

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981-86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 7, 1983

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, December 7, 1983, at 11.15 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, M.B., Ch.B., LL.D., (President);

Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman, (Minister of Health);

Senator the Hon. C. A. Griffith, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office);

Senator St.C. E. Howell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Planning);

Senator J.E.D. Williams, (Parliamentary Secretary of the Prime Minister);

Senator H. R. Linton;

Senator Mrs. E. M. Lynch, G.C.M.;

Senator D. A. C. Simmons;

Senator Miss J. Clarke;

Senator Mrs. M. O. Reece;

Senator E. E. Greaves;

Senator A. W. A. McClean;

Senator Mrs. G. G. Reader, M.B.E.;

Senator C. D. Seale;

Senator the Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones;

Senator L. A. Ward, G.C.M.;

Senator C. Jemmott, B.S.S.; J.P., and

Senator O. S. Arthur.

Prayers were led by Dr. the Rev. Lionel Crawford.

ABSENT

His Honour Senator J. C. W. Wickham, Senator the Hon. N. A. Barrow and Senator W. W. Hall.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES RE HONOUR TO SENATOR L. A. WARD

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, before we proceed to the schedule business of today's proceedings, I believe that the entire Senate would wish me to congratulate Senator Ward. As you know, Senator Ward has been awarded a very high honour in the Independence Honours. He has been honoured for his outstanding work in agriculture in this country for several years and we would like to think, Sir, that it is not only an honour to Senator Ward, but indeed an honour to this Chamber itself when one of its members has been singled out for such a distinguished honour.

On behalf of the Government, I wish to congratulate Senator Ward and wish him continued success in his work in agriculture on behalf of this country.

Mr. PRESIDENT: On behalf of myself and this Chamber as a whole, I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by Senator Trotman. When Senator Ward took his seat in this Chamber, I drew attention to the fact that he had made considerable contributions to the country in the field of agriculture, particularly sugar. I felt then that his experience and knowledge would be of great value to us in our deliberations. That has proved to be the case, and it must be a source of great satisfaction to Senator Ward that he has received recognition for his tremendous service to this country. I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Mr. President, I, too, wish to offer my congratulations to Senator Ward. I have known him for about 25 years, and as you so rightly say, his expertise in agriculture is well known in this country.

I do not know if everybody knows that Senator Ward is not only interested in agriculture, but has large shareholdings in the tourist industry and also has been in the distributing trade, as he was Chairman for General Traders for many years. General Traders is a company in Barbados that can be credited with bringing supermarkets to the masses of our country, with the establishment of the Excel group of supermarkets.

Senator Ward has not only invested in agriculture, but he has made these other investments, and by so doing has created many jobs here in this country. He must be congratulated for that.

I would also like to congratulate the other recipients. I can think of Sir Neville Osborne, who was a civil servant *par excellence*, the honourable Oliver Jackman and Dr. Kurleigh King. I have also had pleasure to see that a small manufacturer has been honoured. I hope that in time we can see a few shopkeepers on this list, Sir. They too, are the unsung heroes of our country.

With those remarks, I once again wish to congratulate Senator Ward on his distinguished honour.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. President, Senator Trotman, Senator Seale, and other Senators, I very much appreciate the very kind remarks that have been made about me and I thank you very much.

I would also like to thank the authorities for conferring this honour on me.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I have been advised that Senator John Williams has been elevated to the post of Parliamentary Secretary in the office of the Prime Minister.

In the usual way, the Message should have been before you at this time. For some reason, it is not yet here, but I have been advised that it will be here later on in the session.

It is necessary for me to say this because it is expected that Senator Williams, in his new capacity, should in fact be handling some measures of Government Business.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Can we come back on this?

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: When the message does arrive, I shall ask you to revert to the item. 11.25 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I have the honour to lay the following:

The Wireless Telegraphy (Video Tape Rental Service) Regulations, 1983.

The Wireless Telegraphy (Video Tape Machines) Regulations, 1983.

The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Wireless Telegraphy (Satellite Television Receiver Antenna) Regulations, 1983.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the National Assistance Board for the period 1st April, 1982 to 31st March, 1983.

The Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1982.

The Annual Report of the Child Care Board for the period April 1981 to March 1982.

Report of the Accountant General for the Financial Year 1982-83.

Statement of Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the period July - September, 1983.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1983.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 9) Order, 1983.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 10) Order 1983.

The Annual Report of H.M. Prisons for the year 1982.

The Consumption Tax (No. 3) Order, 1983.

The Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Exemption from Taxes, Fees and Duties) Order, 1983.

Annual Report of the Barbados National Training Board for the year April 1982 - March 1983.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 12 months ended 31st March, 1983.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for one month ended 30th April, 1983.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1982.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Bills:

A Bill to amend the Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited Act, Cap. 275.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act, Cap. 91.

A Bill to amend the Hotel Aids Act, Cap. 72.

A Bill to amend the Plant, Pest and Disease (Eradication) Act, 1983-6.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let it be recorded in the Minutes that these Bills have been read a first time, as well as the Bills that appear on the Order Paper for today.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I have been advised that one of our Senators, Senator Mrs. Lynch, has lost a dear sister, Mrs. Newton.

Senator Lynch has been with us for the last seven or eight years, a very outstanding member of the Senate, and I would invite the Senate to acknowledge that contribution which Mrs. Lynch has made to the public service by observing a few seconds' silence in respect of her dear sister who has just left us.

Senators stood in their places for about 20 seconds.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I sought to advise Senators that I propose to take Item 11 — a Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act — and Item 12 — a Bill to amend the Special Loans Act — in all their stages today if there was no objection from this Chamber.

I believe that most Senators have been contacted and advised of this before, and I therefore move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's session as it relates to these two Items.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I propose to take the business in the following

order, pending the arrival of the Message. Order No. 3 and Order No. 4 which will be handled by Senator Howell, and Order No. 6. We hope by then we might be able to proceed with the Order Paper as printed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Call the first Order.
11.35 a.m.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT THE IVY, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 3 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at the Ivy, St. Michael, for housing development.

SENATOR St. C. E. HOWELL: In 1980 Government acquired a parcel of land situated at the Ivy, St. Michael, containing by admeasurement 4.275 acres from the estate of Mr. Carlise Atwell, deceased, for housing development.

That programme has started and some 64 housing terraced units for rental accommodation have been constructed, and further development is in progress. It is proposed that this would include facilities such as hard courts, facilities for other sporting activities, and, most important, accommodation will also be provided in the complex for small shops.

