
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

Wednesday, December 16, 1987

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, December 16, 1987 at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. Jordan (Deputy President)

Senator the Honourable Sir James Tudor, K.C.M.G., (Minister of Foreign Affairs) (Leader of the Senate);

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. Lewis, (Minister of State for the Civil Service);

Senator A. Morrison

Senator D. A. Comissiong

Senator V. C. Fraser, B.S.S., J.P.

Senator A. J. N. Phillips

Senator B. A. Miller

Senator L. R. Till, Q.C.

Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E.

Senator the Reverend Canon I. McK. Jones

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

Senator C. A. Blackman, Q.C.

Senator P. Y. Forde

Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey.

Prayers were led by the Rev. Dr. L. A. Crawford.

ABSENT

His Honour Senator Sir Frank L. Walcott, K.A., O.B.E., LL.D; Senator N. W. Boxill; Senator G. L. Eastmond; Senator T. A. Prescod and Senator J. S. Goddard.

EXCUSES

His Honour Senator Sir Frank L. Walcott, K.A., O.B.E., LL.D; Senator G. L. Eastmond (ill); and Senator J. S. Goddard (ill).

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Senators, I have a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General, which reads as follows:

“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, Dr. Carl Denzil Clarke has been appointed under section 36(2) of the Constitution to be a member of the Senate with effect from the 23rd November, 1987.”

I now invite the Senator, the Honourable Dr. Carl Clarke, to take his seat.

Dr. Carl Clarke was escorted by the Acting Clerk of Parliament to his place in the Senate.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this Senate. I understand that you have been sworn in, and I now invite you to take your seat in the hope that you will honour the traditions of this Honourable Senate and make your contributions to its debates and its work with honour and respect for its traditions.

I now invite you to take your seat.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, thank you very much for the warm welcome which you have extended to me. I do pledge that I shall give of my utmost at all times to uphold the traditions of this Honourable Chamber, and by my efforts to ensure that Barbados becomes a better place for our children and our children's children.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

Applause

Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke then took his seat in the Chamber.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I am commanded to lay the following:

The 4th Annual Report and Financial Statement of Accounts of the Transport Levy Fund for the period ended 31st March, 1986.

The Representation of the People (Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations, 1987.

The Annual Report of the Barbados Water Authority for the period 1st April, 1985 to 31st March, 1986.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1987.

The 9th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Sports Council for the year 1st April, 1986 to 31st March, 1987.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Marketing Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1986.

I am also commanded to state that Replies to Parliamentary Question No. 4 asked by Senator P. Y. Forde, and Parliamentary Question No. 6, asked by Senator C. A. Blackman, Q.C., are ready.
11.25 a.m.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, To ask the Leader of the Senate:

1. Is the Minister aware that incidents of all types of child abuse reported to the public authorities continue to show very substantial increases?
2. Is the Minister also aware that the present legislation is inadequate to deal efficiently, effectively or speedily with various aspects of child abuse, especially in the areas of care, protection and safety of children, and punishment of offenders?
3. If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Minister state if and when Government will introduce suitable amending legislation to remove the deficiencies of the law and to eradicate the serious community problem of child abuse?

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, the reply is as follows:

1. No. There are increases in most cases but the totals show a decrease for 1985-86. However, the problem still remains one of grave concern.
2. Yes. Steps are being taken to correct the inadequacies of the present legislation so that children will receive better protection and offenders brought to justice.
3. The Ministry is discussing the matter with the Attorney General and the deficiencies will be corrected in the future.

Sir, I am passing a copy of this to the Senator.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, in respect of the answer to 2, how will steps be taken to correct the inadequacies of the present legislation so that children will receive better protection?

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: The Ministry has several proposals for this. They propose, in the first place, to establish a family court so that matters of this sort could be dealt with with the specialized supporting and other staff and, of course, with the privacy which the circumstances would warrant.

They also propose that there should be mandatory reporting of child abuse and negligent cases. It would not be left to the haphazard methods we sometimes have. Some type of official reporting system, they think, should be implemented for certain classes of professionals who have knowledge of abuse and neglect cases, such as doctors, teachers and health personnel. Provision will also be made for them to be protected from liability when they do report this kind of information. Most of it, of course, will have to be confidential.

Thirdly, the Ministry is contemplating, and, perhaps, this is the most important aspect of these proposals, a new Offences Against the Persons Act. They think such an Act should be an improvement on the original and rather old-fashioned Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, which is a 1904 Act, and, even earlier, the Offences Against the Persons Act of 1868.

What they have in mind is that the legislation, when enacted, should take into account the problems encountered in the area of corroboration of complaints made by children, and the fact that children can currently be enticed and procured to take part in sexual acts, and to make sure that when this happens, persons can be apprehended on the quickest and most certain evidence there is.

Provision is also to be made in that legislation for psychological and psychiatric reports and use of, or recourse to, the expertise of certain expert witnesses in these peculiar and difficult cases, and for the linking of custodial sentences with ongoing psychiatric cases, for therapy, for all the victims of this sort of abuse.

I do not know if this helps the Senator, but this is what they propose to do in respect of the second part.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Yes. Thank you. All that you have said goes a long way to my thinking. I hope it will not be too long before quite a bit of that is introduced. The country badly needs it.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I believe the Minister and his advisers would be very happy to see you at any time if you wish to draw to their attention, before the legislation is brought before Parliament, any possible loopholes which you think might be in it so they could tidy them up even before they enact the legislation. We would be very pleased to hear not only from yourself, but concerned persons in the community who wish to put a stop to all of this.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, now that the reply to the answer has come, just over a year, I am sure there are other competent people in the community who would be happy to make such a contribution.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, may I be permitted to ask a supplementary question on this?

The proposals outlined by the Honourable Leader of the Senate are very interesting and far-reaching. I wonder if the Minister would consider putting those proposals in the form of a White Paper. I do not think what is being proposed is a problem of being either controversial or partisan.

There is a wealth of information that is available from other institutions, some of which is in my possession, and I think this could be made available to us in a non-partisan document on the ground of legislation put before Parliament. Would the Minister be able to give that sort of consideration?

