

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, 9th June, 1982.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, June 9, 1982, at 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir ARNOTT CATO, M.B., Ch.B., LL.D., (President); His Honour Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM, M.B.E., (Deputy President); Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, B.A., LL.B., (Minister of Information and Culture) (Leader of the Senate); Senator the Hon. O'BRIEN TROTMAN, (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office); Senator H. R. LINTON, LL.B.; Senator C. I. E. DEANE; Senator Mrs. E. M. LYNCH, B.A., G.C.M.; Senator C. A. GRIFFITH, (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office); Senator D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Senator Miss J. CLARKE; Senator A. P. L. REECE; Senator St.C. E. HOWELL; Senator Mrs. M. O. REECE; Senator E. E. GREAVES, B.A., M.Ed.; Senator W. W. HALL; Senator A. W. A. McCLEAN; Senator Mrs. G. G. READER, M.B.E., Senator C. D. SEALE; Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. JONES and Senator K. A. ROUSE.

Prayers were read by Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. JONES.

ABSENT

Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the month of February, 1982.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Caves Authority for the year 1st April, 1980 to 31st March, 1981.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve (12) months ended 31st March, 1982.

The Annual Report of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year 1981.

Report of the Fire Service for the year 1981.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Non-Contributory Old Age Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1982.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1982.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Self Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 1982.

The 22nd Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Board of Tourism for the year 1980–1981.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1982.

Statement showing sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders for the month of March, 1982.

The Designated Commonwealth Extradition Order, 1982.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Mr. PRESIDENT: On the Order Paper, Orders Nos. 1 and 2 are down for First Readings. Let it be recorded in the Minutes that these Bill have been read a first time. I understand from the Minister that he does

not propose to proceed further with these Bills today. Will you call the next Order, please.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: As you intimated, Sir, we do not intend to suspend Standing Order 45(2), mainly because we believe that one of the Bills, the one on tenants, will occasion some debate and members might not have had the opportunity to fully prepare themselves.

There is no reason that I know of, why it should be handled through any suspension of Standing Orders; there is no deadline on it in that sense. And therefore, since we have not met for some time, we will meet next week and take the bills, giving the usual notice as required by the Standing Orders.

Other Items on the Order Paper, Orders Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are to be taken charge of by Senator Trotman.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CLAPHAM, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Clapham, St. Michael for the construction of a bus lay-bye.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, as part of the World Bank Loan Project, the Ministry of Education will next Monday be starting the construction of a new primary school to serve the newly built-up, and not so newly built-up areas of the Pine, Willey and Clapham.

It is estimated that the school will accommodate 630 children when completed, and it is expected to have a building cost of \$1.9 million.

To give some more details on the school, the school building will have seventeen normal school rooms, two special class rooms, an administration block, and they will have just over 1.2 acres of land for playing. The total land acreage will be just under four acres, rather 39 acres.

The lands we are acquiring today are to provide lay-byes to ensure that the children are not endangered because of the heavy traffic on Highway 6. I have taken opportunity to pass the plans around for the benefit of those who wish to see the plans.

The building will be immediately west of McEneaney & Co. Ltd. on Highway 6 and as I said, Sir, work is expected to start next Monday, and will last for some 45, 46 weeks.

This is another of the ten primary schools which we are taking care of under the World Bank loan for education and I do not suppose, Sir, that there is a great controversy over that.

I beg to move, Sir, that the Senate do now concur in the resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Senate concur in this Resolution. Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I just want to make a comment on this particular Resolution.

The Resolution is for the purpose of acquiring land for the construction of a bus lay-bye. From the introduction, which has been given by Senator Trotman, it would seem as if this is part and parcel of an overall plan, more specifically dealing with the construction of a school in that particular area.

I am in total agreement, Mr. President, with the provision of this kind of facility, particularly in areas where schools are constructed; because I believe that this is, for one, in the interest of providing some very important safeguards for the children who attend those schools.

I wonder however, Mr. President, if the Government could not, at some appropriate time, hopefully in the not too distant future, embark on a programme of providing these kinds of facilities in other parts of the island.

I believe that there is a need, a very serious need, for providing facilities for passengers, not only school children now, but passengers, to wait for a bus without the possible threat of being run over by onrushing traffic, or indeed to provide them with an opportunity to be able to wait for the bus in a relatively secure kind of situation.

