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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Tuesday, 21st July, 1981

At 11.00 a.m., Tuesday, 21st July, 1981, the following Senators assembled in their Ante-Room in the Public Buildings:

Senator the Honourable Sir ARNOTT CATO, M.B., Ch.B., LL.D.; Senator the Honourable NIGEL ANSLEY BARROW, B.A., LL.B.; Senator the Honourable O'BRIEN TROTMAN; Senator HUTSON RANDOLPH LINTON; Senator JOHN CLEMENSFORD WILSDEN WICKHAM, M.B.E.; Senator COLIN IAN ESTWICK DEANE; Senator Mrs. ENID MAY LYNCH, G.C.M.; Senator CLYDE ATHELBERT GRIFFITH; Senator MAURICE CHARLES CARLISLE WARD; Senator JOHN ELLIS DAVID WILLIAMS; Senator Miss JUNE CLARKE; Senator Mrs. MILROY ORTENZA REECE; Senator St. CLAIR ETHELBERT HOWELL; Senator DAVID ANTHONY CATHCART SIMMONS; Senator KEITH AUGUSTUS ROUSE; Senator EDWARD EVELYN GREAVES; Senator WESLEY WINFIELD HALL; Senator ALFRED WENDELL AUDLEY McCLEAN; Senator CLARENCE DAVID SEALE; Senator the Reverend Canon IVOR MCKINLEY JONES and Senator Mrs. GWENDOLYN GERTRUDE READER, M.B.E.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Deputy Clerk read the following Proclamation:—

By His Excellency Sir Deighton Harcourt Lisle Ward, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of St. Andrew, Governor-General of Barbados.

D. H. L. WARD
Governor-General

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is provided by section 60(1) of the Constitution that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place and commence at such time as the Governor-General may appoint:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that a session of Parliament should be held at the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, commencing on Tuesday, 21st July, 1981:

NOW THEREFORE by virtue and in exercise of the power and authority in me vested I, Sir Deighton Harcourt Lisle Ward, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of St. Andrew, Governor-General of Barbados, DO HEREBY APPOINT the Public Buildings, Bridgetown, as the place at which a session of Parliament shall be held and 11 o'clock in the forenoon on Tuesday, 21st July, 1981, as the time at which the said session shall commence.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of Barbados this 9th day of July, 1981, and in the Thirtieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

The Deputy Clerk then read part of section 40(1) of the Constitution, as follows:

"When the Senate first meets after any dissolution of Parliament and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, it shall elect a Senator, not being a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, to be President of the Senate....."

The Deputy Clerk then invited nominations, in accordance with Standing Order No. 2, for a Senator to take the Chair of the Senate as President.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I propose Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY CLERK: Are there any further nominations for the office of President of this Hon. House? Since there are no other nominations, I declare Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato duly elected President of this Hon. House, and I now invite him to take the Chair at the Head of this House.

Senator the Hon. Sir ARNOTT CATO then took his seat at the Head of the Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW and SENATOR E. E. GREAVES spoke in congratulatory terms of the President.

Mr. PRESIDENT spoke in reply.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

The sitting was suspended until 11.30 a.m.

On Resumption:—

The members of the Senate, preceded by His Honour the President, took their places in the Senate Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor-General then delivered the Throne Speech as follows:

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

This new session of Parliament commenced earlier today, at 11 o'clock, and each of your Houses has carried out the requirements of electing its presiding officers. Having given formal approval to your election, the next traditional step for me to take is that of outlining to you my Government's programme for the session.

Parliament has been duly formed in accordance with the Constitution, and the Cabinet also has been duly appointed and has commenced to carry out its responsibilities. In accordance with the custom of the past few years, the current proceedings in this Chamber are being broadcast to the whole community and beyond, and, subject to your approval at the appropriate time, it is proposed that the broadcasting of proceedings of both of your Houses will become a regular feature.

It is also hoped, Mr. President and members of the Senate and Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, that when next you meet on an occasion such as this, your approval will have been given, and the proposal implemented, for an increase in the proportion of seats for representatives of the Opposition in this particular Chamber.

My Government proposes to improve the facilities of Parliament, and to make further provision for elected members to maintain constituency offices so as to facilitate the electors in keeping in touch with their representatives.