The programme for the Ivy is an on-going programme. And the Government, being minded of the ever-increasing demand for housing accommodation to rent to people of the lower income groups, and being minded also of the backlog, which has been mentioned most recently, of people registering in order to qualify, and who have actually qualified for such housing accommodation, is seeking to acquire a further 2.1 acres of land in the same area, the Ivy, St. Michael, also the property of the late Mr. Atwell, to continue the development of the housing programme in the area.

This is why this Resolution is before the Senate.

Government has embarked on a new programme, involving other lending agencies such as the banks for the first time, to assist people in the lower income groups to purchase small parcels of land and to improve their existing housing accommodations. This involves making loans available for those who want to purchase houses with a value of not more than \$36 000, provided the applicant does not earn more than \$16 000 a year. In addition to that, is the policy of actually constructing homes and making them available to people in the lower income brackets to rent, which is what this Resolution is about.

Government acknowledges that not everyone is in a position to qualify under the \$21 million programme,

in which money is now being made available through the various agencies, including the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. It is in the light of this that there is an on-going programme by the Government to continue to construct homes for the lower income groups to rent, and perhaps in the future go ahead and own them.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church for Road Development and other purposes connected with the Oistins Re-development Scheme.

SENATOR St. C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, this Resolution is to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Oistins, Christ Church, containing by measurement 813.55 square metres, to be used primarily for road development and other purposes connected with the Oistins Development.

This area of land is well-known to those who use Highway 7 often. It is not a very large portion of land, but it is very important indeed. It is at the junction where Highway 7 branches off into the road going to the airport and the road going to Sayes Court.

The junction is indeed hazardous and the land being acquired is for the improvement of the road in the area. I think people who are accustomed to using the road would know this without any detailed analysis being made.

The land is the property of Edghill's Pharmacy of Oistins, and, when acquired, it will form part of the continuing development of the area which stretches from Welches in Oistins up along the fishing terminal complex and ends at this particular area.

It is thought that acquiring this piece of land would also fall into the future plans for the development of a tenantry in the Scarborough area. There is a projection for a by-pass road in the same area, but this, of course, would depend on further analysis of the traffic flow in the area and so forth.

It is not a Resolution, Mr. President, on which I would anticipate any objection at all, because the area, which has one or two little obstructions on it, makes it a little difficult to see when you approach the area from Bridgetown, going towards the airport.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.
11.45 a.m.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Mr. President, I support the Resolution. In fact, I want to congratulate the Government on their existing road development programme. However, Sir, there is one small point. When new road development takes place and some existing roads have to be closed for a long period of time, I think it is only fair that some compensation should be paid to those small businesses which operate on these roads.

I can think of Bridge Road. I think that this has been closed for a couple of months, and will probably be closed for a couple more. There are many small businesses which will become bankrupt if that road is not opened shortly, and I feel there should be some compensation paid to them. I think that some time limit could be set before compensation is paid. In other words, if the existing road is closed for a period of more than one month, then that is when any compensation could be worked out.

I feel that even at Oistins, if I think of what is going to take place, there are a number of small businesses there which are going to suffer when this road system is made right there.

Also, of course, householders do get a considerable dust problem, and I do believe it is only fair that at the finish of the road and the road development, Government does assist in some sort of clean up or redecoration of the houses. I think of the St. Barnabas Road where, on coming to work on mornings, I saw many houses which were very, very dusty. I believe that those residents must have had to spend considerable sums of money cleaning drapes and whatever.

Another thing on road improvement. I would hope that the Government would consider giving this work to private contractors. I travel to work via Carmichael Road in St. George each morning, and I observe there a road that is going to cost perhaps thousands and thousands of dollars to repair, and I believe that private contractors could do the work a lot faster and a lot cheaper.

Also, what I seem to observe is that Government seems to lack the materials available for workers. I observe, too, that none of the Government foremen's vehicles ever carry radio telephone, and I would imagine that anybody who is going to carry out road building projects in many different places, their foremen, or at least the people in charge, would have in their vehicles some means of contacting the various sites.

I think if you look at private employers, you would see that all their cars have radio telephones to contact

where they can get materials quickly. I think that Government should look into this and improve the productivity of the road workers, as I do not believe it is always laziness on the part of the people, but rather that there is no management in the road systems.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, as far as the new bridge at Bridge Road is concerned, the Government is using small portions of land from several land owners in that area. And whereas I do not believe that there will be any formal land acquisition orders coming to the Senate because the portions are so small that they can be dealt with under the Highways Act, the persons involved will be properly compensated in due course. We are talking about acquiring portions of land which are no more than one foot deep, very small portions, along Bridge Road.

As far as redecoration after roadworks is concerned, I will invite the Senator to look at the redecoration which the Government assisted with at Halls Road, and I believe that he would agree that when the Halls Road Roundabout was finished that the householders were quite happy with the effort the Government made in having Halls Road properly decorated for them.

He made one other point as far as private contractors are concerned. It is fashionable in this country to knock the Public Service. I have had various associations with the Public Service for over twenty years, in different circumstances. I hold no brief for the Public Service, but the Civil Service suffers from no more red tape than any big organisation, and if one has to deal with the big organisations in this country, one would find that things move no more faster than indeed they do in the Public Service.

I say this because I want to make the point that the Spring Garden Road, which is now fully operational, was done in two phases, partly private and partly MTW. MTW did their part of the Spring Garden Road in a favourable time vis-a-vis the private contractors and they came in on even terms with the private contractors, thereby proving that if the Ministry has the will to do it, the Ministry can, in fact, become an efficient organisation in this country.

You must not always continue to knock MTW as being the worst thing in the world because you happen to see several persons who are on the pay sheet of MTW occasionally not being productive when the morning comes and it is still not too hot. We always assume we can measure the entire operation by MTW by a few slackers who are not properly supervised.

SENATOR St.C. HOWELL: Just a few words, Mr. President. The points made by Senator Seale are well taken and noted, but I would like to add that Government is not really insensitive to some of the matters he has raised.

Indeed, I am sure Senator Seale is aware that in this very area of Oistins in Christ Church, during the period of road construction and so forth, a lot of pains were taken to relocate the existing small business people.

In addition, Sir, when the very beautiful complex was finished, those same people who have been there for many years had the first refusal. Actually, there were no refusals, and they are doing quite well.

So we are aware of the problems and we are doing our best whenever it is at all possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HOLETOWN, ST. JAMES

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Holetown, St. James, to provide accommodation for the Rates and Taxes Division and for a public health inspector and for a post office.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, in July 1982 Government had acquired five rather small parcels of land at Holetown, St. James, and among these acquisitions there were 935 square metres of land, the property of Cleerwater Limited.