At present, I am sure that all honourable Senators would be aware that, in a number of areas, there are certain possible dangers attendant on situations where bus stops are right, as it were, on the road, particularly on main roads.

I would think, Mr. President that it would be advisable for the Government, in an overall pattern of development and upliftment of what facilities there are in this particular area, to give some present consideration to this particular need.

Added to that, Sir, would be need for the provision, in my view, of more bus shelters throughout Barbados. I think it has come to a point where this kind of provision must also be given some serious thought.

I know that there are some in existence already, but very often people, who have to await the bus sometimes, have to do so having to battle with the elements, particularly during the time that there might be a down-pour of rain.

So I would hope, Sir, that there would be some overall pattern of development in this particular area. I believe there is need for this, not only in the built-up areas, or indeed in the suburban areas of Barbados, or in the city areas, but certainly in the rural areas. I would hope that the Government would be able to enunciate a policy in this particular matter.

Overall, as I said, I do not see anything controversial in this particular matter except that I was wondering about the size of land which was going to be allocated for this lay-bye. But I suppose, seeing that it is part of a development relating to a school, the original question which I wanted to ask, would have been satisfied by the introduction which Senator Trotman gave when he spoke on this matter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, in a brief reply, Sir, just to refer the Senator to the document he knows so well, on page 11.

There is no need for any enunciation of any policy from this side, because the Labour Party went to the electorate last year with a Manifesto — which he always quotes in this place, Sir, so he knows it well — and part of that Manifesto made it clear that we proposed to construct sidewalks, underpasses, overpasses, construct covered bus stops throughout the island for the comfort of the travelling public, and to construct modern passenger facilities, including toilets waiting rooms, *et cetera*.

So that is that. The people already knew what we were going to offer them. The Party is committed to that.

And, as a demonstration of the Party's commitment to that policy, Sir, I want to inform the Senator that one of our constituency branches, as a community effort, has already constructed two bus shelters, as part of a community effort.

So the Party is committed to that. There is no question of his calling for any bus shelters or any lay-byes now.

But I am glad, Sir, he got up and called for more lay-byes in the immediate future because in another place he will go on a platform and say that part of the problem with the Government is that we have too much bunching of projects, we have too many projects going one time.

It is the first time we are hearing that there is too much work available for people but he is calling upon us now to have more capital works programmes going, to further bunch the bunching, which he wants to criticise on the platform.

Now Senator Greaves and his Party cannot have it both ways. They cannot in one breath go in Fairchild Street, in the market-place, and say, the Party does not know what it is doing, there is too much bunching. Front page in the *Nation*, too much bunching, whatever that foolishness means.

In a country, Sir, where there are some unemployment problems, where the Government is trying to alleviate the unemployment by creating capital works projects, we are hearing there is too much bunching, too many projects going one time — a lot of foolishness; and then you come in here and make great wisdom of calling for more lay-byes and more covered bus stops. That is capital works too, Sir. So, he cannot have it both ways.

The question that the Senate concur in the resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ST. BARNABAS, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE RESITING OF HOUSES TO BE AFFECTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW ST. BARNABAS/WILDEY BY-PASS HIGHWAY

Order No. 4 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at St. Barnabas, St. Michael for the resiting of houses to be affected by the construction of the New St. Barnabas/Wildey By-Pass Highway.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, we have had to come to the Senate from time to time to acquire various portions of land to accommodate the new St. Barnabas/Wildey Highway, which we expect will be completed sometime in April next year.

The St. Barnabas/Wildey Highway is, in fact, the middle section of a highway which should eventually start at Spring Garden and circle the city to end at the airport.

It would in fact, when completed, be the first major highway to be built in this country since the East Coast Road, and we are constructing the St. Barnabas – Wildey section, plus the Spring Garden end of it, at a cost of just under \$10 million.

As I said, Sir, work is going on. It is necessary from time to time, because of various design problems, to make these acquisitions – unfortunately, on some piecemeal basis. But these problems cannot all be seen from the outset, and I hope that we understand these day to day problems.

I beg to move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GLEBE LAND, ST. GEORGE

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Glebe Land, St. George for extending and improving the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home was opened some time in 1971. It accommodates 14 children in residence, and, as I understand it, yesterday one more joined on a day care basis.