The Barbados economy managed to perform at a high level over the past three years despite general difficulties in the world economy. The economy consistently recorded growth rates which exceeded planned targets and the rate of inflation was kept within tolerable limits. However, it must be recognised that, in the short term, the performance of the economy will be affected adversely by the continuing difficulties in the world economy and by the exceptional rainfall which has adversely affected local agriculture and, in particular, the sugar industry. My Government anticipates that there will be a slow down in the rate of real growth in the economy, from 5% in 1980 to no more than 2% in the next two years or so. In the interest of ensuring the long-term resilience of the economy, my Government will find it necessary to institute measures to restrain consumption and to moderate wages increases over that period.

The fiscal policy pursued by my Government in the past is considered to have met with great success in the redistribution of income towards the poorest section of the population. In addition, my Government has achieved the generation of public sector savings to support the development of the productive capacity of the country and the social and physical infrastructure on which it rests. The pre-emption of balance of payments and inflationary pressures through the management of the public debt and the public sector deficits in a manner consistent with the short and long run absorptive capacity of the economy have received special attention. These policies will continue to guide the management of Government's finances. Foreign borrowing will be confined to making good temporary shortfalls in local agricultural or industrial earnings or for productive investments in the local economy.

My Government will further support these policies by the following income generation measures, amongst others:—

- income and corporation tax exemptions for the export of non-sugar agricultural commodities
- special incentives for high employment businesses such as computer services and regional distribution organisations
- a new tax regime for petroleum producing operations.

There is a firm commitment to the development of the small business sector, and for this purpose a Government Investment Trust will be set up with the responsibility to act as a source of equity capital for small business.

The Energy problem has been recognised as one of the principal challenges facing the country and my Government's deep

concern over this problem has been demonstrated by the appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary with special responsibility for the subject. The following wide ranging set of energy conservation and development activities will be embarked upon:

- (a) an expanded programme of petroleum and natural gas production;
- (b) implementation of a wind energy pilot project to determine the future distribution and size of wind turbines;
- (c) the use of solar energy for a wide range of purposes, including industrial and cooling, on the basis of expanded tax incentives and concessionary loans for such purposes;
- (d) exploration of the potential for wave energy generation, and the installation of a wave energy device, if deemed feasible;
- (e) exploration of the scope for the use of such sources as biomass and bagasse as energy feedstock; and
- (f) expansion of efforts already on stream to promote energy conservation through the medium of energy audits in industrial and tourist establishment and the provision of finance to subsidise the redesign of existing systems where feasible.

The overall aims of policy in the agricultural sector are to maintain and, where possible, increase agricultural export earnings from sugar and to develop exports of other agricultural commodities. Furthermore, my Government will aim to reduce agricultural imports wherever import substitution is technically and economically feasible and not unduly costly to the consumer, and where the overall effect on the balance of payments is favourable. Emphasis will be given to the following programmes:

- (i) To make Barbados as near self-sufficient in food production as is practicable, given the constraints of land size and climate;
- (ii) To make Barbados a net exporter of food, including sugar and products of the sea;
- (iii) To encourage the agricultural entrepreneur, the farmer and the agricultural worker to be fully equipped and technically skilled so as to maximise earnings and improve productivity;

- (iv) To ensure that marketing and pricing procedures are developed to enable all agricultural products to be sold to the local consumer at rates subsidized by exports without endangering the incomes of farmers.

The policy of bringing maximum land into sugar cultivation will be continued. Cultivation techniques will be improved and so will variety testing. Mechanical harvesting and loading will be encouraged.

The Agricultural Development Corporation will, among other things, encourage the growth of a much larger fruit industry than has hitherto existed.

The new plant for the Barbados Marketing Corporation will be established at Lower Estate where the Corporation will establish its own poultry processing plant.

My Government will continue to support dairy farming and will establish feed lots for sheep and cattle with a view to expanding mutton and beef production. A Fish Marketing and Distribution Agency will be promoted to guarantee fishermen a reasonable price for all fish delivered and to enhance consumer ability to purchase local fish all year round at reasonable cost.

A development project in the Scotland District will be implemented aimed at stemming soil erosion and promoting productive use of conserved land.

My Government will continue its effective policy of price controls on a selected number of essential food items and household requisites. Prices of other items will continue to be monitored to ensure that importers keep their margins at moderate levels. At the same time, legislation will be enacted to give some measure of protection to consumers.

My Government considers that the health and well-being of the citizens of the country are of paramount importance to their social and economic development, and it will therefore ensure that the planned phasing of the National Health Service will be implemented.