In acquiring this portion of land, there was a very small area of 667 square metres at the back which was not acquired at the time, and the attorneys of the company invited Government to consider acquiring this small extra portion since it was situated at the back and therefore became landlocked and was now of little or no commercial use. The company did in fact some time earlier acquire permission from the Town and Country Planning Department to erect a restaurant in the area. 11.55 a.m.

The area is north of the existing Holetown Police Station and Magistrates' Court. It is proposed to erect a new police station on the acquired land, together with a new Magistrates' Court. In addition, accommodation would also be provided for a post office and public health officer.

Mr. President, the present building which house the police station and the Magistrates' Court, in particular, has clearly become inadequate over the years with the increasing additions to the Police Force. I recall that sometime last year, the number had reached the 1 000 mark and more recruits are gradually being added. It is proposed to have an eight hour shift whereby policemen would not be required to work longer hours, unless it was absolutely necessary.

In the present circumstances, the present accommodation is woefully inadequate. I think all acknowledge that, Sir. Moreover, as someone who has practised in the Magistrate's Court in the same complex for some six years, I can say that that is also inadequate. Indeed it is so small, I rather fancy it was inadequate from the very early days, because attorneys have to sit at the back of the magistrate, where they find it rather difficult to catch his eye. There is virtually very little seating accommodation.

In addition to all that, whenever there are heavy rainfalls — I was taken on a tour of the area — the water actually goes inside the building of the existing police station, which is occupied by the superintendent and other officers, and it can rise at times as high as seven inches.

It is in light of all this that Government is seeking the acquisition of just this small portion, the additional 667 square meters, which is also the property of Cleerwater Ltd. This is the most equitable thing to do in the circumstances, because, as it stands, clearly it would be of little or no commercial value.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution.

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

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I just rise on a point of information.

I seem to recall sometime last year that we had discussed the acquisition of some land for the construction of these same buildings here at Hometown. I am just trying to jog my memory. I seem to recall that we had a debate in here where land was acquired somewhere around the Hometown area for the construction of the Magistrate's Court, the police station and other offices.

I believe that the Senate ought to be apprised of that and the Record ought to be set straight, because if we have acquired land for this purpose and now there is a change in plans.....

(*ASIDE: It is the same area of land.*)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Is it the same area of land?

(SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Additional.)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: An additional piece of land?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute. Senator Howell.

SENATOR St. C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, I thought I had made that clear. I must apologize to the honourable Senator if he did not hear me. It is just an additional piece. As I said, it was landlocked, having acquired the 900-odd square meters. This has resulted from an application subsequently made. It is virtually very small, at the back, and we decided to acquire it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BUSH HALL, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 7 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Bush Hall, St. Michael for housing development and other community purposes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, in keeping with the Government's policy of trying to provide facilities which are community-based in nature, it is desirable that the Government acquire property at Bush Hall, St. Michael.

I have just passed around a copy of the plan. This property currently belongs to Agatha Horton, and the main reason for acquiring the property is for housing development and community purposes.

As honourable Senators may know, the Government has been involved in the USAID Housing Guarantee Scheme. Part of the scheme calls for a sites and services programme where Government will prepare sites, so that people may acquire the land at a price for home building.

In addition to developing the area for sites and services, there are plans for providing recreational facilities for the community. The area about which we are speaking is a very densely populated area and there is a dire need in that general Bush Hall area for the provision of facilities for the residents, clubs and youth

groups, so that they can engage in various activities in the community, both recreational and cultural.

The Resolution therefore seeks the approval for Government to acquire 12 148 square meters of land for the purpose of the housing development and other community purposes.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RATE OF INTEREST (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 11 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Rate of Interest Act.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before we call on Senator Griffith to move the Second Reading of this Bill, I have to draw to the attention of the Senate that the Deputy President is absent and it would be necessary to appoint a temporary Chairman of Committees.

Senator Trotman.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that Senator Linton be appointed Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If there are no other nominations, Senator Linton is appointed Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

Senator Griffith.

SENATOR C. A. GRIFFITH: In moving the Second Reading of this Bill, Sir, I would just outline the proposal. It is simply to amend the Rate of Interest Act so that the Minister of Finance may delegate to the Central Bank the powers conferred on him by Section 6 (1) of the Act with respect to fixing rates of interest.

In this regard, the Central Bank will exercise such powers conferred only with the approval of the Minister. The Central Bank is empowered, currently, by the Central Bank of Barbados Act to fix certain rates of interest with the approval of the Minister. Other rates are set by Order of the Minister under the existing Rate of Interest Act.

It is considered that the implementation of the proposed measure would enable the monetary authorities to react with greater speed and be more flexible to changes in the economy when the occasion presents itself for adjustment in the prevailing rate of interest.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.
12.05 p.m.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill, Senator H. R. LINTON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

SPECIAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 12 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Special Loans Act in order to extend the limit on the sums of money that the Government may borrow from any bank, corporation, company or other institution for purposes to be approved by Parliament.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, just a brief background. At the end of July, 1983, the National Debt stood at \$837.3 million. Of this amount, \$496 million had been borrowed locally and the remainder raised from foreign, private and international financial institutions. Of the amount borrowed locally, \$325 million, which represents about 65 per cent, was in the nature of short term loans. Foreign borrowings consisted primarily of loans with longer term maturities. The value of such loans outstanding as of July, 1983, stood at \$340.7 million.

Borrowings under the Special Loans Act, is primarily in the form of long term loans obtained from foreign lending sources. The raising of loans under this Act takes place when there is no specific legislation existing authorising borrowing from a particular lending agency.

Currently, Section 2 of the Act authorises Government to borrow up to \$200 million. But with the rapid development of the country, which has occurred in recent years, has necessitated increased levels of borrowing, particularly from non-traditional sources. Because of this, the necessary authorisation for the major part of recent borrowing has had to be secured under the Special Loans Act, a development which has meant that the authorised limit has been rapidly approached.

If the Government is to continue with its programme of economic development, therefore, it will need to undertake further borrowing to obtain funding for high priority projects, especially since it is unlikely that the level of expenditure required by these projects can be

comfortably accommodated within the national budget. Indeed, Sir, further borrowing under the Act is contemplated in the form of a loan from the Venezuelan Investment Fund which will be used by the Barbados National Oil Company to upgrade and expand its exploration and development operations. This alone represents some Bds\$18.2 million over a 20 year period.