The Home is concerned with taking care of children who have physical handicaps. For several years, the school has been asking the Government to accommodate them with lands adjoining their place. At first, thought was given to leasing the land to them, and then, some time after, this Government decided that the land should be granted to them.

However, we had some problems because there seemed to be some uncertainty as to who really owned the land. It appears to all that the land belonged to the old St. George Vestry. But since that was not very, very, clear, it became necessary to bring this Resolution to Parliament to make it, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Government owns the land, as successor to the Vestry and the Southern District Council, and that it is now in a position to give the land to the school.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOLETOWN, ST. JAMES

Order No. 6 was called – to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Hometown, St. James for the construction of a Police Station and Magistrate's Court, and also for the provision of accommodation for the Rates and Taxes Division.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the accommodation offered in Hometown to public offices, including Rates and Taxes, the Police and the Magistrates' Courts, has become somewhat cramped. I do not want to go over the question of the new police headquarters and the station at Oistins, but this is part of an on-going programme of providing facilities for Government Offices, including proper accommodation for policemen.

Over the last few years, it has been necessary to increase the ranks of the Royal Barbados Police Force, and therefore it must be necessary to improve the accommodation which is provided for them at the various outposts.

In St. James, there has been a big build up of tourism over the last 20 years, which has to be serviced by the Hometown Police Station especially. In addition to that, Sir, there are developments – Haynesville, West Terrace and other places in St. James – and therefore the work of the Police Force on the West Coast is now a lot heavier than it used to be when the Hometown Station was first constructed.

One can therefore see that the number of policemen who now have to be accommodated at Hometown could not properly and comfortably be accommodated by provisions which were made many years ago.

Similarly, when one visits rates and Taxes and the Welfare Department in St. James one cannot help noting the rather poor conditions under which public officers are asked to work, and it is hoped that with the new provision here this morning, this congestion will be relieved.

I beg to move that the Senate concur in the Resolution.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, at the risk of being accused of not wanting to have proper quarters for policemen in Barbados, at the risk of being accused of not wanting proper facilities for the Rates and Taxes Division, at the risk of being accused of not wanting proper facilities for the Welfare Department; Sir, at the risk of being taken to task for asking pertinent and

legitimate questions relating to any aspect of Government policy, I will venture to make an intervention in this debate.

The Minister indicated the need for upgrading facilities in the Hometown area for the Government Departments, including the Police Station, which are mentioned in the Resolution. There are some questions which bother me and on which I believe that this Honourable Chamber needs some enlightenment.

In the first place, the area, as I understand it, which at present accommodates these Government Departments, is on the seaward side past the hotel, near the monument — to the western side of the road. I have not seen any indication as to whether it is proposed that the construction would be in another area, so I am assuming that it is going to be in that same area.

Well, Sir, I wonder if the Minister could indicate if there are any problems relating to flooding in that particular area, and whether or not it is indeed the best site for the location, presumably, of the new buildings to accommodate these Government Departments as outlined here.

Bearing in mind that the acquisition of an area of land, I believe, in this particular part of Barbados would be fairly high — Sir, I am believing, I am not in the real estate business, so I would not know — because this is, I believe, beach land which is being acquired, and we know that area of St. James has the reputation of being the "Gold Coast", presumably meaning that the price of land in this area is very expensive — I am wondering if the Minister could give us some indication as to the price or possible price which is going to be paid for this area of land, and whether the purposes of Government would not be better served if another location could be sought for the siting of this department, as mentioned in the Resolution, for the purposes we are discussing.

As I say, there are three things which I am really quarrelling about and on which I am seeking information:

- (1) the location and whether it is the best location;
- (2) the price and whether Government could not acquire an area of land in another area possibly nearby which could be acquired at a lower cost, and
- (3) I am enquiring about flooding which is known generally speaking in that particular area of St.

James. I am just wondering whether these things have been taken into consideration or not.

I am glad to see that at least part of the provision, which is going to be made, will be for the Rates and Taxes Division because there seems to be some confusion — not in my mind, I just want to say, because I have no confusion at all about Government's policy — because my view is a very simple one, which I have indicated very clearly in here on more than one occasion, and it is that the Government does not know what it is doing — there seems to be some very serious confusion about the Rates and Taxes Division, particularly those in the rural areas. And there was some indication some time ago, and I don't recall seeing a denial, that the Government was giving some serious thought of closing down the Rates and Taxes divisions in the rural areas and centralising the collection of taxes.