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Yes, I think that on behalf of my colleague, I could commit him to this. This would be very useful to all of us.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: To ask the Leader of the Senate: Would the Minister state the amounts drawn down between 1st July, 1986 and 30th June, 1987, in respect of each loan approved and/or guaranteed by Parliament during that period?

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, the answer is as follows:

- (a) Amounts drawn down during the period 1st July, 1986 and 30th June, 1987 in respect of loans approved by Parliament during that period are:

	Amount Approved	Amount Drawn Down
Japanese Bond Issue II	Yen. 4.3 Billion	Yen 4.3 Billion
Natwest Investment Bank Limited	U.S. \$40 Million	U.S. \$40 Million
IBRD 2nd Education Training Project	U.S. \$10 Million	Nil
Barclays Bank PLC	£30 Million	£27 Million
<i>Construction of Houses</i>		
Venezuelan Investment Fund)		
Banco Central De Venezuela)	U.S. \$11.870 Million	Nil
Banco Mercantil Venezolano)		
Inversiones A.B.A.)		
Venezuelan Investment Fund – Barbados National Oil Company	U.S. \$1.924 Million	Nil

- (b) No amounts were drawn down from the Venezuelan Export Development Corporation loan of U.S. \$1.3 million to the Barbados National Oil Company guaranteed by Parliament.

11.35 a.m.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am very appreciative of the answer, particularly since I only asked the question last month.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

INDEPENDENCE HONOUR TO SENATOR V. C. FRASER

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. President, before I proceed, I wonder whether, with your leave and with the leave of the Senate, since there is no provision in the Order Paper for what I believe honourable Members would wish to do, we might indulge in some felicitations on matters which have taken place since we last met.

Unfortunately, in respect of His Honour the President, his absence for this purpose is regrettable, but Senator Fraser is here with us. She has been the very deserved recipient of an Independence honour in the Order of Barbados, and I believe that Senators would wish to record their warm congratulations to her and their delight in this recognition to her public service.

It is always very difficult on these occasions to say all that can be said, but I think that there are possibly three things which I should like to say.

Oh, Sir, do I have the leave of the Senate?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no objection, you may proceed.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Thank you, Sir.

The first thing I should like to say is that the contribution which Senator Fraser has made to agro-industry in this island and elsewhere has been enormous. Her name is a household word, and she has endeared herself to all sections of the community for the specialist attention she has paid to this very important area of food production in small countries and certainly in our own community.

A lot of the things we did not know before she started to help us to know them have become very valuable. A lot of people who plant, or who did not plant before, have been encouraged to make use of their gardens. And a lot of people became productive who never, until she started to stimulate interest in food industries, thought that they as housewives were not only capable of cooking for their families, but using their creativity to raise the economic awareness of food production in this country. I think they owe this to her.

Secondly, she has represented Barbados in many fora of the world, particularly on women's affairs, and has brought to bear in that area, a very wide practical experience of the needs of women, particularly not only as housewives or as parents, but as themselves playing an important part in the economy of the country. The role of women as producers, as business women, as professionals, she has made great inputs into that.

Thirdly, too, and this by no means exhausts the range of her contribution, she has been an example to ordinary citizens of this country, of all that can be achieved by people who take a particular speciality, which would normally have remained as part of the expertise of knowledgeable people, and brought it within the range of ordinary people to understand and to appreciate.

Her work, particularly on the occasions when we have held the Great Harvest, and this is something with which we should persevere, in helping to organise and to co-ordinate all the various activities connected with that event is a byword among the citizens of this country. The encouragement which she has given in that respect cannot bear too much praise.

I think, therefore, that we must all be very pleased that one of our members has been singled out for this distinction for her contribution. We are immensely glad that she is here present as a member of this Senate to be able to congratulate her very warmly and to wish her more success in the future.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to join with the honourable Leader of the Senate in congratulating Senator Fraser on her award. Senator Fraser, I think, is one of the persons in the Barbadian community who can be described as a doer and not just a talker, and I have been impressed in this Chamber by her down-to-earth, sensible contributions – without any disrespect, Mr. Deputy President, to other contributions – and I speak, I think, for all my colleagues on this side of

the table in sharing the good wishes expressed to Senator Fraser.

Since I am speaking on their behalf, I may not have the authority to voice some personal reservations I have, and therefore, I would not give voice to them here on this occasion, but I do think, Mr. Deputy President, that the whole matter of national honours is one that sometimes brings to the forefront people who perhaps do not get remembered. In a few hours, there is an old schoolmaster who is to be buried this afternoon, who worked for many years and was never recognised, and there are many people in this community who laboured for many years and are never recognised in the community.

I am glad that Senator Fraser has been recognised in her lifetime, and I wish her many more years perhaps to merit an advancement from the Order of Barbados to a higher honour, which I am sure she more than richly deserves, so that we who would be either in this Chamber or in another place, would be able to really recognise her outstanding contribution to Barbados. I do most sincerely congratulate her on behalf of all of us on this side.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, Senator Blackman did say he was speaking on behalf of us over here, but as the only Independent Senator around this table, I should like to offer my sincere congratulations to Senator Fraser for the human work which she has done over the years in this country in many, many spheres, not only in the agro-industry, as the Leader of the Senate pointed out, and on behalf of the women of Barbados I congratulate her.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to add my little two cents' worth to all the gratifications and congratulations that Senator Fraser has been getting. I really think that she richly deserves this – she deserves even more than she has already got.
11.45 a.m.

She has done tremendous work in Barbados. She has made women realise that if you have initiative, if you have the will power and vigour and determination, the sky is the limit. There were a lot of people who felt when Senator Fraser started out in agro-industry that she would never have been able to make much of that in a way of innovation here in Barbados. She proved to them that it can be done.

I was amazed one day when I passed by where she lives – she does not know this, but my daughter took me down there – that when I saw the garden that she had down there and the work she was doing, they told me that she did that work with her own hands. She is a really great woman.

I agree with Senator Blackman when he says, Senator Fraser is a doer and not a talker. Most of us politicians – most politicians, rather.....

Laughter.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES:
.....are talkers.....

Laughter.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES:
.....and not doers. She is certainly a doer.