Five new Polyclinics will be commissioned within the next three years. Full-time Family Planning Clinics will be provided at each polyclinic and an extended programme of health education, appropriate to the family and community needs, will be provided to focus attention on the health hazards created by drug abuse, alcoholism and tobacco smoking.

In pursuance of my Government's policy on urban renewal, studies will be undertaken of the New Orleans/Cats Castle area as well as of the Nelson Street and Upper Bridgetown areas. Re-development of the Greenfields for housing and commercial purposes will be put into effect during the current Session as part of the wider Roebuck Street improvement. House resiting programmes as a consequence of major capital works projects will be intensified, especially in respect of the requirements for the Church Village development, the new St. Barnabas/Wilkey highway, the Speightstown By-pass and the developments at The Glebe in St. George.

The Plantation Tenancies Programme which was started earlier this year will be intensified so as to effect the transfer of titles to eligible tenants on the 300 plantation tenancies. A loan scheme will be introduced to provide the wherewithal for needy tenants to finance the purchase of their lots. In due course, the scheme will be expanded to include loans for the improvement of houses by the new freeholders.

My Government is deeply concerned about coastal erosion especially on the west and south coasts of the island and will institute remedial measures for containing the problem.

The Town Planning Act will be amended to provide that Planning Permissions will expire if not carried out within a particular time.

Legislation relating to the preservation of trees and regulating the circumstances under which trees may be cut down or destroyed is also expected to be sent down to you shortly. Legislation to create a new regime to regulate mining and quarrying will be introduced shortly.

A programme for the development of national parks and a bird sanctuary will be presented to you in the near future.

At this present time, my Government has the honour of being host to the Fourth Caribbean Festival of Arts which brings together a wide cross section of the diverse cultures within the Caribbean region. A cordial welcome to Barbados and all that it has to offer has already been extended to the participants in the Festival but it is fitting that this occasion should be taken to repeat the hope that the Festival will succeed in promoting and encouraging closer awareness of the cultures of friendly states to which my Government is committed.

My Government sees culture not as the privilege of a few but rather as a common heritage which serves the hopes and aspirations of all. It is intended to integrate dance and movement, music and

drama, into the curriculum in schools, as well as to develop the concept of theatre in Education as a means of teaching the social sciences and history. Plans are in train for a School of Drama and for expanding the summer vacation workshops in the arts for school children.

It is proposed to strengthen the institutional arrangements for cultural development by re-organising the National Arts and Culture Council as a statutory board with powers to collect and distribute funds for cultural groups. The setting up of local or parochial culture committees and the establishment of a National Art Gallery are also proposed.

Proposals aimed at making the Barbados Museum a national institution which would reflect the history, culture and development of Barbadian society will be implemented, and so also will be a plan for the improvement of national Library and Information services and the establishment of a Caribbean Information System.

The new Education Act which was passed during the last Parliamentary Session, will soon be promulgated; and a programme of guidance and counselling will be introduced initially in the Secondary Schools.

My Government will continue its programme of upgrading and replacing where necessary, its Primary Schools.

Extensions will be made to nine of the Secondary schools within the next two years, including the provision of laboratory and specialist facilities for the two St. Leonard's Secondary Schools and Home Economics facilities at Combermere School.

The completion of these improved facilities and additional accommodation will clear the way for the delivery of a uniform quality of education in all Government Secondary Schools, thus permitting a more rational allocation of students on the basis of ability and aptitudes, and the introduction of a phased system of zoning.

The programme for the training of teachers will be stepped up by making use of the improved and expanded facilities at the Erdiston Teachers College and those at the School of Education of the University of the West Indies with the aim of achieving a fully trained teaching service within the current Parliamentary Session.

My Government proposes to deal with the problem of employment generation through two separate though related approaches. Firstly, by the creation of the condition and the

investment climate which will allow the economy to expand at a real rate to meet increases in the labour force. Secondly, by a concerted programme to match the availability of skills to employment opportunities through an expanded range of job training programmes for school leavers, the introduction of a National Service Scheme, and by providing additional educational opportunities aimed at meeting the demand for trades and new skills as may be required by the diversification of the economy.

The development of a Manpower Planning Unit within the Labour Department will be continued, and the Unit will make analyses of labour market information and prepare relevant data on which sound manpower policies can be formulated.