I can see very clearly now, from the fact that there is provision which is going to be made for an office for the Rates and Taxes Division at Folkestone, that that particular idea is not going to be pursued, and certainly one would want to encourage and urge that the facilities for the collection of rates and taxes particularly in the rural areas ought to be continued.

I hope, Mr. President, that the Minister will condescend to give us some reply to those questions which I have raised.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, just by way of an addition to the questions raised by Senator Greaves, I wonder, when advice was sought on the appropriate location of this new Police Station and so on, whether the question was put in terms of a new Police Station and Magistrate's Court and so on for the particular area rather than a Police Station for Hometown itself?

It may be that, given the area that the Court and the Police Station are supposed to serve, Hometown proper may not be the best location for such. And if someone was asked to search for a site in Hometown, they would search for the best site in Hometown; and in terms of considering the appropriate location, I would think that we should not regard Hometown as a place where you must have a Police Station.

SENATOR THE HON. O'BRIEN TROTMAN: Mr. President, when Senator Greaves was struggling to make an intervention, we were tempted to interrupt to point out that some time ago Senator Greaves, in this Senate, queried whether or not the rural offices of Rates and Taxes would be closed down. It is on record that Senator Barrow told him that the office is not being closed down. It is on record that he was told that what was being con-

templated was a merger of the Rates and Taxes Division with the Department of Inland Revenue; but there would be no physical closing down of the Rates and Taxes Office because it would serve those people in the rural areas.

I do not want to accuse him of being mischievous at all. If he does not want an intervention, he must not make an intervention, but we quite understand that because he explained his intervention — he has told us that he has a very simple view of these things.

But in the midst of a complex Government, we cannot have a place for a simple mind on these things. The running of Government is complex, and we cannot have a simple mind.....

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: On a point of order, jokes can be taken a bit too far. There is nowhere in the Record where you can find me as saying I have a simple mind. I said I have a simple view. I do not talk and forget like you — not you, Mr. President, I mean Senator Trotman. So, I am suggesting that that inference about having a simple mind ought to be withdrawn, because that is insulting language; and that kind of language is against the Rules of this Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am taking it that what you said before is that you have a simple view, not that you stated you had a simple mind. Is that what you said? Senator Greaves, the Chair is speaking to you! Is that your recollection of what you said?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I am asking for the transcript of my speech. Let us have the transcript and let us check it.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, are we now having a point of order for the purpose of a member asking for the Record? I was sitting here and agreeing that if that was the member's perception of what he had said and that turned out to be accurate, a point of order was in order. But if he does not know what he said, what kind of point of order is that?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am sure about what I said. Senator Trotman has misinterpreted what I said, and therefore I want the Record to show and verify what I said.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: I am quite prepared to concede that he said "I have a simple view" and not a simple mind. I am prepared to take back the word "mind" and substitute the word "view", but I still maintain that a simple view has no place in a complex Government.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Can we settle this thing without going over this nonsense? Proceed, Senator Trotman.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Anyhow, Sir, Senator McClean raised the question as to whether alternative sites were sought before a decision was taken on expanding the facilities at Holetown.

I just want to assure him that alternative sites were considered. The question of moving completely out of Holetown was considered, other places in Holetown were considered, and from the advice which we were given, it was considered that the station is, in fact, in the best strategic position.

The question of flooding was also raised by Senator McClean. This is not going to be a problem and we do not foresee any further problems.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WATERFORD PLAN-
TATION, ST MICHAEL FOR THE CONSTRUC-
TION OF A WATER RESERVOIR FOR
THE BARBADOS WATER
AUTHORITY**

Order No. 7 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Waterford Plantation, St. Michael for the construction of a water reservoir for the Barbados Water Authority.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, it is part of the Government's programme to have piped water in all homes in Barbados by December 1984. With this in mind, Government has been carrying out expansion programmes in the Water Authority — laying mains, establishing reservoirs and building holding tanks. The Resolution therefore is mainly part of that entire programme.