I am very pleased that she has got this, and I hope that in the not too distant future, she will be even accorded a much higher distinction in order of merit.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I too, would like to join in the sentiments expressed to Senator Fraser on her well-deserved honour.

As an agriculturalist – I am not, as Canon Jones said, a politician and a good speaker – I would like to say how much we in agriculture appreciate what Senator Fraser has done in the past, and hopefully will continue to do in the future, to do everything to assist in agriculture.

I wish, Sir, to express my congratulations to Senator Fraser.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I could not allow this occasion to pass, Sir, without making some congratulatory remarks to Senator Fraser. It was from the inception back in the 1970s, when she first launched herself on this agro-industrial industries, that she had been able to bring in those days a certain amount of forthrightness and the ability to work long hours in order to establish certain home-made preserves in this country. She worked very hard to establish our Instant Yam, which had reached a very high standard, and it is with regret today, that we are not exporting Instant Yam. Senator Fraser did yeoman service in bringing that Instant Yam to perfection. Today, we do not see it on our shelves any more.

She has worked very hard in the food promotion sector of the Ministry of Agriculture in those years, and there are a lot of things which she has done in those years which have not even been properly advertised in this country. I would like to pay my tribute publicly to her for the wonderful work she had done in those years in bringing all of these food preserves. Her ability to get people organized to work on home preserves, is much to her own credit and that of the women in this country.

She has also gone further afield and has been able to motivate our women folk into getting out and doing work, to be heard among the men folk, and to stay up as women and make their own vital contribution to the upliftment of this country.

I know she has now gone back into her accustomed role, and I can only hope that, with this honour, the Ministry of Agriculture would give her a free hand to carry out the work which she so well begun in the era of the 1970s. I know she might be having some problems now in pursuing her work, but I think that they should give her a free hand in order to realize the goals that she has set for herself and this country in the area of food promotion and the preserves of fruit.

Senator Fraser, again, I would like to congratulate you on your very noble achievement. I hope you will continue to receive other awards as you go along in your work and that you will be a pride to the women folk in this country.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. Deputy President, let me also join fellow Senators in offering very sincere congratulations to Senator Fraser on the national award which she has received.

I think it is beyond question, as several persons have already said, that she has served her country well and long, and I think that we are doing just what is appropriate in offering her our very sincere congratulations.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: It is almost impossible for me, Mr. Deputy President, to add to what has already been said. But I certainly want to join the debate in the name of those faceless people who work, and work, and work and then die without a word being said about their contribution. If Senator Fraser's work does nothing more than to draw to attention that the future of Barbados does not lie with the eminent, but with the faceless generations of Barbadians who work, and work, and work and then die, that is itself outstanding.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I have already communicated to Senator Fraser my sincere congratulations on this award, but I believe that I should not let the occasion pass, although I will not repeat what has been said by several persons.

Apart from Senator Fraser's involvement in agro-industry and areas like that, and apart from her involvement with people at all levels – I can speak of this because I believe I have known Senator Fraser before she was ten years old, as long ago as that – before I was ten years old even, and she is much younger than I am – Senator Fraser has all through her life been a person who would reach out to help other people. This fact is known not only in Barbados, but Senator Fraser's work is known in the Caribbean, in Antigua, St. Kitts especially, and in Trinidad and Tobago. Persons speak very proudly of the contribution which Senator Fraser is making not only in Barbados, but on the Caribbean scene through her involvement with CARIWA.

In addition to all this – I do not think this is generally known, and this is really the reason why I got up to speak – Senator Fraser was one of a group of persons who were banded together under the leadership of Sir Hugh Springer some time between 1982 and 1984 when the idea of establishing a National Development Foundation was being contemplated. Senator Fraser has served that organisation faithfully and loyally. I had the good privilege for two years to work along with her, and she voluntarily performed a public relations role for us in addition to all the other things that she had been doing during the period 1984 to 1986.

I believe her work with the foundation is certainly recognized by the people in the foundation, and they did her the honour of electing her to be the President of the National Development Foundation of Barbados in succession to Senator John Stanley Goddard. And I believe that I can safely, on behalf of all those persons who benefit from the services of the foundation, add their own appreciation for the work that Senator Fraser has done over the years.
11.55 a.m.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Mr. Deputy President, I cannot really add much to what has already been said about Senator Fraser's accomplishments. I should just like to add my congratulations, and to put on record my sincere appreciation of the qualities that I perceive that Senator Fraser possesses, and they have impressed me tremendously – her outspokenness, integrity, courage, facility for believing in something and for taking a public position on it, and for standing up to all the criticisms.

I think that there are far, far too few such individuals in Barbados, and I think that our national life suffers from that – not having people who can feel strongly about something, take a public position on it and defend it with integrity and with courage. I salute Senator Fraser for exhibiting those types of qualities, and once again congratulate her.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is difficult for me to find something new to add to all that has been said in honour of Senator Fraser, but I must state that I have had the privilege of working with Senator Fraser over the years. I have, in fact, proposed her to be the president of the National Development Foundation, because we recognized the valuable contribution which she was making to that organisation, and I think that I can safely say that I speak for the majority of all Barbadians when I say that her name has now become a household word, especially when we are dealing with indigenous foods and the preparation thereof. We are very proud indeed of our native daughter of the soil, and we look forward to her going from strength to strength.

Not only do we think of her in the field of agro-industry, but we certainly think of the great contribution which she has made with respect to the National Organisation of Women, speaking on behalf of women not

only in Barbados, but in the wider Caribbean Community and even beyond the Caribbean.

Senator Fraser has made her contribution in several different ways, also in the political life of the country, and we hope that this will be the first of many honours.

Senator Fraser, we salute you and we congratulate you on this honour which has been conferred upon you.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. Deputy President, I should warmly like to congratulate Senator Fraser on her recent award of merit.

Senator Fraser is not only my neighbour in Parliament, but I have known her for many, many years. I have a very personal knowledge of her culinary arts. However, Sir, I am yet to be satisfied as to who is the better cook of herself and her mother. They run fairly close in that area.

I believe that Senator Fraser richly deserves the award which she has got. I stood on the outside and heard Senator Jones speak of Senator Fraser as a doer. I too, can confirm that she certainly is a doer, she has always been, and I believe she will continue to be so.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to thank all my colleagues for congratulating me on this award. However, I should like to say that, as Senator Lewis mentioned, I have always seen myself as a doer and not a doer for rewards or awards.