In view of the need for continued borrowing, Government is requesting that the authorised limit be increased from \$200 million to \$375 million. This increase would be adequate to accommodate currently envisaged borrowing and some future requirements not yet identified.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise in support of the Bill. I recently pointed out that although it is generally agreed that the National Debt of Barbados, in normal terms, is within reasonable limits, there are two recent developments within our economy which suggest that Government has to be especially careful, not so much in borrowing, but in ensuring that repayment schedules are such that they are able to meet them.

One of the difficulties to which I refer is the situation where about Bds\$130 million in our foreign exchange is virtually sequestered through the CMCF, which, quite clearly, means that we have that less room to manoeuvre in terms of foreign payments and so on.

The second one is the substantial outlay on the new Central Bank. I have heard people, even in official quarters, saying that it makes no difference to the commitments of Government and the overall activity in the country because of the arrangement for financing the Central Bank. This is a mistaken view.

The financing of the Central Bank will have the same type of effect on the Barbadian economy as if it was a Government-owned building financed by borrowing from the Central Bank. I have heard that there is some arrangement for long term borrowing in relation to part of the expenditure on the Central Bank building. But I do not think that that will cover the full amount.

Because of those two situations, you will find that the room for us to manoeuvre has been considerably reduced, and Government has to be rather more cautious than if those things were not with us.

I thank you.
12.15 p.m.

SENATOR O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. President, I rise to add my support to the Resolution and also to add my support to the two points of caution that have been raised by Senator McClean; and indeed to raise a third consideration.

The third consideration I wish to raise, Mr. President, is that we are in this country, in my view, coming to the end of a cycle of fiscal expansion, which has seen the Government of Barbados recently engaging itself in a large number of very high priority projects designed to expand the income and foreign exchange generating bases of the society. I need not have to recite what those projects represent — the development at Oistins, the Cement Plant, Heywoods and so on.

In such circumstances, it is quite likely that, in the future, the range of projects which will yield the kind of returns in foreign exchange terms to justify substantial foreign borrowing will be very narrowly circumscribed. In that respect, while I support the Resolution which calls for the lifting of the limit from \$200 million to \$375 million, I would simply urge the Government to take all necessary steps to ensure that the kinds of projects for which this external financing is being sought are the kinds of projects which can lead to the expansion of the country's foreign exchange generating capacity, so much so that the debt service problem may not be postponed until some time in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Applause.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I must say that when you hear those pearls of wisdom from two eminent economists, then you must take heed, but I would just like to expand a bit on some of the points raised. The point raised about the CMCF particularly and the point raised by Senator Arthur about the need to ensure that any funds borrowed for development will necessarily have some kind of foreign exchange generating capacity.

As far as the CMCF is concerned, the problem has been bandied about in Barbados for some time, it has engaged the attention, of course, of CARICOM Ministers of Finance at several meetings, and I was present at a few of those meetings. Even the Prime Minister at one point alluded to the fact that the problem stemmed from the fact that the CMCF was operated like a Central Bankers' club, and I know there were some people who took exception to this.

But when we start to trace the problems that are associated with Barbados being owed \$130 million, we have to look first at the fact that it stemmed from the fact that our export capability in the Caribbean region

is significantly better than many other Caribbean countries. That is one reason, because our manufacturers have been doing very much better in the Caribbean area in terms of generating export earnings within CARICOM.

Then, of course, there is the fact that a number of political decisions were taken, although this facility was indeed attempting to be immuned from political decisions. For instance, when we trace the major problem within the CMCF we can see that Guyana was able to purchase all of its oil from Trinidad through the CMCF while Barbados was not allowed to do that. This was not a decision taken by the Governor of the Central Bank, it was a decision taken by political people within Trinidad and Guyana. That caused a problem.

If we look at the fact that when Barbados was importing oil at \$22 million a year, if Barbados were allowed to import its oil from Trinidad through the CMCF, we would not have had this significant credit build up in the facility.

There was an attempt to resolve this matter at the last CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in July. I believe that since then Barbados' credit has been reduced from \$65 million to some \$60 million, which is a mere drop in the bucket.

The Government has taken the position that we would not want the CMCF to resume until there is some indication that the indebtedness to Barbados has been reduced substantially. I am aware that there are substantial efforts being made to deal with this problem, but I am not aware that any implementation has taken place so far.

The point particularly raised by Senator Arthur about the need to ensure that money borrowed, particularly money borrowed externally, for development purposes is used to generate foreign exchange, that point is well made. I can speak for ours on the Venezuelan Investment Fund as it relates to our oil development, but I will not do that.

I would just simply like to point out that the \$9.2 million we have borrowed from the Venezuelan Investment Fund is money that has accumulated as a result of Barbados being a beneficiary country under the San Jose Agreement, where we have been paying for our oil imports at 70 per cent of the market value of the oil imports and having a credit build up in our own Central Bank of the remaining 30 per cent.

Over the past three years since we have become beneficiaries under the San Jose Agreement, we have been able to accumulate over U.S. \$9 million in the Fund. Consequently, there came a time when under the Agreement you should take advantage of extending those

credits into some type of long term programme, otherwise you found yourself at the end of five years repaying all the credits that were built up.

So the Government had to take a decision that it was going to look for an energy related project to use the \$9.2 million, and indeed because of the fact that Barbados is considered a middle income country which cannot attract soft loans, this loan from Venezuela must be considered as one of the best we could get under the circumstances, because we were talking about a 20 year loan at 2 per cent, with a four year grace period. Any time, anywhere in the world, you can get 20 year money at 2 per cent for development purposes, you cannot really look away from it.

That kind of investment will not necessarily generate export earnings, but it will move a long way towards cutting back on your import bill, which is also a very important objective. If you fail to generate export earnings and you can take steps to cut back on your import bill, I believe this is a very important consideration.

If we note that one of the difficulties we are having now with Trinidad relates to the Government of Trinidad's decision to restrict the flow of foreign exchange, even though some people may think it is a misguided policy, the point is that they are trying to limit importation of goods into the country because they see themselves with a haemorrhaging of foreign exchange.

There is nothing wrong with taking steps to limit importation as long as those limits do not interfere with the delivery of goods and services, and indeed benefits to the people of the country. We have been able to point in our own energy development to success in this regard.
12.25 p.m.

The \$9.2 million borrowed, which will be raised under this new ceiling of the Special Loans Act, can be seen as money which will be beneficial to the country that, of course, would come under the kind of thing that our dear friend, Senator Arthur, is talking about.

