that the young people are basically the future of the country and recognising, of course, that the young people are the active players in the development of any country, Joe’s emphasis on development of young people went beyond these august Chambers. They went beyond the pharmacy as we know it, Joe’s Pharmacy. It was in the arteries of the constituency of Christ Church West Central. It was in the houses at which he knocked. It was on the streets which he walked. It was on the block that he traversed.

Joe was able to leave an imprint across the constituency like no representative of his time. It was not only what I heard the Member of Parliament for Christ Church East allude to. It was not only Christ Church West Central that benefited from this level of altruism and activism. It was the entire parish of Christ Church. You heard the Member of Parliament for Christ Church West speak about it. The Member of Parliament for Christ Church East at the time, His Honour Reginald Farley, also at times speak about the contribution and the amount of support he got through Joe Edghill. Joe Edghill could have walked in any sphere of Christ Church and solicit votes on the behalf of the Barbados Labour Party candidate. That was the ability, the respect and the tribute paid to the man in every single household.

Joe Edghill: He was the quintessence of selflessness, simply put, and I happened to have been associated with him just after I left school. He told me, "Young man, you are doing Advanced Level chemistry, biology and physics, and there is a need in Barbados for pharmacists. I want you to go and do the pharmacy course." I said, "I will look at it and see," because at that time as a young and impressionable man, I was not set in my mind as to what area I would have pursued. Taking his advice, however, I went and joined the pharmacy course. A couple years after I graduated, he said, "Young man, I want you to come and get involved in politics because you will carry on the baton when I leave politics." So said, so done. The man was a clairvoyant of sorts, because here it is now that I represent the same constituency that he would have represented for 14 or so years with the highest quality of representation.

Sir, whether it was football that he believed in, Joe did not only see football as a sport involving the youngsters in Gall -- the talented youngsters, I must say -- who lived in the epicentre of Christ Church. That was Joe's word. He believed that Christ Church West Central was the epicentre. It was the beacon of Christ Church, and oftentimes you would hear him say this. I want to pay homage along with the collective voices of those people in Sargeant's Village, in Maxwell, in Warners, in Vauxhall, in Gall Hill and Silver Hill, Kendal Hill, Church Village, Montrose. If I have missed out any, please forgive me because Joe believed that every single part of that biosphere called Christ Church West Central belonged to him, and he would do everything in his power to ensure that he responded to their needs. A simple man with a simple message with a simple determination; and that was to improve the lives of the ordinary folk and move them from one stage to the next.

Sir, he saw sports not only for the limelight and the profitability but he saw sports as a social development tool. Oftentimes we get young men who are impressionable and they have a lot of excess energy. We know what happens if they are misdirected. Joe said, "Let us form a football team

that can bring and gel the community together, and glue it in such a way that it is able to represent the entire Christ Church," and that was what Bayer Pride of Gall Hill did. When you heard about football being played at the National Stadium, not only did Christ Church West Central and the people who associated themselves with Gall Hill ventured to the matches. The entire Christ Church came out in support of their Pride of Gall Hill. Joe was so in tune with the whole notion of a Bayer Pride of Gall Hill -- it was sponsored by Bayer at the time -- that while doing some work at the pharmacy, because I worked for Joe as a young pharmacist, I remember one day going into one of the cupboards and what I saw was that almost every single drug was from Bayer Pharmaceutical. That was the connection he had to Bayer. He had all the drugs from Bayer Pharmaceutical: Canesten, Aleve and all the others. He believed that he was so connected to the whole notion of a Gall that one time the colour of Gall Hill was red. Joe understood the vibrancy of a colour, not only politically, because I would not have to speak limpidly about his association and his desire at all times to represent the Barbados Labour Party. He was an unequivocal soldier and a foot soldier of the Barbados Labour Party without a doubt or question. That was the man Joe Edghill was. However, using sports as a social developmental tool is not myopic by any stretch of the imagination. It is only because you hear about the mechanics and the science involved in sports and the level that he has played on the international sphere, but at the level of communities, and the Member of Parliament for St. Michael East can help me in this regard, whereas if you understand as a social practitioner the dynamics and the importance of sports in terms of changing people lives. I remember it was just before we had a final, where Gall Hill had the finals against Wales and Joe gave a speech. I must say today that Joe became the President of the Gall Hill Football team in 1995 until death, never once challenged, because of the uninhibited respect we had in Gall Hill amongst the players. Joe gave a speech, and all Joe said to the players back then and I think Seon Brathwaite and the Sealy brothers Eyre and Terry. You heard Eyre Sealy elucidate about the quality of man, the human being known as Joe Edghill when I opened and I had an epiphany to open that part one night for Joe Edghill. It came to me in a dream. It was like the bajan dream or the Christ Church West Central dream and I moved with alacrity with the help of course of the Member of Parliament of St. Michael East at the time to have that part ready for the opening. When Eyre Sealy spoke about Joe with tears his eyes, those tears were the collective tears of every single person in Christ Church West Central when he spoke about his ability to be transformed after meeting Joe Edghill. The fact that Joe Edghill took care of him in a way that represented a father taking care of his own child, not a bastardised one and the name father and uncle often times associated itself with Joe. When Joe addressed those young footballers, he said, I want to tell you one thing before you go on the field and I want this to stay with you for the rest