In my lifetime, I have been happy to receive quite a number of awards. Senator Tudor mentioned the contribution I made to the Great Harvest. I should like to say that that did not go unrewarded by the FAO, because I was one of the first people to receive a Silver Medal from the FAO, so my work was even wider recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

I say this because I want you to know that there are many people out there who have rewarded me and I want to thank them very much. The list is rather long, but the Barbados Youth Council rewarded me long ago, the Libra Club, the Nurses' Association, the Business and Professional Women's Club, CARIWA itself, the Caribbean Women's Association, and I could go on. The Black Women's Collective gave me a replica of the Liberty Bell, and so I am able to think that what I have been doing, people have recognized.

However, I want you to realize that I am not the type of person who will stop working for my country. I love Barbados, it is the only world I know. It is like the little boy who was asked to draw a map of the world and he drew Barbados. I feel the same way.

I remember saying at Independence, if you love your world, which is Barbados, you will do nothing to besmirch its character at home or abroad, but everything to uplift and uphold our National Anthem. As we sing it, we should really

think of the seriousness of the words, because if we are going to be loyal sons and daughters – and I must keep repeating this – of an independent Barbados, then we must understand that certain responsibilities must be placed heavily on our shoulders as citizens.

These responsibilities must go beyond our homes and our personal lives. They must touch the lives of the people in the community. For instance, in respect of the problem aired by Senator Forde, I should like to say here that the answer was very pleasing to hear, and it has made my Christmas. It has made my birthday first, which is tomorrow, that we are going to have a Family Court, because the National Organisation of Women, to which I belong, has been plugging for this since way back in the Seventies, and also for certain cases to be tried in camera. We welcome this most sincerely, and I look at my honour as an honour to all the women of Barbados and to all the people who are less fortunate in Barbados than many of us who sit in this Senate Chamber. Today, while I am here, I have the other members just across the road giving out packages to some 350 needy families.

I should like to encourage every Barbadian not to sit down and wait on Government, or wait on the church, or wait on anybody else, but to try and ask, what can I do for my country? What can I do to uphold and uplift this country Barbados? I have always asked myself this question.

There is one thing we must not forget, and I say this all the time. I put God in front and I behind, and I feel that wherever He wants me to go and whatever He wants me to do, that He will guide me. That is what I ask Him every day of my life, and for any achievements in my work, I give God the credit, and I give those other persons who have helped me along in my life, like my mother specially.

My mother is a very special person to me. She means a lot to me. She has always said, "if you are going to be a citizen, be the best citizen there is", and she has instilled this not only in me, but with my father, in all of my brothers and sisters.
12.05 p.m.

As I stand here, it makes one feel happy to hear one's colleagues say words of appreciation in one's lifetime, and I am one who has been saying for a long time that it is a waste of time to be putting up honours, statues and so on to people if you did not give them anything that they could feel, allow them to smell the flowers and admire the beauty of them. I feel very strongly about that, and there are a number of people in this country that I would love to see honoured for the sterling contribution that they have made.

In closing, Mr. Deputy President, again let me thank all my colleagues. I should like to wish them the season's greetings, and I will promise you that I will continue to work throughout the length and breadth of this country with the strength and help of God. I know He will help me to

go forward and help me to push Barbados forward. I am also imploring those of you who have not yet assisted in doing your public service to get out there and assist people like myself and others who want to see Barbados on the mountaintop.

Thank you.

Applause.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: In respect of the other Senator, we will wait until he is here with us so that we can enjoy that occasion with him.

MOTIONS RELATING TO BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, under "Motions relating to Business or Sittings of the Senate", we have two matters which will come to us almost expeditiously, and both recently from the Other Place. One is a compulsory acquisition. The other, I believe, is a Bill.

I wish, therefore, to give notice of the following:

A Bill to amend the Special Loans Act, Cap. 105.

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of 16 parcels of land at Bridge Road, St. Michael, for the purpose of constructing a new bridge.

In order for all of this to be done, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let it be recorded in the Minutes that those items have been given notice of.

There being no objection, accordingly, Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Sir, before we proceed, we have taken note of the unavoidable absence at today's sitting of His Honour, the President. Yourself being in the Chair, it becomes necessary for us to appoint for today's sitting a Senator to serve as Acting Deputy President for the duration of the sitting.

I beg to move, Sir, that Senator Wickham be asked to serve as Acting Deputy President of the Senate for today's sitting.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no objection, Senator John Wickham is accordingly so appointed.

GRANTING OF LAND AT BAXTERS, ST. ANDREW TO ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BARBADOS

Order No. 1 was called –To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the Granting to the Anglican Diocese of Barbados of the parcel of land situate at Baxters, St. Andrew.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I believe all Senators would recall that the former St. Saviour's Mixed School at Baxters, St. Andrew, became vacant when it was amalgamated with the St. Simon's Primary School some years ago. In consequence of this, the Anglican Diocese requested permission to acquire the site of the former school to build a new church for the congregation of St. Saviour's.

The Ministries had no objection to the property being made available to the church, and the decision is that the property known as the former St. Saviour's Mixed School at Baxters in St. Andrew, be turned over to the Anglican Diocese, which this Resolution embodies.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF THE SAVANNAH CLUB

Order No. 2 was called -To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land situate at the corner of Garrison Road and Highway 7 in the parish of St. Michael for the purpose of the preservation of the Historic Building thereon known as the Savannah Club.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, the decision to acquire the freehold interest of the Savannah Club is influenced by the following factors: in the first place, the need to preserve the building that is of considerable national, historic and architectural interest; secondly, to develop that area including, the Savannah complex, as a major tourist attraction; and thirdly in recognition of the position held by the Club in proximity to the Barbados Defence Force.

The original buildings, as far as I understand, were constructed at the beginning of the last century, and some time after that, 1816 or thereabouts, they put on a small guard room at the back of it. The two properties were acquired by Mr. Darnley DaCosta, and these two buildings formed the Savannah Club.