When we also look at the possibility of having significant problems now, Mr. President, with the manufacturing sector and its relationship to CARICOM, we have to think in terms of the fact that the foreign borrowings under our National Debt must be serviced by foreign exchange earnings. Consequently, if we have any restrictions in our export capability, that can have a debilitating effect on our ability to repay our foreign debt.

We have seen in the CARICOM markets where, because of the actions particularly of Trinidad and where because of the fears generated by the devaluation of the

Jamaican dollar, people are now reaching panic stations, and they may be doing so with good reason. But what this tells us is that we must seriously look beyond traditional markets in order to continue the development of our manufacturing sector and to maintain significant export potentials.

But when we hear talk about exporting to third countries and third markets and so on outside of CARICOM, we must also be mindful of the fact that the manufacturing sector in the Caribbean area, in most developing countries, must be prepared to not only look at exporting, but look also at exporting to those markets as a very competitive exercise. When you talk about exporting to North America, or to any of the developed countries, you are talking about exporting to countries where the competition is very keen. Therefore, for countries that have not been schooled in this kind of exercise, it behoves the operators to look seriously at the whole question of marketing and not just selling.

We have to think in terms of the fact that, if you want to operate in the North American market, you just do not make shirts and go up there and sell them. You have to think about market research, which is very important, if you are going to be dealing in a sophisticated market.

I believe that the manufacturers in Barbados will do well with the markets of metropolitan centres in conjunction with the Government authorities, in conjunction with EPC. But they must be very careful to note that we must have significant market research, and that production must not be production-oriented as such, where you just make products and sell, but that it be consumer-oriented, where you have to find out what the consumers want.

All the studies that I have seen have shown that it is very important to do research and find out what consumers want before you make products. And if you go that route, you cannot go wrong.

We did some research when I was in the consulate in New York on the market potential in New York City, and we came up with some very startling results. For example, there was one product in Barbados which was being sold only in the black community in New York and it was not doing very very well — a product from Barbados, I do not care to identify the product. When I had one of my staff exposed to a research project on the item, it was very educational to see the reaction of the consumer in New York City to the product. That survey told us a big story of what really was needed to be done for us to develop the potential of manufacturers in Barbados so that they could operate in metropolitan markets, particularly those that are as highly competitive as the North American markets.

We have to ensure that we put people in place, attached to our Missions in those countries, who have the capacity to do research and to work hard, people in the position of Commercial Attachés. If you do not have people in those capacities, people who could do the kind of market research that is necessary to try to understand the markets in which you are proposing to operate, then we could suffer significantly.

I just wanted to point that out, because it all impinges on the very important aspect of trying to earn foreign exchange. And the only way you can service the foreign component of the National Debt is through earning of foreign exchange.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill, Senator H. R. LINTON took the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have now received the message from His Excellency the Governor-General, which was alluded to earlier on by Senator Trotman.

It reads:

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, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, Senator John Ellis David Williams has been appointed under section 73(1) of the Constitution to be a Parliamentary Secretary with effect from 1st November, 1983.

D. H. L. WARD
Governor-General

Senators, I am sure you would wish me on your behalf to congratulate Senator Williams on his elevation. I am sure it is quite apparent to all members of the Senate that Senator Williams is a young man of great promise and I believe that he will do very well in the new sphere which he has entered. I congratulate him on your behalf and wish him every success.

12.35 p.m.

Cheers.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I want to thank you for the kind sentiments that you expressed both on your behalf and that of other members of the Senate.

I do promise you, Sir, that I will uphold the honour and dignity of the office, and indeed that I will go about my duties without fear or favour to anybody but only in the interest on my country.

Thank you.

Cheers.

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1983

Order No. 1 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1983.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks to amend the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1982.

There are a number of typographical errors, in that General Order, as indicated in the Resolution. First of all, in the Ministry of Finance, the Town and Country Planning Department, the post of Planning Assistant II should have read Z33 to 24 and not Z32 – 24 as carried in the present Order of 1982. Similarly, in the Ministry of Education the number of posts of Tutor at Erdiston College should be 19 and not 17. In like manner, in the Ministry of Health the grading of the post of House-keeper Grade II, District Hospitals, should be Z33 – 24 and not Z23 – 24. Sir, along with other amendments, would make some jobs which are now temporary become permanent jobs.

The number that I would like to highlight includes the post of Traffic Superintendent at Grantley Adams International Airport, where the Superintendent is now responsible for the management of taxi cars, the question of car parking and baggage operations. At present the job is a temporary one and there is indeed need for such an individual on a permanent basis. The Resolution seeks to make this job of Traffic Superintendent a permanent one.

In the Ministry of Information and Culture the post of Senior Administrative Officer now becomes a permanent post. Under that Ministry, in the case of the Printing Department, previously we had two temporary posts, Proof Reader I and Proof Reader II. These two posts have now become permanent posts, but it is the intention of Government to retain the two temporary posts as well. We believe that this would create greater efficiency in the area of control and in terms of management. From time to time parliamentarians have been complaining about not receiving their parliamentary debates or the Official Gazette on time, and it is with all this in mind that we have decided to make two of these temporary posts permanent and at the same time to continue to keep two others as temporary posts.

At present, the Immigration Department has a temporary post of Driver-Messenger. We have quite a number of files to transport every day between the Immigration Department on the Wharf and Bay Street, and there is a need for someone on a permanent basis.

In the Ministry of Education, as a result of a number of requests because of problems within the school system, it has been decided to appoint someone to the post of Psychologist. There are a number of behavioural problems now associated with school children, and I am pleased to see that the Ministry has taken a positive step in dealing with this and addressing its mind to the problems.

Within the Statistical Department the four temporary posts which exist now will become permanent. The department is called on at the end of the year to provide statistics for the Annual Economic Report, such as GDP figures, and there is need to have these posts regarded as being permanent, and this Resolution seeks to establish these posts as permanent posts.

The Resolution seeks to regrade certain posts, for example, and I must say this is a form of regrading, in the Police Department. It is the intention to restore the salary differential between the Police Commissioner and the top post in the Police Department, and I need not emphasize the benefits of taking that particular initiative. Similarly, within the Audit Department, the Resolution seeks to regrade the post of Principal Auditor and that of Auditor and to restore the parity between these posts and the various accounting departments.

Within the Ministry of Health, there is also the regrading of the Senior Public Health Engineer, and the idea is that there should be some parity between that particular post and a post like Chief Geologist, Chief Housing Planner and Chief Project Analyst.