My understanding is that at present Bridgetown has a holding capacity reserve of four hours. In other words, if the water was cut off from the supply, Bridgetown would be without water in four hours. It is hoped that with the establishment of the reservoir at Waterford, that that would add another eight hours reserve water to Bridgetown and the surrounding areas.

I believe, Sir, that in 1976 there were some 59 000 connections to the water services and at present we have 71 000 connections.

What I want to say about water, however, is that there seems to be a high usage of water in this country

because, at present, people in Barbados are using, on an average, 110 gallons of water per person. And when we compare it with St. Lucia the St. Lucians only manage 40 gallons a day per person; Antigua 29 gallons a day per person and Dominica, 48 gallons per day per person. We are doing quite well on 110 gallons.

The result of having to pump 110 gallons per person per day is that the Water Authority has an energy bill of \$7.5 million, to lift this water to the surface. It is generally considered that if Barbadians could cut back on just 10 per cent of their water usage, some of which must be wastage, that the Water Authority would save \$1 million per year in energy charges.

I do not believe that the Water Authority can afford to spend \$7.5 million to do nothing but to lift water. And I would generally appeal to the people to go easy on their water, especially during the drought, and save the problems of energy bills for the Water Authority.

I beg to move that the Senate concur in the Resolution.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr President, Senator Trotman, in introducing this Resolution, indicated that the construction of this reservoir for the Barbados Water Authority would extend the amount of water which would be available for Bridgetown and the surrounding districts — I think he said — by eight hours.

I wonder if he could be a little more specific on this. I am seeking information. I know where Waterford is situated, and I would not, for example, say that Bush Hall or Station Hill or Bank Hall, or maybe Cave Hill, are districts surrounding Bridgetown. I am wondering therefore, if he would give some indication as to whether, when he is talking of Bridgetown, which part of St. Michael he is talking about, because it would seem to me as if there is need for some clarification in this particular area.

He then went on, Mr. President, to make a comparison between water usage in Barbados and water usage in Antigua, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, indicating, for example, that whereas in those parts people were using water below 140 — odd gallons per day, we were using 110 gallons per day. And then he went on, Mr. President, to make a statement to the effect that "we are doing quite well on 110 gallons per day"; — but then he followed that up by appealing for people not to waste water.

I am in total agreement that we have to constantly insist that people should not waste water, but there are a couple of factors of which, I believe Senator Trotman ought to be aware.

I believe that it is difficult to make those kind of comparisons between St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the other countries, which he has made, for the simply reason that their piped water system is not as widespread as ours. That is the first point.

Certainly the population of Barbados would demand, of course, that there would be a greater usage of water; and, of course, the stage of our industrialisation and the other demands which are made on our water system. But what ought to be looked at in this area of wastage, and it concerns me also, and again at the risk of being accused of calling on the Government to do this and to do that and to do the next — when the Government is struggling to survive, when the Government cannot even find money to pay people who work for the Government — at the risk of all of that, I believe that I still ought to make this point: that for many years now, little or no attention was paid to the pipe mains in Barbados.

The frequency with which one gets burst pipes around Barbados would, to my mind, suggest that there is need for some renewal in this particular area where, on a planned basis, the Government ought to look at replacing some of these mains which break fairly often, and thereby lead to a lot of wastage in the water system.

I am wondering if the Minister could give any indication to the extent of this because very often you find, and I know of them, situations where the waterworks repairs a pipe today and within a matter of a week or so they have to come back and repair it, or repair it in an area not far from there; which suggest that there is a problem generally speaking with the mains in many parts of Barbados.

So in relation to the overall question of the amount of water which is piped into the system, some of which I believe escapes through this route, some attention should be paid to this particular matter.

I know that the Government does not have any money, but nevertheless I would think that some kind of consideration should be given to this particular matter because, in the long run, it will be in the national interest.

And don't let this situation deteriorate to the situation of the condition of the roads, where we might then have to impose a levy to replace the mains throughout the length and breadth of Barbados.

I am trying to avoid us from reaching this particular situation, if we have not reached there already.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I agree that it is necessary for us to call, from time to time, for Barbadians to be more efficient in the usage of water.

But I do not believe that such pleas will be successful if we do not move to a system of fully metered water. It is far too easy for people to lapse back into previous habits, when there is no financial penalty attached to the wastage of water.