In recent years, the buildings have become in need of considerable repair. In addition to this, it appears that a parcel of land which it was thought was part of the property of the Savannah Club was, in fact, the property of the Barbados Light and Power Company. It is therefore proposed that both be acquired.

The Savannah Club had a couple of years ago submitted an application to Town Planning for permission to change the use of part of the buildings from recreational to office purpose in order to raise revenue. Since then, the club has indicated that they had made alternative arrangements for different use of the building and that these

alternative arrangements would not involve a change of use. However, the Garrison Committee took the view that there is a strong case for these buildings to belong to the nation and that they should not be dependent for survival on the fluctuations of a private institution. This point of view seems to have been supported by the Barbados National Trust. They have said that they regard the building as a Class A historical building and that it would be a pity to have it fall into continual disrepair.

After consideration of all these factors, the Government has decided that the property should be acquired, and that the building, which is of great historical and architectural import, should remain as an important symbol of the Barbados heritage, and in that respect should be preserved.

Negotiations are almost concluded with respect to the acquisition, and we hope, perhaps, in a matter of a couple of months, to be able to make final disposition of this matter. Parliamentary approval is consequently being sought so that the acquisition proceedings may be finalised in respect of the land which is now the Savannah Club property and the land which is the property of the Barbados Light and Power Company, both are situate, of course, at the Garrison near to each other, and in this respect to finalise the arrangements and compensate the owners.

I beg to move that this Resolution be concurred in.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I have to declare an interest, and will not eventually vote when the question is put, since I am legal adviser to the Trustees of the Savannah Club, but I wish to make some observations with respect to the whole matter of land acquisition, under which this Resolution falls.

About a year ago, Mr. Deputy President, I raised some concerns in this Honourable Chamber as to the dilatoriness in settling in respect of an area of land acquired by Government pre-May 1986. I am impressed by the suggestion by the Honourable Leader of the Senate that compensation in respect of this acquisition should take place in a very short time, but certainly I am alarmed that an acquisition that took place in March 1986 still has not yet found compensation.

Mr. Deputy President, the way in which land is acquired by the Crown, and the treatment meted out to those who are dependent on Government for settlement, is really nothing short of scandalous. A country that prides itself on its human rights record has a very poor track record in dealing with people's rights where land acquisition is concerned, and I think it might be a salutary requirement for the public officers concerned to submit annually to Parliament a report of the acquisitions which have occurred in the preceding year, stating whether they have been compensation or not, and if there are problems, what the problems are. There are countless instances known to me,

and probably known to others of you, where lands have been acquired and no compensation paid.

The Land Acquisition Act, Mr. Deputy President, was enacted in 1949 and there have been a few amendments since then. The thinking, and perhaps the reasons, for its enactment in 1949 probably merit a review some almost 40 years later. I think that there is need for some mechanism to make it mandatory for Government to pay within six months of agreement of price or entry into possession, whichever is the earlier.

Section 10 of the Act, Mr. Deputy President, stipulates a rate of interest of 6 per cent, a provision that was put in there 20 years ago. Modern conditions require at least a more realistic adjustment of that rate. There should be a provision in the Act for a deposit, much as happens in ordinary commercial transactions, when entry into possession takes place under Section 5 of the Act, because people frequently are left hanging without any knowledge of what they are going to get.

Early in the new year, Mr. Deputy President, for the information of this Chamber, I give notice now of my intention to put a question for the Minister to indicate how many pieces of land have been acquired over the past three years, how they have been settled in terms of compensation and what amounts remain outstanding.

We bring these Resolutions; there is another one on the Order Paper for 16 parcels. I appreciate that at some times there are difficulties in terms of title, but, frankly, that is not a problem, because the Crown, having acquired it, has an indefeasible title, so even if the man's title deeds are defective, that is beside the point. You have got title, and the whole institution of searches and requisitions which the Crown Solicitor engages upon is really not necessary. The only concern you may have is, if there is a mortgagee, that the mortgagee should get the purchase money and not the owner.

In regard to the delays, frequently I am told by officers in the Ministry of the Attorney-General that they have done all they can do, but there is really no money to pay. It is a little too much sometimes to acquire land because you have the authority to acquire the land, but then you have no money to pay, and I think when we embark on these Resolutions, there must be some clear intention that payment will be made, and made shortly, and not have people on a never never.

Thank you, Sir.

12.25 p.m.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to support Senator Blackman's comments, for the simple reason that Governments must do their work so that they are taken seriously by the people they govern. If Governments proceed along a path which results in ordinary citizens not getting their money, or not

even knowing when they are going to get it, or being treated cavalierly, what are the citizenry to do in the face of this disrespect for procedure and law? It really is as simple as that.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to support what Senator Blackman has said. There are, I know, considerable lands that have been acquired for the Airport to West Coast Highway, and I believe that the country has borrowed considerable money to construct this road. The road is being constructed, and in some places it is very nearly completed, being driven on, and the owners of that land have not been compensated yet, Sir.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy President, I was almost minded to react to some of the things Senator Blackman said, but having so recently left Government, I do not know that.....

Laughter.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I am the best person to answer that. I am very curious, however, to hear the Government reply to some of these things. I know the answer to many, I have had to deal with it for long enough that I should, but I am just curious to hear the Government reply in these matters.

I rise only to enquire of the Minister, to what purpose will this Savannah Club be put?

I want to know this for two reasons, Sir, the principal one is security. In Barbados, we do not seem to be sufficiently security conscious, and indeed, it is customary to poke fun at the Defence Force, and calypsonians have captured it in very imaginary and dramatic terms. But all of us who understand and realize what is happening in the world today must be conscious of the tremendous responsibility that defence forces, general security forces, must have in a country such as Barbados.

There was a Garrison Committee set up some years ago, during the time of the Barbados Labour Party Government, to look at the whole area surrounding the Garrison and to come up with a plan for the development of the area. I do not remember whether such a plan was ever submitted. I suspect it was, but I do not remember. In keeping with the terms of reference at the time, I wonder whether security has been given paramount consideration and concern in the acquisitions around the Garrison. The Defence Force Headquarters is in a very unusual position, surrounded as it is by clubs, picnic areas, hotels, a power station and so on. This pose an additional problem over and above the ordinary ones.