The Resolution also seeks to redesignate the Ministry of the Attorney General to become the Ministry of Legal Affairs.
12.45 p.m.

I should make the point that in the Printing Department, which I spoke of before, there is the intention to create the post of Manager, replacing the Government Printer, who would now be at Z10-6, and the Deputy Manager who will also be on Z10-6. The proposed adjustments are designed to improve the efficiency of the department.

Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION No. 80/1982

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to amend Resolution No. 80/1982.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, last year, on December 16, 1982 Parliament approved a Resolution which, in essence, gave Government the power to use a loan of \$3.7 million from Barclays Bank International. This money was to purchase the assets of a company which was described as Aero Services. It was subsequently established that that name is incorrect and the correct name ought to have been, "Aero Services Barbados Ltd."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Excuse me. Senator Linton will you take the Chair for a few minutes.

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair, and SENATOR H. R. LINTON took the Chair.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Carry on.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Aero Services Ltd. has been found out to be the name of more than one company. It is therefore necessary to correct that original Resolution and to amend it, whereby the name Aero Services Barbados Ltd. will be carried.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, the said Resolution is attempting to clear up what might be regarded as a misunderstanding between Barclays Bank International and the Government, as to whether the suggestion that a moratorium of seven years meant that as far as the interest was concerned – and the moratorium indeed was on interest – no interest would be paid for the first seven years. As far as the bank is concerned, they are

saying that all it is is a mere suspension of the debt for a specific period and therefore the accumulated interest ought to be paid after seven years.

So as to make clear the situation, and that there would be no confusion relating to the time from which the interest becomes payable, the Resolution seeks to correct the error in respect of that, as well as to correct the error in respect of the names.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is proposed that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution. Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rather think that maybe, given the wording here, that there are still areas for potential disagreement between the Government and Barclays Bank. Those areas would relate to whether, as the interest accrues, this is going to be added to the principal to form a new base for interest payments in the subsequent time period, and whether interest would accrue annually, or every six months, or daily in terms of this compounding exercise.

One should try to find out whether it is intended that over the first seven years you just have simple interest being calculated and accumulated, with payments being deferred, without any additional interest liability attaching to the Government's decision to defer payment for seven years. I rather think that if this is not cleared up, it might be grounds for some disagreement.

But it may be that Government discussed this already. If that is so, I want to know whether the intention is that at the end of seven years, Government would have the option of paying, let us say, 28 per cent of the principal and then from there on the interest on an annual basis of 4 per cent? Or whether, if you do not pay for seven years, you will find that the sum due and payable as interest is rather more than 28 per cent? That should be cleared up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I note the points raised by Senator McClean. I would just say that as far as the Resolution is concerned, it is particularly clear. Government has decided that at the commencement of the eighth year interest would be indeed recognized.

I thank you.

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

12.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think this is an appropriate time for the suspension.

The sitting will be suspended for 45 minutes until 1:45 pm.

12:57 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHEAPSIDE, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 5 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cheapside, St. Michael for road improvement.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, Government has moved to acquire a number of pieces of land in the Cheapside area in order to alleviate some of the traffic congestion in the Lower Broad Street area as well as Cheapside, and this has come about as a consequence of the Spring Garden Highway coming into existence.

You would probably realize that quite a bit of traffic approach the City from the Spring Garden direction and, therefore, it is indeed necessary to widen the road coming off the Spring Garden Highway. One of the properties being acquired is the estate of Cyril E. Springer, deceased.

Understandably, a lot of survey work is involved in Government's road improvement projects. In the case of Spring Garden, St. Barnabas, Wildey, Halls Road and Speightstown, all of these have placed great pressure on the Surveying Department. It has been decided, therefore, that as soon as any survey plans in respect of a project are completed, the acquisition procedures to vest the land in the Crown should be finalized, so that the owners might be compensated as quickly as possible.

In this case, I must say that the owner of the land has agreed and accepted the amount of compensation offered. We are now seeking parliamentary approval, through this Resolution, to acquire 199 square metres of land of the estate of Cyril E. Springer.

Through this same Resolution the property known as Alma Cot comprising of 228.1 metres is one of the properties being acquired to facilitate Government's road improvement programme in the area.

With the new General Post Office project now in progress, the technicians have agreed that, for aesthetic reasons, a suitable area should be made available between the building and the road for landscaping purposes. It was further advised that since the design of the building did not permit for separate entrance and exit areas, and indeed one entrance will be used for both incoming and outgoing vehicles, in order to accommodate this, further land will have to be acquired.

For these reasons, it was considered that the distance between the Post Office and the road should at no point be closer than 14 feet. It was considered desirable to acquire these areas, including the property of Alma Cot, to allow the widening of the road in front of the new structure.

The road to be constructed will be 9 metres wide in front of the new Post Office. Provisions are also made in the relevant design to allow for adequate turning radius for commercial vehicles.

Compulsory Acquisition of Alma Cot is therefore vital to the road improvement programme and notices under Section 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, in respect to the acquisition of Alma Cot has already appeared in the *Official Gazette* and the Press.

Mr. President, I move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FONTABELLE, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 10 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Fontabelle, St. Michael for the purpose of road improvement.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, as part of our road improvement programme in the Cheapside — Fontabelle area, it was necessary for Government to compulsorily acquire several properties in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228.

The legal processes for the acquisition of most of these properties have been completed, but a few still

remained to be processed. The reason here is that the relevant surveys have not yet been completed and this is attributed to the heavy work load in the Surveying Department and, indeed, due to a shortage of staff in that area.

Furthermore, it is necessary on occasions to revise the road alignment in the area and this creates further delays, as on more than one occasion certain areas had to be re-surveyed. Efforts are being made to regularise these problems so that the acquisition of land which Government has already utilised in the road works may be finalised and the owners be duly paid.

The three parcels of land scheduled in the Resolution are lands for which the survey plans have been received. The Resolution therefore seeks approval for the compulsory acquisition of the said lands so that Government can obtain proper titles to the three parcels of land.

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

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Seale.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Sir, I support the Resolution. There is just a small point.

I was very pleased to hear Senator Williams say that Government proposes to landscape the area. Fontabelle, itself, over the last couple of years has changed face somewhat. But there is one area in the Fontabelle region that something could be done about, and it is the bit of land in front of Frank B. Armstrong, that is on President Kennedy Drive opposite the oil installation. As I understand, Frank B. Armstrong would be most happy to purchase this land but nothing has been done about it, and it now only looks unsightly.