And basically, the present situation in Barbados is one in which we are particularly exposed to severe problems, if, for some chance, we should have a prolonged drought or some other reason for a drop in the supply of water.

I would urge the Government to adopt a policy of moving as quickly as possible to a system of fully metered water.

I know that many years ago this was a hot political issue; the Barbados Labour Party, some twenty years ago, had that as one of their policies, and they were criticised for it by their political opponents.

I believe that in the last ten years that the then Government came around to the view that such a policy was wise. I believe that might have been reflected in the sharp increases for water rates of unmetered services and the rather modest rate for metered services.

There was a time, six years ago, when it was in the interest of most people to acquire a meter service. I am not sure if that is true again, because the present Government has started realigning the rates; and now the meter rates are catching up again and are as costly, or perhaps even more so, than the unmetered rates.

It is not necessary to induce metering by way of having the meter rate low and the unmetered rate high. But however it is done, I think it is necessary that we should move to a system of full metering.

Apart from the fact that it is the only way to impose rationing on people, by structuring the cost of water so that when you use an excessive amount the price becomes prohibitive, it is the only way that we can truly monitor the amount of leakages from the distribution system, from the mains.

Now we suspect that we have some mains which were in the ground for many years and need replacing. But we would not know exactly where the priority is, the area of greatest defects, unless we knew that so much water was going through these mains and only so much was reaching the consumer, in relation to those mains.

So the meter system is again necessary to enable us to monitor the quality of mains that we have in the island. And I would therefore suggest that a central part of any planning for the development and the efficient use of water resources would include the policy of metering.

I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the first question raised by Senator Greaves was the question of exactly what is being serviced by the new facility.

Last year, Sir, we provided the country's biggest reservoir at St. Stephen's, which has a capacity of four million gallons, and then later on we provided a one million capacity tank at Lodge Hill.

Those two facilities, Sir, service the western end of St. Michael consisting of the Farm, Black Rock, Eagle Hall, some parts of Bank Hall and the upper parts of St. James.

What we are trying to do is to accommodate the eastern part of St. Michael with the facility at Waterford.

The other question raised by Senator Greaves — a useful point — concerned the care of water mains. It is a very difficult problem because, as we know, most of the mains are underground — there are very few water mains, except some in St. Thomas, which are above the ground — and it is very, very difficult, in fact, to detect which mains are bad and which are good. The mains do not help us by deteriorating according to any particular system. Mains can be put in today and be bad tomorrow, and the ones put in fifty years may still be hanging on. So that is a difficult problem.

It is a matter which has been getting attention for several years now, but there is no easy answer to the problem of wastage because of leaks. Very often Water Works only know that it is losing millions of gallons because eventually, a big main bursts and overflows the streets. It is not an easy problem but Water Works is paying some attention to it.

I thank you.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION NO. 74/1979

Order No. 8 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the amendment of Resolution No. 74/1979.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, this Resolution is a Resolution brought before us to approve amendment of Resolution No. 74/1979, which was passed by both Houses in November, 1979 and assented to by the Governor-General, December 4, 1979. The Resolution approved the vesting of a parcel of land, 8.565 hectares, in Government-owned company, Land Reclaimers Ltd.

The land is touching and abounding in the Harbour, some of it being created by reclamation. The Government owns some land in the area and this is vested in this company, Land Reclaimers. And this is the company which will deal with this land for the general economic well-being of the community — that is, Sir, for the purpose of letting and hiring, for business, and so on.

The survey plan used at the time, when Resolution 74 was passed, put the area at 8.565. It is now clear that the area should be 8.465, as a result of the more recent and accurate survey plan.

Also, Sir, the up-to-date surveyor's plan also shows the boundaries quite clearly as being bounding on the north, west and south by the sea, and on the east by the security fence along the new Spring Garden Road.

In short, there are two things which are achieved by this amending resolution. One is that the accuracy of the area of land will now be assured and, secondly, that a proper description in terms of the boundaries of the land can also be recorded.

I move, Sir, that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH FOR THE SITING OF A POST OFFICE AND A BUS TERMINUS

Order No. 9 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church for the siting of a Post Office and a Bus Terminus.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, this again is a comparatively straightforward matter. The stage which the Oistins Redevelopment Project has reached is such that I believe there can be no member of this Honourable Chamber who is not aware of the extensive work done, the infrastructural provision for the new facilities at Oistins, and the extent to which the work has proceeded.