I remember that a few years ago, just above the Defence Force Headquarters, next to the Police Station, was a boutique, women's boutique, and a murder was committed in the boutique, six feet away from the Police Station. It

was May Ramdin's Boutique, and the saleslady was in the boutique alone and somebody went and murdered her. The view expressed at the time by the police was that you do not assume that somebody would come within six feet of the perimeter of a police station to do this thing in broad daylight. That kind of assumption was rudely shattered on that day.

I believe that now, in respect of the Defence Force, there is a feeling in some quarters that that general area will not be subject to certain kinds of law and order problems because of the propinquity of the Defence Force Headquarters. But certainly developments all around the world suggest that it would be foolish to go easy and figure that these things cannot happen. So the primary reason for asking, Sir, is to find out whether there is going to be an activity in the Savannah Club that would be inconsistent with the security considerations for that area.

The other reason why I asked, Sir, is because I understood that the Savannah Club has been marching out of step with social developments in this country – that is the euphemistic way of putting it – and when the Honourable Minister was introducing this measure, I was a bit curious to know whether there was a request from the trustees of the Savannah Club for the Government to acquire because of the financial difficulties in which they find themselves. Senator Blackman can whisper the answer to me outside, since he is their legal adviser. I am interested in that, because I know that the Government has failed in the past – and I say the Government, Sir, I am not about DLP or BLP – to come up with a rescue plan for certain historic buildings on the grounds that they could not afford to buy buildings just because people were in trouble, and I would like to be assured that in this instant case, the acquisition, although it might not necessarily be for the same security reasons that I have stated, has not been motivated out of any feeling for those who, as I said, refuse to keep in step with the social developments of Barbados. I am beginning to think that that is the reason.

In respect of land acquisitions, I think it would be useful when these measures come before Parliament, that we could have more details so that we can debate them with a greater understanding of the problems involved. For instance, I would like to see a plan, and before I start talking, not when I finish. I would also like to hear for instance, the basis of valuation, and so on. It is not that I am doubting the integrity of the people who advise the Government, but just that I would like the information, too. I would like to know that if I am going to vote for land acquisition, I have some idea as to how the valuations are done and how they are arrived at and make sure that the people's money is being spent in the way in which it should be spent.

Since Senator Blackman has requested information for a three year period, I am going to try to ask.....

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: He is going to give notice, I believe, of a question in that respect.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Oh, he is going to give notice. I am going to anticipate him then, on part of that question, because if it is going to deal with a three-year period, the period of roughly 20 months that has been in one Administration and 16 in the other,.....

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: The problem that the Barbados Labour Party as a Government encountered in respect of land acquisition was not really one of finding the money to pay. Senator Blackman is quite right in saying that there is indefeasible title to the Crown when they acquire people's land, but that is not the problem either. There is the question of who to pay the money to, and for many years there is a dispute as to who is the real owner of the land. I would think that – in my time, certainly – 90 percent of all the acquisitions that have been completed and people had to be paid for, the reason why they had not been paid is because there was difficulty by the lawyers in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and in the Ministry of Housing and Lands in determining who was the owner.
12.35 p.m.

There is another point that merits some consideration in the period with which I dealt, and that is the negotiation of a reasonable purchase price. Senator Blackman says he is talking about the period after that is settled, but I do know that in my time, the vast majority of acquisitions where there were complaints that the people had not been paid were occasioned, firstly, as I said, by a non-resolution of who is the owner, and secondly, by the long, drawn-out negotiations as to what constitutes a reasonable price. The owners in those cases are usually very reluctant to go to the High Court to determine that, because the Act says very clearly that the owner in such a case can go to the High Court and let a judge make a decision as to what is a reasonable price in the circumstances. Most people that I have had dealings with are reluctant, for whatever reason, to go to the High Court in these matters.

Having said that I was too close in time to this question to get involved in an answer, and was looking forward to a reply from the Government, I then went straight on and gave the Leader of the House the opportunity to ride in tandem with me.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy President, I want to pick up a point made by other Senators, and that has to do with the priority that Government attaches to the acquisition of properties designated as worthy of preservation.

I have no quarrel with the categorisation of the Savannah Club as a property which is an historic building and one worthy of preservation. I have no difficulty with the fact that it ought to be acquired and should be part of

the heritage of this nation. I take Senator Tull's point about security, but I want to ask questions about the Government's general attitude when it comes to prioritising buildings.

There are several buildings already owned by the Government which are historic buildings – this building in which we work today is one of them – and which are worthy of preservation, and which the Government does nothing about preserving, and which are allowed to fall into grave disrepair.

There is the Empire Theatre, and I do not really want to hear the excuse about a lease. The Government is the owner of the Empire Theatre. It is a building that all of us could enjoy, an historic building, a building worthy of preservation, it can be put to a present day social use, and I would not like to think that the Government is small-minded enough, because it is the idea of somebody else, not to want to pursue it. I see a lot of that happening, but I hope it does not happen with the Empire Theatre, because the Empire Theatre was designed as a theatre, not a cinema, a theatre which has later been put to use as a cinema. It is now in a serious state of disrepair, and being permitted on a daily basis to become more so, and that is a building to which many hundreds and thousands of Barbadians can have recourse for social and recreational purposes, and cultural as well.

There is the Town Hall, which is in a serious state of disrepair, which is an historic building, in my view, which is in an historic location as well, and which ought to be preserved as part of our heritage. It can be put to an everyday use that all Barbadians can have recourse to.

I am not so sure, as Senator Tull is intimating, that that will be the case with the Savannah Club. I, too, want to know if the Savannah Club will continue as a private club. Are all Barbadians going to be able to have recourse to that building once it is acquired? What criteria informed the Government's decision to give the Savannah Club this highest of priority? I am not quarrelling with the grading of it by the National Trust, but there are other Grade A properties, so graded by the National Trust, that the Government does not give this kind of priority to.

There is this Parliament. We have repaired one Chamber, this Chamber is still in a serious state of disrepair. I would not advise members to look down at the state of the carpeting. The west wing of this building is in a serious state of disrepair, and if something is not done about the roof, there is going to be an accident one day quite soon. Money has been spent, well spent, in my view, repairing the House of Assembly.