As we are aware, little further up the road we have the Old Car Museum, which is also very unsightly. I am amazed that we have so many laws to deal with health in this country but we never seem to be able to have enough laws to move the Old Car Museum. We have the situation where the mobile canteens are being thrown off but we cannot find the legislation yet to clear that area. We are putting Fontabelle right and I think it is only natural that we should do something about that area.

1.55 p.m.

Thank you.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT QUEEN STREET, SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER

Order No. 8 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Queen Street, Speightstown, St. Peter for the construction of the Speightstown By-Pass Road.

SENATOR THE HON. O'BRIEN TROTMAN: Mr. President, in 1981 Government came to this Chamber and acquired some 32 parcels of land belonging to various persons for the construction of the Speightstown By-pass Road. It has now been discovered that because of some fault in design, certain portions of land, which in fact fell within the path of the highway and which ought to have been acquired at that time, were omitted then. The two Resolutions, Numbers 8 and 9, seek to rectify that position.

The Speightstown By-pass Road is not just a new highway, it is a highway which will improve access to St. Lucy and make some provision for the heavy traffic which one expects will be generated from the cement plant when that becomes operational next year, as well as the traffic out of the Heywoods Holiday Village. It is one of several new roads which have to be built in the north of Barbados, and I refer to the new road which has to be built from Greenland to the Cement Plant, and the possibility of a new highway replacing the old Highway 2.

Highways 1 and 2, as we know them will not be able to accommodate the very heavy traffic which one expects will come out the Arawak Cement Company. At the same time, rather than go through the old Speightstown and destroy what is, in fact the former Little Bristol, we will preserve Speightstown as it was and give access to the north of Speightstown, and so avoid destroying the architecture and the old designs of Speightstown.

Speightstown is at present having some development. We expect some time in the new year to be able to start work on the administrative block for the Government in Speightstown as well as to provide new quarters for the Police and the Fire Service.

But the by-pass is a very important road to the north of Barbados, not merely Speightstown, but St. Lucy and St. Andrew, since some of the raw materials for the plant at the Arawak Cement Company will be coming out of St. Andrew.

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

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, in supporting this Resolution I would like to throw out an idea to the Ministries concerned in relation to the development in that part of the country. Speaking specifically in relation to Road View Cemetery, I would like to see the Government acquire some parcel of land whereby proper parking facilities would be provided for people who are going to the cemetery.

Those of us who have ever been to funerals there would know what chaos there is when you have to park on the road, and if we are to prepare for this development, the Heywoods development and otherwise that should be done.

Obviously the traffic is going to be much heavier than what it is today, and regardless of whatever we may think, people will be dying every day from that part of the country. Therefore, I would like to suggest that Government look into the aspect of acquiring some land within the area to provide proper facilities for people who are attending funerals at the St. Peter's Cemetery.

Thank you.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, just a few comments on this Resolution as introduced by Senator Trotman.

I think that we are in agreement that the Speightstown by-pass does add a new dimension to life and to the traffic situation going through Speightstown or through that part of St. Peter and into St. Lucy. One has to recognise, of course, that it is a continuation of a development strategy which was initiated by the Democratic Labour Party. Indeed, the Speightstown by-pass was planned originally by the Democratic Labour Party. I just mentioned that to set the Record straight.

Let me just raise a point from what Senator Trotman has said. He said that the Government is now seeking to acquire these two parcels of land because, apparently, there was some fault in the design. I think that this is a very serious admission on his part, because I fail to see how engineers and surveyors could be involved in this kind of work and could not have foreseen, and planned, for this. It has obviously placed the Government in a situation where I am assuming they have trespassed on people's land and now they have to come, when they have discovered that an error has been made, to acquire further lands in order to correct a fault which was made at the very beginning.

I think what is very clear is that the Government, and indeed the technicians and the professional people who are involved in this kind of development project, ought to exercise professional care in the work which they are called upon to do from time to time, because

they could, as indeed I suspect they have, place the Government in what is an embarrassing position.

On that particular point, I travel that road fairly often and one of the things which has struck me, and which I think ought to be looked into, is the area of the road where it joins Church Street. I must confess that when I first drove on Church Street I almost drove across the road when I should have stopped. I do not think that there is adequate warning, and because of the way how the road is designed, being accustomed to driving on that road, you would tend to just go through it.
2.05 p.m.

It seems to me, Sir, that, before we reach a point where we get serious accidents, the Government ought to seriously consider the establishment of traffic lights in that area going through up Church Street, in both directions, because there is a natural swift passage through there on the new road.

I was driving across it the other night and I was myself surprised at the speed, and when I reached Heywoods I did not realise that I was there, not that I was speeding. But the thing is that I went through there and it struck me, as it did on the other occasions, that something ought to be done to have some kind of traffic control in that area. I would like to suggest that we pay some attention to the establishment of some traffic lights in that area.

Relative to the point which Senator Jemmott has made about the cemetery at Road View, I think this is a point which ought to be taken into consideration. Even without the traffic which is anticipated to be going north, when there is a burial at the cemetery it does cause very serious congestion, and I think that the whole question of parking ought to be engaging the attention of the Government.

Senator Trotman also indicated that the road has been built to accommodate some of the heavy traffic which will be going to and from the cement plant. I am not sure when he used the term "heavy", whether he means heavy in terms of numbers or heavy in terms of weight.

(ASIDE: Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman: Both).

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: That means, Sir, since he is talking about both, heavy in terms of numbers and heavy in terms of weight, I will assume that the new portion of the road has been constructed to accommodate heavy traffic. It seems to me, therefore, that we should be looking very soon at upgrading the roads, going from the cement plant right through, because those roads have not been built to accommodate heavy traffic in the terms of weight. If you can consider the size trucks and

the kind of equipment which will be using those roads, then, (1), the roads have got to be widened and (2) they have to be reinforced so that they would not be damaged in a short space of time.

Too often you find that this is what has happened with the roads around Barbados, for example, with the containerization which has come just suddenly on us. We found that we had to accommodate heavy traffic and the road system just could not take it. I would hope that in the overall planning the Government would recognize that, in the not too distant future, they will have to upgrade the roads leading out of the cement plant back into the direction of Speightstown and on through St. James.

It is going to call for a massive road works programme, because if you take the St. James Road, just beyond Road View and going up through Holetown, rain only has to fall 10 minutes or 15 minutes and that road is flooded. It becomes almost impassable, and I think we have to give very active consideration to this if we say that we are going to accommodate any traffic.

All of the things which Senator Trotman has mentioned relative to the Heywood's Development and the cement plant, are things which will necessitate heavy traffic and which, in my view, if you are going to satisfy the needs of the area in any kind of way, then quite naturally the roads will have to be upgraded. I hope that these will be taken into consideration.