The skills training project which commenced two years ago will be continued and the National Training Board, established under the authority of the Occupational Training Act of 1979, will be launching a revamped apprenticeship training programme shortly.

The Employment Exchange will be upgraded to a full fledged Employment Bureau, providing a more comprehensive employment and job placement service for employee and employer, and serving as an agency for verifying that persons receiving benefits under the new unemployment insurance scheme are in the process of actively seeking employment.

The National Insurance and Social Security Scheme will be expanded into a full and comprehensive social security for all. The present non-contributory old age pension scheme will be integrated into the National Insurance Scheme and, on the abolition of the means test used for the present scheme, everybody of the prescribed age will become eligible to receive old age pension. Increased contributions to finance improved pensions and health benefits as part of the expanded scheme will shortly be announced.

Comprehensive Labour legislation will be introduced into Parliament. This will relate to unfair dismissals, equal opportunity and equal treatment in employment for men and women, improved health, safety and welfare measures for employees in factories, and regulation of hours of work and minimum wages.

My Government will initiate a programme for a new road structure while continuing the building of tenantry roads, maintaining existing highways and establishing proper draining systems. Studies will be undertaken towards improving the flow of traffic between the airport and the sea port and providing facilities for the rapid transit of passenger goods between the northern and southern parishes of the island.

Research will be carried out on the materials being used in roadworks, and the road surfaces of all highways and secondary roads will be improved to a standard capable of taking the heavier loads and higher volumes of traffic which now use these roads.

The street lighting programme will be continued in which priority will be given to installation of lights in tenantries and densely populated areas.

My Government will continue its programme for improving the services provided by the Transport Board throughout the island. Replacement of the fleet of buses will continue until the Transport Board has an up-to-date fleet capable of meeting the demands of commuters fully.

A new Transport Authority will be established and it will take over the present responsibilities of the Board and will have the task of integrating the private mini-buses in the overall transportation system as well as developing a system for licensing and allocation of routes which will provide commuters in all parts of the island with a regular and reliable service.

My Government will continue its social development programme whose principal purpose is to reduce the concept of permanent dependency. Additional recreational facilities will be provided throughout the island and a youth centre will be established in Bridgetown which will also provide training in skills.

Day care centres for senior citizens will be set up, and the Home Help Service and the Housing Welfare Scheme will be further extended within the limits of Government's resources.

A foster care and an adoption scheme will be implemented whereby children in need of care and attention can live within families where love and affection exist.

Women's affairs, and improvement of the status of women, will continue to receive my Government's earnest consideration and assistance.

New legislation will be enacted to provide the legal framework within which the business of Barbados' aviation regime will be conducted. Bilateral agreements will be negotiated with a number of countries for route rights which will expand existing markets and develop new ones.

The Policy of consulting with other Caribbean Governments, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean, with a view to harmonising and developing a common approach to third party countries on matters pertaining to civil aviation will be continued.

My Government will continue to pursue its policy of modernising and updating the airport facilities. The installation of a new radar system is scheduled for completion in a year's time. A five year programme for the replacement and improvement of other navigational aids and communications systems has been prepared and will be put into operation during this Parliamentary Session.

In the area of Tourism, the promotion of Barbados as a tourist destination will be intensified. Emphasis will be placed not only on the quantitative aspects of the industry but also on the qualitative aspects. Legislation will be enacted for the regulation of the business of travel agents and tourism firms. A mandatory registration and classification scheme will be implemented for all hotel properties and associated businesses. Aids and incentives to new hotels will in future be limited to particular locations which are at present not fully developed.

In order to maintain a safe environment for Barbadians and for visitors, my Government will continue to monitor closely the incidence of crime. It will continue with policies aimed at maintaining an adequately equipped, well trained and efficient Police Force, and, within the limitations of available finance, will continue to upgrade the facilities needed by the Police Force to enable it to police the country effectively. A new Police Headquarters and a Regional Police Training College will be provided.

The Emergency Ambulance Service will be integrated with the Fire Service, and a Fire Station will be established at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip. The Probation legislation will be amended to provide for community service as an additional penal measure; and construction of a new Supreme Court Complex at Coleridge Street, St. Michael, will be commenced during this Session.

Within the constraints of its financial and human resources, my Government will continue to play a full part in contributing to the peaceful and harmonious development of relations among nations. Specifically, concentration will be placed on co-operation and integration within the Caribbean Community, and no effort will be spared to promote the notion of a joint approach to the problems confronting the world's developing countries.