of your lives, Gall Hill is a team, not only a team of 11 or 12 players and you may get some subs so it will be 16 players, the Member of Parliament for St. James Central played a little football so he knows better than me. However, in respect of the number he said, they may be 16 players here but you have a team of about 20 000 people in Christ Church West Central alone and about 60 000 if you are to look at the whole geographical space of Christ Church. The most important thing here is the acronym team, Joe said, team means for him and it should mean for every single player -- together everyone achieves more. That is what team means for Joseph Edghill and he imparted that acronym to the entire team. I know I do not have to tell you that Gall Hill won. However, in those days Gall Hill won most of the games anyhow and most of the championships. That was the manner of the man Joe Edghill was. He understood social dynamics, the philosophical line in the sand as it relates to doing the right thing and being the right representative and imparting the right advice on those youngsters at the right time. As I said before, there is no right time to do the right thing. That is the bottom line and that is what epitomises Joe's ability to transform the lives of the people of Christ Church West Central.

Hence, on the heels of two gunshot incidents yesterday, if I am in earshot of those youngsters, I will want to repeat what Joe told me as a young man coming up and I am sure he would have told a lot of youngsters while he was the representative. There is a wrong time to do the wrong thing and that time is now. This is not the time to take up the weapons of destruction. That is what he would tell them. Instead, take up the tools of empowerment. If you are good at football, get involve in the sport, the sport of discipline. It is called the sport of discipline because that is what it teaches you, discipline, hard work, selflessness, togetherness, they build to the care for one another. These are the things. Then he was having a conversation about conflict resolution. These are the alternatives. Hence, I am saying let us pay tribute, a homage on behalf of Joe by doing the right things. I am speaking to all of those young men out there who are taking up guns as I speak to resolve issues, mundane issues that must I say that is not the Joseph Edghill way. I am sure today he is rolling in his grave based on what he is seeing in the constituency as I speak. These are the same young men that he would have associated with their fathers. I am sure that the glimpse of Cedric Nichols and as I said before Seon, Roger "Ya Ya" Callender and all of those young men could speak lucidly of the contribution Joe made to their lives and how he would have made that paradigm so that they could be put on the right path. That is the respect Joe Edghill had.

I must say that after I graduated, I spent some time at the Maxwell Pharmacy where Joe had a sapphire office and I must tell you it goes back to what he told me in that quote, you can never do a kindness too soon. I spent a long