Consequently, Sir, the 1980-82 phase is drawing to its conclusion. We now have to look towards the provision of those facilities which have not yet been worked on.

I think, if we look at the area around Scarborough, Sir, we will see the provision for a new library facility, which will be opened shortly; and when that is opened there will be an immediate release of space to assist the Post Office.

One of the largest District Post Offices is in Oistins. It is very, very badly housed, and the building in which it is housed is shared by the library.

What we are looking at is moving the library over to its new headquarters, which is now finished, and releasing the space now occupied by the library to the Post Office so that the Post Office, which is terribly congested, will get some relief between now and the time that the new facility is built.

Nobody can deny that we need to have these facilities at Oistins. I guess we needed a new library. We need a new Post Office. We need a new labour exchange and we need a new bus terminus.

The lands which we are talking about are generally lands on, if you are going towards Bridgetown, the right hand side of the road stretching from just east of the foot of Lodge Road, where Lodge Road empties out on to Highway 7. It is the lands back across — those of us who know Oistins in the way of ham cutters and so on, remember Mr. Flemming's shop; those of us who know it in the way of the fish market, we know that we are talking about the area opposite the fish market — but in behind the buildings which are currently at the front. So it is a matter of developing that area behind there for further public use. That is the phase which will sort of complete the Oistins Redevelopment.

I want to make a comment, Sir, — I am not going to take Senator Greaves' bait, obviously. I am obviously not going to take his bait; he is entitled to his simple views — but I want to make a comment.

You will remember that when this was in the Labour Party's Manifesto, as far back, Sir, as 1966, it was given quite elaborate attention by the other side in 1971 — when there was talk about redevelopment of the smaller urban areas, there were jeers of, "the tale of two cities."

Now I am mentioning this because one of the things we were talking about was the redevelopment of Oistins Town. The development of St. George, in the Glebe area, again into a township and the Glebe plan has been on the way — is the kind of thing we are talking about. And

I am very happy to see that Oistin's Redevelopment has got so far that people can really judge when they refer to the talk of the "tale of two cities", as to who were the men of vision and who were not. In other words, Sir, we have now seen how bad it is, sometimes, always to be taking the simple view of things.

Indeed, Sir, there is nothing I can say about Oistins which can impress the minds of Senators and I move that this resolution be now concurred in.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Senate concur in this resolution. Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I had no intention of intervening in this debate. But since Senator Barrow, in his introduction, made reference to the Democratic Labour Party, and suggested that the Democratic Labour Party made sport about the development at Oistins, I just want to make a couple of points.

The Oistins Development and the Speightstown Development were conceived by the Democratic Labour Party. (SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Nonsense.) They were conceived by the Democratic Labour Party. As a matter of fact, Sir, the funds which are used for the Oistins Development came from the EDF, European Development Fund, and these were set in train by the Democratic Labour Party.

I very well remember, for example, way back in 1969, if you are going to talk about vision, when the plan for the Speightstown Redevelopment was displayed in Speightstown — and the Barbados Labour Party was not in power then.

At that time the Barbados Labour Party was not talking about development or redevelopment in Speightstown or Oistins. What they were concerned about at that time was abusing Doc Husbands who had left them and joined the Democratic Labour Party. I well remember that. I know that. I well remember that.

So for the honourable Minister to get in here now and talk about vision and lack of vision, and all of this kind of nonsense that he referred to, I think that the Record ought to be put very, very straight in this particular matter, and to let it be known, as indeed it is — let me repeat — let it be known, far and wide, that the development of Oistins and the proposed redevelopment of Speightstown were indeed conceived by the Democratic Labour Party, and arrangements were set in train for these developments by the Democratic Labour Party.

Whilst we are on that, let us talk about Speightstown also, because I think it is important that this be done. I have not heard any mention made about Speightstown, and I think there ought to have been some mention of this, because in that particular area I believe that there is also provision for resiting the Post Office. And if there is not, there ought to be provision for resiting the bus stand, or indeed for upgrading it into a facility which is suitable for human beings to operate out of, because right now the facilities are practically sub-human.

I would hope that the Government would be able to show some concern in this particular area. I do not know that the Minister expected to score a point on this particular point, but he does not realise that there are people in Barbados who make a study of these things and who also keep records.