The stained glass in this Chamber – perhaps not as illustrious and historic as the stained glass in the other Chamber – is in a serious state of disrepair. Only look up there, Mr. Deputy President, and you will see where the

glass is going. It does not cost a great deal of money to repair, and it really must be repaired.

I could go on naming several other buildings which need to be acquired by the Government in the way that the Savannah Club is going to be acquired and preserved by the Government. The Pavilion at Hastings is disappearing before our very eyes. The roof went, the flooring went, and I have no doubt that the stone work – there is a lot of rubble stone there is going. But it is an important property, it is an historic building, which has been allowed virtually to fall down. It is worthy of preservation. The location is a perfect one, it faces a beautiful window to the sea. There is land behind it, there are all kinds of possibilities for it, and that falls into a state of disrepair!

There are other buildings as well, and not least among all these buildings is a building known as "Tyrol Cot", which has been the home of not one, but two Prime Ministers of Barbados. It is a building of great historic interest and connection, worthy of preservation. It is a building which a lot of Barbadians think – we do not want to be politically partisan here – in its own right, it is a building much painted, much photographed, to be found in books on the historic architecture of the Caribbean, not only in Barbados, and "Tyrol Cot" in its own right is worthy of preservation.

The church owns Codrington College. It is true that the Government has by one means or another – and I know whereof I speak – made considerable contribution towards Codrington College.

There are so many other buildings. What gives – this is my question today – the Savannah Club such high priority in the Government's scheme of things when there are other buildings to which Barbadians could have immediate recourse? There are other buildings which could be serving a greater social, and, in some cases, a greater commercial use. I think of Marshall Hall at Hincks Street. There was a proposal that that could serve a great commercial purpose.

We see the uses to which many of the old warehouses in Bridgetown, some of them fine examples of colonial Georgian architecture, are now beginning to be put, to commercial and industrial usage. Like the warehousing just across the Careenage here, further down on Hincks Street there are other buildings apart from Marshall Hall in that general area and buildings on Tudor Street which can be put to commercial and industrial use. Where exactly is the Government's priority, and I ask the question again and again, why the Savannah Club?

12.45 p.m.

Just across the street behind us is the Olympic Building, another historic building worthy of mention. We have allowed many of the buildings which were part of the old city in this square behind us to disappear. Are we going to allow other buildings in this city, which are historic, to

do likewise; Warrick Alleyne's book is only the beginning of what can be said about the architecture of Bridgetown. I do not even begin to talk about the churches.

I have made the point time and again that buildings make statements which are not only architectural statements. They make statements about people's priorities on account of what takes place in a building. They make statements in respect of people's priorities in respect of their culture. The Savannah Club makes statements. It makes an important military statement. It makes an important cultural statement because it is a club. It makes an important architectural statement. But in today's context, in 1987, why, first the Savannah Club?

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the Savannah Club has been the concern not only of this Government, but of the past Government, regarding its strategic position in relation to the Defence Force Headquarters, and the Garrison Committee, which has been looking at all the properties around the Savannah, has been in touch with the trustees of the Savannah Club for a considerable time and indeed, that Garrison Committee had expressed their concerns about the apparent inability of the trustees of the Savannah Club to maintain it in the sort of condition which would ensure that it remains one of our historic buildings.

Over and above that, it appears that the members of the club themselves, were not too certain whether they would wish to retain the property or whether they would wish to offer it to Government. When arrangements were being made and plans were being developed for the 21st anniversary celebrations, further approaches were made and negotiations done between the owners of the club, the Garrison Committee and the Government, and it seemed an appropriate time to ensure that this relic fall back into the hands of the Government. The fact that the matter was hastened up and, indeed, the fact that the Resolution was introduced in the Other Place to provide funds to pay for the property, suggest that Government recognize not only the necessity to acquire it, but to ensure that a clean and clear transaction took place in the speediest possible time.

The plan, which was circulated, would show the location of the property in relation to the Defence Force Headquarters on the other side, and the points made by Senator Tull about security, I believe, are very valid.

The Government contemplates that this property, when totally acquired, will be maintained. Some painting was recently done by the Defence Force, and it is contemplated that it will be available to the Defence Force, possibly as a military museum.

In this connection, it could be used for tourist purposes as well, since military museums attract tourists. One would recognize that there is a move afoot to return the cannons to the Garrison so that that area of the Garrison will be put

back in its traditional military manner. The cannons will stretch from the front of this Savannah Club right around to the former entrance of the Drill Hall. It is certain that use will be made of the building, but I can say no more than there is a plan to develop it as a museum, among other things.

Comments were made about the Empire Cinema. The Empire Cinema is still the subject of a legal wrangle. Government will, I believe, sooner or later, take the kind of step forward and seize the property and let whatever happens happen, and let the property be returned to its former use as a theatre. I believe that Bridgetown, certainly Barbados, needs to put any buildings which are available as theatres back into shape. It was built for that and should so be used. I am not at any variance with persons on the other side in relation to the Empire Cinema.

The Town Hall was the subject of efforts to push it down and build a new building. It was the subject of a further decision not to touch it. It is now the subject of an examination to determine to what extent it may be refurbished and strengthened for use, hopefully in connection with the Cultural and Arts Council's activities, a national gallery.

The problem is that all these things take money, and if one goes through the several Government buildings which need repair, one comes up with a figure in the vicinity of \$30 million, if one could do it right away, and that includes police stations. It does not include this historic chamber, which is the concern of a Special Parliamentary Committee, and I faithfully believe that some effort will be made to provide the funds which will ensure that these two buildings will be in some sort of shape as a showpiece by 1989.

The Pavilion, the burnt-out Pavilion, is private property. Some time ago, I believe that the two Senators on the other side would have been aware of this, it was contemplated to have Government acquire the property along with the adjoining lands, substantial portions of land, for purposes of a school. That plan, I understand, has been abandoned, so the owner of the Pavilion finds himself with a property on his hands which he would very much like to have developed, which he is unable to do, and the Government no longer interested in acquiring from him.
12.55 p.m.