Particular emphasis will be placed on improving the services now provided for Barbadian nationals in major cities in metropolitan countries, and more Consulates will be established in the Caribbean, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mr. President and members of the Senate, Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, my Government is firmly committed to the principle that in administrative decisions, full re-

gard should be paid to the primacy of human rights. This principle has been applied to the immigration policy of Barbados which has been viewed as among the fairest in this region.

In order to strengthen the framework of this policy, an Immigration Appeals Tribunal will be set up in order to give non-Barbadians who feel aggrieved by an administrative decision made in respect of them on any immigration matter, a right to an independent review.

As promised at the opening of Parliament in November 1977, a Defence Force has been established, charged with responsibility for maintaining national security in the face of attempts at subversion or terrorism which have become so marked a feature of the international scene. In the months ahead, the development of the necessary resources of the Force will be pursued and three patrol vessels, capable of providing for the effective control of our 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, will be commissioned. This will guard our substantial fishing rights and discourage the increase of smuggling and illegal use of our territorial waters.

A National Service Corps of the Defence Force will be established in which young persons will be encouraged to undergo a short period of paid full time attachment and receive training that will not only foster discipline, self-reliance and physical fitness, but will lead to the acquisition of useful skills.

My Government re-affirms its commitment to ensuring the greatest possible co-operation between Barbados and other Caribbean Commonwealth countries in relation to regional trade; and it will intensify efforts to make the fullest possible use of export trade opportunities available under the Second Convention of Lome.

The Investment Promotion Programme will be continued and so too will the factory construction and industrial estate programme.

The development of local handicraft will continue to receive Government support.

A range of services will be provided through the Export Promotion Corporation to assist Barbadian exporters in increasing domestic exports.

The industrial and intellectual property law system will be modernised, and a structure and organisation for an Intellectual Property Office will be developed.

The law relating to Companies will be revised and reformed, and legislation will be introduced for the recognition of a Stock Exchange of Barbados.

Mr. President and members of the Senate:

Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

I extend my best wishes to you in your new Parliamentary Session, and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

BARBADOS

21st July, 1981.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House stood and advanced to the dais.

The Governor-General handed a copy of the Speech to the President and then to the Speaker, and resumed his seat.

The President and the Speaker resumed their seats.

The Governor-General addressed the Speaker as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, all of the writs have been duly returned and the country is fully represented."

The members of the House of Assembly and the officers of the House, led by the Speaker, and preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, withdrew from the Senate Chamber.

The Governor-General, accompanied by Lady Ward and attended by the Aide-de-Camp, the Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force and the Commissioner of Police, and preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the President of the Senate, left the Senate Chamber.

The President returned to the Senate Chamber.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

The sitting was suspended.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS OF THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I move that the Standing Orders for the last Senate be the Standing Orders for this Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to second that.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, before the motion is carried, I would just like to make the point that I have not as yet got a copy of the Standing Orders. Senator Hall has not received the Standing Orders yet, and it is a bit difficult for us to adopt the Standing Orders which we have not seen. I would like to get some understanding of whether or not we will be able to get the Standing Orders shortly.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am sorry to hear that. Does that apply to any other hon. members?

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. President, on Thursday I spoke to Mr. Kelman, the Clerk of Parliament, and asked for a copy of the Standing Orders to be sent to me. I was promised them on Friday. On Friday I called again and I was promised them by Mr. Kelman today, yesterday I was promised them, but I have not yet received them. They may be on an aircraft somewhere between here and where I live, but I will for the sake of formality support the motion, but I would like some assurance that within the next few days each member of the Senate is armed with a copy of the appropriate Standing Orders.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, approximately one week ago I called the Clerk and he promised me that in a couple of days I would have received a copy. Up until this present time that has not been the case. I do agree with the last speaker that it is regrettable to adopt something that I have not read.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Speaking for myself, I regret the fact that members have not been given copies of these Orders. My understanding is that there had to be some reprinting and that there is some delay about that.