Thank you.

SENATOR O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. President, I do not join the debate to discuss the issue as to whose planning it was to re-develop Speightstown, but merely to say quickly that, from time immemorial, there have been plans and rumours of plans.

I seek to join the debate, Sir, at a more positive level. The matter under discussion is a more integral part of a larger programme which encompasses not only the development of Speightstown, but the development of the northern part of this country as a whole. Without losing sight of the specifics of the Resolution before us, I would wish to put the matter within the larger context because there are some burning issues relating to the development of the north as a whole which must be brought to attention.

First let me say, however, that the development in the north encompassing the Speightstown Re-development, the Arawak Cement Plant, the Heywood's Holiday Village and the roads, to which reference has been drawn, constitute a very meaningful initiative to the extent that they will serve to create a new income-employment generating base for a region of the country which has been hitherto before been neglected. In relation to the Speightstown

Development specifically, one welcomes it, because it can serve a useful national purpose in creating a new and vibrant urban centre in our society.

It seems to me, Sir, that there are three equally important issues which need to be addressed at this time. The first is that great care would be in order if we are to ensure that the developments of the region are compatible with the requirements of the region within which they fit and do not only emerge as projects which are purely national in character.

The fact is that much spin-off economic activity, particularly in the service sector, will be generated by the development of Speightstown, the development of Heywood's, Arawak Cement Plant and so on, and we cannot necessarily assume that the economic benefits in terms of new income and employment opportunities would necessarily redound to the benefits of the inhabitants of the area unless concerted efforts are made to steer the small business class, the artisan class, the craftsman class, in a direction that would enable them to take advantage of the opportunities as created. I am hoping and I am very hopeful, that the plans for the development of the region make specific provision for that small class of persons, particularly in the service area, to take advantage of the spin-off activity of the larger national projects which would, as I say, make those larger national projects fit more comfortably within the region in which they are meant to fit.

The second issue concerns, in my view, the need for equally great care to be exercised to ensure that the social development of the region keeps pace with its physical development.

Already there is great pressure being placed on the transportation system, and one anticipates that, in due course, equally great pressure will be placed on the housing facilities of the Speightstown area. This is a matter which should be accorded very serious priority, because we might very well end up with a beautifully-developed region of the country in a physical sense, but an underdeveloped region of the country in a social sense. I do not want to underscore this particular problem.

The third concern, Mr. President, is that, in my analysis, some consideration should be given not only to the creation of those facilities that by-pass Speightstown, but also for the improvement of facilities within Speightstown because sometimes we are very fond, Sir, of calling new worlds into existence in order to correct imbalances of the old. In this respect, I would like to make a plea that the relevant authorities, even when they are considering completion of the by-pass road, take deliberate action to improve a number of small roads, Mill Road, Bovell Road and Mango Lane, in the very heart of the town, whose present state of dilapidation is a very sore point of distress to the inhabitants of the town.

I thank you.
2.15 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, there are a few points to which I want to reply.

First of all, the questions of the cemetery at Road View. I did not go into any details of the Speightstown development programme because, even though this road is essential to that development, I thought that that debate could come at another time. But I want to assure the Senate that plans are afoot to have the cemetery wall moved in a few feet off the road to provide a pathway for pedestrian traffic, and we are also planning to acquire land to the north of the cemetery. There are probably four or five houses to the north of the cemetery, and it is proposed to move these houses out from there and provide proper parking facilities for persons attending funerals at the cemetery.

On the question of crossing at Church Street being dangerous, it is dangerous, Sir, because Senator Greaves has not awaited the opening of the road and has taken the liberty, like so many of us, to use the road before it is really ready for use. But I have been assured that the necessary street crossings and street lights are going to be affixed.....

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Technically, he is trespassing.

When the road is opened in another two months, it is my understanding that all the necessary safety precautions would have been installed.

Senator Greaves also raised the question of upgrading the roads from St. Lucy, generally. I mentioned this in passing earlier, and I thought he might have taken the point, that on the whole question of moving materials from the East Coast to the cement plant, and the finished product from the plant to Bridgetown, all the roads involved, which might include a completely new Highway 1, would have to be looked at.

We realise that there is no way that heavy trucks — these are going to be trucks as heavy as container vehicles — would be able to travel on the dirt tracks which we only have coming from St. Lucy. The roads are really dirt tracks covered with asphalt and they could not last very long. It is our estimation, in fact, that some of the roads would collapse within a couple of months.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SPEIGHTSTOWN AND ROAD VIEW, ST. PETER

Order No. 9 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Speightstown and Road View, St. Peter for road development and improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, this is a companion Resolution.

I rise to take the opportunity to reply to one other point Senator Greaves raised, the question of the flooding of St. James on Highway 1. In fact, the flooding at St. James on Highway 1 is not a problem which arises because of the bad roads in St. James. It has to do with bad drainage out of the highlands of St. Thomas and St. James into the lowlands of the West Coast.

He said that if it rains for ten or fifteen minutes the roads become flooded, but I have known that road to be under water when there was no rain at all in St. James. If the rain falls in Hillaby, it floods Hometown. We are trying to see what drainage systems can be installed to keep the water from flooding Hometown whenever it rains in Hillaby.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, December 14, 1983, at 11 a.m.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am becoming a little disturbed at the way in which the Senate Papers are being distributed.

I have kept quiet because I found myself in an unfortunate position. I was overseas for some time, came back and heard there was a Senate meeting, but had no papers. I looked all over the place where they could possibly be and I had no papers, and I really think it is unfair to a member to expect him to be able to prepare adequately for a meeting if the papers are not forthcoming.

I would like to appeal to you to see if you can regulate the distribution of Senate Papers and that it be done in time. I feel this is a consideration which we at least deserve.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am distressed to hear these remarks from Senator Greaves, because this morning another Senator raised the same point with me.

This Senate has itself agreed, I do not remember when it was, that when papers are being circulated for the Other Place they be marked Parliament and circulated at the same time to members of the Senate. Members of the Senate will know then that at some date this particular set of business would come to them, so they put the paper aside and read it at their convenience, so that they are not taken by surprise when the actual Order Paper comes later on. If this procedure has been adopted, as I believe

it is, certainly it is in my place, members really ought not to have any excuse for not having their documents.

However I will look into the matter and discuss it with the Clerk and see if there has been any difficulty about it.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, December 14, 1983 at 11 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
2.25 p.m.

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