time at the pharmacy and I know the Member of Parliament for St. Michael East talked about lies, but I would not revert to the book of John 8 versus 45, because the devil is a liar, but this is the unrestricted truth when I say that every single day I gave away most of Joe Edghill's pharmacy. I gave away the entire pharmacy to all of the people in Christ Church. Note I said it was in Maxwell area, I am not talking about Christ Church West Central. I sat down as a pharmacist and I gave away his entire pharmacy, because every single time some person come with a prescription and sometimes Joe would be at Parliament or wherever he was and I called or texted him and he would say, just give the person, you know they do not have any money, we are here to serve and there is a social aspect to pharmacy, just give them. Many times I went home without a cent in my pocket, because I usually had to pay myself at the end of the day. Being honest with you, we made no money. I do not know another individual in eye or ear shot probably that would do the same thing. It is the truth, honestly. I gave away the entire pharmacy but that was the type of person Joe was. If you came to the pharmacy and you had no money for medication that would save your life or children's, Joe would never let you leave there unless he provided a remedy for your problem. He really redefined the whole notion of practicing pharmacy as far as I was concerned and as far as a lot of persons perceived. Often, you hear about pharmacists being about pill counters. They put pills in containers and they give them to patients. This was not Joe Edghill. When I worked with Joe in 1998, he told me, "Young boy, you will do all of the prescriptions and put out the medication. I will counsel the patient." Sometimes, I would have 10 prescriptions done and he would still be counselling the first patient. Joe really brought a new meaning to counselling patients when doing their prescriptions and giving them their medication. Joe would spend hours talking to the elderly and the young people. Minister Abrahams alluded to the fact that he provided certain prophylactics. I do not know. Joe would spend hours talking to one person so that he could make them understand the importance of doing the right thing when it came to taking their medication. This was the manner on man in Joe Edghill.

He insisted that before a person left the office that person would know everything about their medication, the "dos" and "dents", their family would have the knowledge of it and that he would have given them the comfort in taking the medication. Unless you can convince a person that the medication is going to work because medicine is 50 percent psychological, it may not which is the truth. This is a part of the biological make-up of the human body. They said he was involved in fishing. I think he was able to convince a fish to jump out of the water; honestly. This was the ability of the man, Joe Edghill, when it came to him prescribing medicine, being able to talk and comfort patients.

From a developmental perspective, I must say that Joe had a vision for the transformation of Christ Church West Central. You can look at the roads in Silver Hill, Briar Hall and its development. You would have heard earlier about the fight to get development for his people. Joe understood the social and domestic problems associated with persons clustered in a densely populated environment and how it could cause unease and disquiet. He understood it. He understood the peace of mind associated with having your own piece of the rock and being able to live a comfortable life in your home. Joe understood it. This is the genesis for the Briar Hall project which he fought for with every sinew of his being.

There was a development for commercial purposes in Kendal Hill and Joe went in a frontal way against the Prime Minister at the time so that he could have it for his people. The Member of Parliament for St. Michael East spoke about the physical altercations with other Members of Parliament. Joe was willing to do whatever it took. Some persons often refer to him as “Smoking Joe.” His opponents would know that too. When the fire is out and the smoke has disappeared, Joe remained standing and did so as the defender of the people of Christ Church West Central. I am happy to be given the baton and be given by Joe while he was alive, lucid and had the physical wherewithal to pass that philosophical baton to me.

I am saying if he can hear me today that I will try my best and do everything that is humanly possible to hold onto that baton, and maintain his philosophy of doing the right thing at the right time for the right people and that is the good people of Christ Church West Central. In closing, I want to say to you and the entire Barbados that the legacy, the footprint and the physiological appearance of Joe Edghill will never ever die in Christ Church West Central once I have breath in my body.

I want to say that the play-park is a small token. I see his picture smiling at the good people of Christ Church West Central. I want to say to you today that Joe’s legacy will live on not only for me but for the grateful people of Christ Church West Central. I want to end off by referring to the last two lines of one of Joe’s favourite songs sung by Frank Sinatra; My Way. It reads as follows:

“He faced it all in his political journey and Joe stood tall.”

He faced it all in his political life. He stood tall physiologically. He stood tall philosophically, figuratively but most of all he did it his way. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to fully endorse all of the tributes that have been paid to Joe Edghill and his family. I want to extend condolences on behalf of my family and the entire parliamentary family. I ask that the usual courtesies

be extended and that the Resolution be sent to the family. I wish that we all stand in one minute’s silence on behalf of Joe Edghill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business.

SUSPENSION

Hon Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m.

Hon. J. A. KING: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House do now suspend until 2.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (RECOMMITTED)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business.

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 to approve the lease of the two parcels of land the property of the Crown situate at The Pine in the parish of St. Michael in this island to TAB Building Limited for use as a car park.

I also give notice of a Resolution in accordance with Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, to approve the vesting of the Crown land situate at Lot A, Wildey in the parish of St. Michael in this island with the buildings thereon to the Caribbean Development Bank, a regional financial institution established by an agreement dated the 18th day of October, 1969, for use as its headquarters.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. in the morning.