I am not able to give members an assurance about the exact date on which they will receive these copies,

but I hope members will in the circumstances be agreeable to letting us proceed with the understanding that as soon as possible these Standing Orders will be circulated to members, and that in any case we will not have a formal meeting unless these Standing Orders have been so circulated.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I would like to state quite categorically that it is not my belief that the order is with the printer, or if it is with the printer, that the printer was made aware of the time for which the delivery of the order was expected, because whereas the Printery was a place in which parliamentary work used to be held up, this is no longer the case. As a matter of fact, I can tell you, Sir, that within the next six days all of the debates, which up to the beginning of this year used to be two years and two and a half years in arrears, all of the debates up to the closure of the last session will have been printed. I think there are about three still to be gazetted, so it is not a case in which the staff of Parliament can reasonably expect any longer to off load responsibility on the printery. So I wish to caution the staff that this tactic is not going to work any longer.

I will undertake to enquire of the Government Printer whether, in fact, the order has been received, and, if it has been received, to have it treated with the greatest despatch, but I must say that I believe it is the office here which has fallen down and not the printery.

I wish, on behalf of this side, to apologise to all Senators for the fact that they have not received their Standing Orders, and to point out that there is a Standing Orders Committee, one of the Committees of the Senate, and that this Committee will, of course, be charged with examining and recommending changes for the Standing Orders, so that there really is not any great deal of harm to be done by having, as it were, blind approval, but I will give that undertaking most solemnly, that if that is where the holdup is, you will certainly have the Standing Orders. If that is not where the holdup is, we will rely on the Deputy Clerk to ensure that they are received by Senators.

SENATOR K. A. ROUSE: Mr. President, I am wondering whether the adoption of the Standing Orders at this moment can be postponed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Leader of the House has given members an explanation of the difficulty. I assure hon. members that I am just as distressed as they are about what has happened, but I again repeat that I think members can agree to proceed on the understanding that this difficulty will be overcome as expeditiously as possible.

The question that the Standing Orders of the last Senate be the Standing Orders of the present Senate was put to the Senate and agreed to.

REPORT OF THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. PRESIDENT: Hon. members, I have formally to report to you that His Excellency the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament today made a Speech from the Throne and handed me a copy. This speech will be printed and circulated in due course to all hon. members.

ELECTION OF A DEPUTY PRESIDENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to nominate Senator John Wickham for the office of Deputy President of the Senate.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I beg to second that nomination.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare that Senator Wickham is the duly elected Deputy President of the Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, in view of the fact that some of the Senators have not returned to this Chamber, some have been demoted, it is not perhaps generally appreciated that during the last session, in addition to yourself, Sir, and Senator Hatch, we were the constituted officers of the Senate, on many occasions the role of presiding or in Committee, Sir, fell to be performed either by Senator Sir Mencea Cox, as he was then, or by Senator Wickham, and Senator Wickham therefore has already demonstrated his ability to preside and keep order, even if in what we would wish to regard as a very orderly Chamber, and when he has not been presiding and keeping order he has enlivened debate with his criticisms and with his command of the language. It has been an honour for me that Senator Wickham has been nominated and elected to be Deputy President of the Senate.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sir, we on this side would like to thank the Hon. Leader of the House for the kind words he has said about Senator Wickham, simply because we feel that having been in this Chamber for the past five years and having acquired the knowledge which I know he has done, and to look at his magnificent contribution to journalism and in the field of culture in Barbados, we believe that it is our duty to rise and support the motion by the Hon. Leader of the House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Hon. members, I merely wish to associate myself with the remarks that have been made respecting Senator Wickham. As Senator Barrow has pointed out, Senator Wickham will not be in a strange position as Deputy President of this Senate. In fact, he has actually served as Presiding Officer during the course of the last Parliament when on an occasion both myself

and the Deputy President were absent, so this is a no strange job for him. I feel that the Senate is fortunate in having a person of Senator Wickham's experience, and I know that I myself will receive all possible co-operation and assistance from him.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, I cannot of course pretend not to be gratified by the honour of being chosen to be your Deputy. My last experience in the last five years in the Senate has certainly made me wiser, sometimes sadder, but certainly wiser, and I hope that I can look forward to the support of all members of the Senate. I already know, Sir, that I can look forward to your support and advice.

Thank you very much.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to nominate the following list of Senators:

The Leader of Government Business in the Senate
Senator Griffith
Senator Mrs. Reece
Senator the Reverend Father Jones
Senator Hall.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to second the nominations.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We have nominations for five members to serve on the Debates Committee, which is a Joint Committee of the Other Place and the Senate. The actual number of members serving on the Debates Committee is not described in the Act. I think it is usually a matter of convenience for either House and the members being nominated. I think that in recent years there has been considerable difficulty in getting a quorum for meetings of the Debates Committee. That is not due to the fault of members from this Chamber. I think measures are being taken that that difficulty will be overcome.