I challenge him or anybody in the Government to deny — of course they can deny, but the facts are there. And any files which they produce on this would demonstrate very clearly what the thinking of the Democratic Labour Party was, and indeed the action which the Democratic Labour Party had already initiated on this particular project.

There is a lot more that I can say. One of these days a lot more will come out.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would like to suggest that it is not of particular essence who conceived the Oistins project or any other project in Barbados. The important thing is whether the project is worthwhile or desirable at this time, and so on.

And I do believe that it is full time that the politicians in Barbados, in both major parties, should attain a level of maturity to recognise that talking about getting credit for identifying this project or that project, is really to sell themselves short.

To begin with, most of the projects suggest themselves naturally. The people in the country can perceive when there is a need, and this is communicated in some form or the other to the politician. It is not some brain wave as though a politician goes into some meditation to discover that something should be done. Again, in many other areas, it is the technocrats in the Civil Service who are responsible for certain suggestions, and this is widely known.

So we are not going to judge our parties on the basis of who conceived of Project A or Project B; we will judge them more on the basis of the totality of the programme they are bringing to us at that particular point in time, the candidates they are bringing forward, and what we can anticipate by way of future performance.

I think the sooner that politicians on both sides recognise that it is time we stop talking about denying people credit for this, and snatching credit for that, and get on with serious thinking and planning, the better it will be for the country.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the point I want to make is that it does not matter whether Senator McClean or the independent Senators feel that ultimately it is the technocrats or not, the fact is that we in Government know it is not. That is the first point.

The second point is that when you are in Opposition you have no technocrats to formulate policies for you. Ask Senator Greaves and he will tell you that now.

The third point is this, that if a concept of redevelopment is Barbados takes place, and this was formed within a party's manifestos, going back as far as 1966, and is sneered at by the other side, it does not matter how generous and how self-righteous some Senators want to sound, I will say that when I said so and so you sneered at it and you talked about the tale of two cities. That was a fact.

If later on you were then advised that it made sense to adopt that kind of thinking, and you came to adopt that kind of thinking, if at that point you then decided that the redevelopment of Oistins was a good idea, and in that sense you seek to adopt the project, I will tell you that is what you did, because that again is a fact. And there are other examples of this kind of thing.

We do not get up and tell people that we thought there should be the redevelopment of the airport and therefore the new airport came to be built. We know very well that when we came in the actual building might have started at a certain time, and we know that they showed in that respect a certain vision and so on.

But I am saying that when it came to certain planning in this country it was a party that took a very simple view and showed very little vision. That is the point I am making. Because, in fact, they became persuaded in one or two areas of the error of their ways, what am I going to do? I am standing up here in Parliament and will tell you I am not going to remark on it? Never me, never me at all. No, Sir; never me at all.

In fact, Senator Greaves had his day; Speightstown and 1969. I am not talking about Speightstown, I am talking about Oistins, and more specifically I am talking about the context in which we presented the idea of the Oistins Redevelopment.

We looked at the pressures on Bridgetown, we looked at the errors of seeking to provide all services in a single rural centre, and we looked at ways in which the pressures could be taken off if you had a properly formulated physical development plan and in that context we started talking about development not only at Oistins, but in the centre of St. George, at Belleplaine in St. Andrew and in the Six Roads area of St. Philip.

It is all documented, so I do not know what Senator Greaves is going to come in here and tell us. Next thing he will come in here and tell us that if we look we will find that they were the first people to act on the National Petroleum Corporation. True, because they adopted the idea. In fact, when they adopted the idea on that occasion, the leader of his party publicly admitted that it was an idea they were adopting. It is not true that they usually say this.

Sir, just let me make the point which I was making at the time I sat down, and it is this: the success of the Oistins Project, such as we have been able to witness, I think is a tribute to the vision of those who understand the philosophy that lies behind that kind of project. And if Senator Greaves got irritated by it, I will say again that he cannot always take the simple view of things.

That is what I believe made Senator Greaves jump up, because he found an essential distinction between having a simple mind and taking a simple view, and apparently Senator Trotman did not see a distinction between the two. Apparently Senator Trotman thought the simple view would come from a simple mind.

The question that the Senate concur in this Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, June 16 at 11.00 a.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. 12.30 p.m.