???...: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

CONTENTS

PRESENT:

MINUTES

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 2.

PAPERS

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

1. Loan Contract No. 205/03 BA between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank (Global Credit Programme for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors in Employment.)

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY
SPEECHES

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....2

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, 6; Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, 8;
Hon. K. D. Symmonds, 9; Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, 11;
Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley, 12, 15; Mr. T. A.
Prescod, 16, 17; Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, 20; Hon.
A. R. Forde, 21.

RESUMPTION

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (RECOMMITTED)

Hon. Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW.....24

SUSPENSION.....24

ADJOURNMENT.....24

Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, 24.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ABRAHAMS, Hon. W. A.**ATHERLEY, Bishop the Hon. J. J. S.****BRADSHAW, Hon. Miss S. J. O.****DUGUID, Dr. the Hon. W. F.****FORDE, Hon. A. R.****FORDE, Hon. Miss C. Y.****HUSBANDS, Hon. Ms. C. S. V.****KING, Hon. J. A.****PRESCOD, Mr. T. A.****SYMMONDS, Hon. K. D.**

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

EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

Q1. Masthead and date. The convening sentence in the source gives the date as Monday, May 4, 2020, but the heading and file name give Tuesday, May 4, 2021, which is used. Please confirm.

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

Q3. Minutes. Mr. Speaker announces ‘The Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, March 29, 2021’; 29th March, 2021 was a Monday. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Obituary speeches, Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde. Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde says Mr. Edghill ‘gave distinguished service for over 15 years’, while the Leader of Government Business says he held the seat ‘for 14 straight years’ from 1994 until he retired in 2008. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Adjournment. The seconder of the motion to adjourn is not identified; the source reads ‘???...: I beg to second that, Sir.’ Please supply the name if known.

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, 4th May, 2021, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 29th March, 2021 were confirmed and those of 23rd April deferred. The Leader of Government Business, Hon. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, laid Loan Contract No. 205/03 BA between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank for the Global Credit Programme for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors in Employment.

The morning was given to tributes to the late Joseph ‘Joe’ Edghill, former Member for Christ Church West Central. Miss Bradshaw recalled that he would have been 75 on 22nd May, thanked his widow Angela and their children John, Nancy and Jeremo, and traced his career

from Knights Limited and Bookers Agency to his own Edghill Pharmacy in Oistins. She said he won the seat for the Barbados Labour Party in 1994 and held it for 14 years until he retired in 2008, saying his family had discouraged him from continuing, and she spoke of his work for playing fields and community centres in the constituency. She said further honours would be arranged with the family.

Hon. W. A. Abrahams, Member for Christ Church East, said Edghill was ‘Oistins itself’ and recalled childhood visits to the pharmacy. Dr. the Hon. W. F. Duguid, Member for Christ Church West, called him one of his greatest friends in Parliament, having sat next to him from 1999. Hon. K. D. Symmonds, Member for St. James Central, said he had been a representative for all of Christ Church, and Hon. Miss C. Y. Forde, Member for St. Thomas, praised him for never victimising anyone because of politics, colour or class.

The Leader of the Opposition, Bishop the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley, speaking for the constituents of St. Michael West, said Edghill was not perceived as one of the brightest stars of the party but that genuine and sacrificial service was the true measure, and he recalled Edghill confronting a former Prime Minister over promised housing. Mr. T. A. Prescod, Member for St. Michael East, said Edghill was never given a ministerial post and was not part of the inner core of Parliament, and recounted refereeing a scuffle involving him outside the Chamber. Hon. Ms. C. S. V. Husbands, Member for St. James South, and Hon. A. R. Forde, Member for Christ Church West Central, also paid tribute.

Mr. Speaker endorsed the tributes, asked that the usual courtesies be extended and the Resolution sent to the family, and the House stood for a minute’s silence. The House was then suspended until 2.45 p.m. on Miss Bradshaw’s motion, seconded by Hon. J. A. King.

On resumption Miss Bradshaw gave notice of two Resolutions under section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225: to approve the lease of two parcels of Crown land at The Pine, St. Michael to TAB Building Limited for a car park, and to approve the vesting of Crown land at Lot A, Wildey, St. Michael, with its buildings, in the Caribbean Development Bank for its headquarters. On her motion the House adjourned until Tuesday, 11th May, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.