Nominated for membership of the Debates Committee from this House are Senators Barrow, Griffith, Reece, Jones and Hall, and members will see that the Government side, the Opposition side and the Independents are represented.

Are there any further nominations for the Debates Committee? If there are no further nominations, I declare Senators Barrow, Griffith, Reece, Jones and Hall to be members of the Debates Committee.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to nominate Senator McClean and Senator Rouse.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to second the nominations.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senators McClean and Rouse have been nominated as members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board. Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I declare Senators McClean and Rouse to be elected as members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board.

APPOINTMENT OF A LIBRARY COMMITTEE

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to nominate Senator Williams and Senator Miss Clarke.

Mr. PRESIDENT: For the benefit of hon. members, this is another Joint Committee of the Senate and the House, a small membership. It is called the Library Committee. Senators Williams and Clarke have been nominated. Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I declare Senators Williams and Clarke to be members on the Library Committee.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: Under the Standing Orders of the Senate, the Committee of Selection, which is really the most important sessional committee, consists of the President and four other members.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, may I just mention at this point that the Committee of Selection we hope will meet within a couple of minutes so that we can complete the other Committees, Standing Orders and Privileges and so on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thought I would tell members that after the Committee was selected.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: The nominations are as follows:

The Leader of Government Business in the Senate
Senator Griffith
Senator Linton
Senator Greaves

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to second the nominations.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Nominated for the Committee of Selection are the President, *ex officio*, Senators Barrow, Griffith, Linton and Greaves. Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I declare the Committee of Selection to consist of the President, Senators Barrow, Griffith, Linton and Greaves.

Now that the Committee of Selection has been appointed, I should like to inform hon. members that it is the duty of the Committee of Selection to nominate members to serve on the other Committees, like Standing Orders Committee, House Committee, the Committee of Privileges and Regulations Committee, and I am asking the members of the Selection Committee, as soon as we have finished the remaining business on the Order Paper, to meet to complete the business rather than coming back on another occasion, and we can inform the Senate. We can have a short suspension, and inform the Senate, as it is the duty of the Selection Committee to do that after they have nominated members, and then we can adjourn until whenever appropriate time there is for a meeting. It saves a lot of bother.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Ward, he will be absent from the country during the period 24th July to 8th August 1981 on a visit to Britain to attend the wedding of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

His Excellency further has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that under the provisions of section 29(1)(a) of the Constitution, Her Majesty The Queen has designated Senator The Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, to perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during the period of his absence.

D. H. L. WARD
Governor-General.

Government House,
Barbados.

21 July, 1981.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I have the honour to lay the following:

1. The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1981.
2. The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1981.

3. The National Housing Corporation (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order 1981.
4. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 8) Order, 1981.
5. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 9) Order, 1981.
6. The Fire Service (Application of Fees) Regulations, 1981.
7. Report of the Fire Service for the year 1980.
8. Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ending 31st December 1981.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: As I intimated before, I think it would be useful if I suspended the sitting for, say, ten minutes, so that the Committee of Selection may meet and nominate its members and inform the Senate. After that, we can have a formal adjournment.

The sitting is suspended until 2 o'clock sharp.

On Resumption:—

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed. The Committee of Selection would like the Senate to recommit the nominations for the Debates Committee for the purpose of adding another member to that Committee.

As I think I hinted to members before, the representation from the Other Place is rather large and your Committee of Selection felt that it would be well for us to ask the Senate to add another name to the list that we have already agreed on. Is it agreed that we recommit the question of the Debates Committee?

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to nominate Senator Deane.

SENATOR C. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to second that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Debates Committee representatives from the Senate then would be Senators Barrow, Griffith, Reece, Jones, Hall and Deane.

I have to report that the Committee of Selection has met and has nominated for the following Committees the following members:

Standing Orders Committee

His Honour the President
His Honour the Deputy President
Senators Trotman, Simmons and Greaves.

House Committee

His Honour the President
Senators Reader, Lynch, Hall and Howell.

Committee of Privileges

His Honour the President
Senators Trotman, Simmons, Ward and Hall.

Regulations Committee

His Honour the President
His Honour the Deputy President
Senators Linton, Greaves and Seale.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
2.07 p.m.