I believe it is well known that Marshall Hall is the property of the Barbados Development Bank. Now that they are ensconced in the tallest building in Barbados, I do not believe they will pursue their original plan of constructing offices in the Marshall Hall complex. I do not think they like it there; they have been instructed to remain there, whether they like it or not. The fact is that Marshall Hall will be the subject of a decision within the next 12 months as to whether it will be developed either for office use or for some other use, but its proximity to the developed area

behind it suggests that there is need for an urgent decision and for action as to how the building will be used.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I believe that this is an appropriate moment for us to break from our labours, and I wonder whether...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: I beg to move that this Resolution be now concurred in.

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

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I should like the Senate to record my abstention.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will the Clerk please record the abstention of Senator Blackman, who has declared an interest in this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Sir, as I was saying, I believe we would wish to break. I think we have three other matters, as far as I can remember, and I think perhaps we had better take the break. If it is the wish of Senators that we should proceed, it is okay. We will proceed.

BARBADOS PORT AUTHORITY (VALIDATION OF CHARGES) ACT, 1987

Order No. 3 was called -To move the second reading of a Bill to validate certain charges and dues fixed by the Barbados Port Authority.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I am asking that this be taken charge of by Senator Morrison.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Leave is granted.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to move the second reading of a Bill to validate all harbour dues, charges, etcetera, collected by the Barbados Port Authority and appearing in the tariff book of the Authority since 1979.

In previous years, a number of the Barbados Port Authority's tariff books instruments have been made which sought to authorise the collection of certain harbour dues and charges. In a number of cases, Sir, these instruments were also required to validate the collection of these charges prior to the making of the instruments. It has been discovered that the procedures adopted have not been in accordance with the requirements of Section 66 of the Barbados Port Authority Act, and that section states that the Authority, with the approval of the Minister, may by regulations subject to negative resolution fix rates and other charges as the rates and charges set out in the tariff book.

Sir, in seeking to give effect to further proposals by the Barbados Port Authority to amend the existing tariff book, the validity of the retroactive tariff book charges made under the authority of the Barbados Port Authority Act, Cap. 285B, was questioned by the Crown Law Officers.

In order to overcome this difficulty and to remedy these defects, it is necessary now to bring this validation Bill to validate the harbour dues, charges, etcetera, collected by the Barbados Port Authority and appearing in the tariff book of the Authority since last January 1979.

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

Asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: There are certain dues that were collected from 1979, which it is felt by the legal department were not properly done, and now we are about to amend the same tariff book, we have discovered that they are not in order, and they have asked us to bring a Bill to validate all those previous dues that have been charged by the Port Authority, to bring them up to date and put everything in a right perspective. This has been covered by the Crown Law Officers in the Attorney-General's Chambers. The dues were collected but they were not properly done under the Act, so this seeks to validate all these things that were done before and issue new regulations.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy President, I have commended Senator Morrison in the past for usually giving very clear and explicit details in introducing measures in this Chamber. I must confess today that he has let me down, because at the end of it I am still terribly confused. For one thing, he has asked us to accept whatever were the decisions or opinions of the people in the Crown Law Office without telling us specifically what it is they were giving an opinion on, and what the opinion was, to see whether we agree with it or disagree with it, because I find it passing strange that this state of inefficiency could have been existing for eight years and has only now been detected by the people in the Government service. However, I believe that perhaps he can use the opportunity in winding up the debate on this measure to tell us then what he did not tell us at the beginning.

I have one or two other observations to make with respect to the Port. In 1961, I believe the Bridgetown Harbour was completed. It was built by the Barbados Labour Party Administration, and they were duly rewarded, in the only Bajan inimitable style, by being thrown out of office. Equally, last year we completed a massive and modern arrival hall, another major policy decision took into execution by the Barbados Labour Party, and we opened this big, new, modern reception hall down there to take these tens of thousands of cruise ship passengers who were coming in, and again we were duly rewarded by being thrown out.

1.05 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Yes. That is why I have to be very careful when I am talking about the Port, Sir, because there is never any rhyme and reason.

The point I want to make principally, Sir, is in respect to passengers. There is no doubt at all that the glowing words we are hearing about the boom in tourism, has a lot to do with the large numbers of people who come in on cruise ships. When I hear the Minister of Tourism talk about 400 000 tourists as a goal, well I say to myself that the policies of the previous Administration are coming to fruition. I do not want to take anything from the present Government, but it is important that we reiterate these things so that people will not forget.

When the cruise ship passengers come to Barbados, unlike many other destinations in the Caribbean, particularly the northern Caribbean, they have no facilities on this island to accommodate them for the day, day and a half or two days they are on the island. The hotels say they are not their guests, so they do not want them. They do not want these large numbers of people flocking on to their properties buying a few bottles of beer or whatever and using the beaches, not that they can prevent them from using the beaches.

We are caught in an awful dilemma, because if these people do not have a place to spend the recreational aspect of their time on the island during the day, going to the beaches and relaxing and so on, if they do not have those facilities, the word will quickly spread that Barbados is not a good port to stop over at for 26 hours, because really there is nothing you can do, and when you go certain places, you are treated like a pariah. That is the problem. I wonder whether the Government is disposed to giving urgent consideration to the development of the kind of facilities, whether they create them themselves or whether they go into an arrangement with private enterprise, to make the cruise ship passenger who is only here for a short time feel that he or she is welcome.

I do not think the Government should have any difficulty accepting that, because without the increase in tourism now, things would be, as they say in the current vernacular among the young people, terribly wrong. They must not mind unduly, Sir, that the recommendation is coming from this side. Having heard Senator Lewis winding up the previous measure, we recognize that there is a fairly generous amount of political majorism. The only thing is that when I was going to school and you borrowed from somebody else, you had to acknowledge the source, if not you would get a C or D. I have not been hearing that acknowledgement, but I am glad about all the good things I am hearing about cultural development in Barbados.....

(*Aside:* SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: It started with you.)

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Oh yes, I can tell them about it. It started with me. Thank you, Sir.

I see that there is a change of guard in respect to the military and Defence Force. I had to say in an aside that it may be because of the introduction of Senator Clarke into the Senate. I remember very well that when I was a school boy walking across the top of Roebuck Street, going across Combermere pasture and going through the wires to go to the other place I would see Senator Clarke in his crisp Lieutenant uniform walking down Roebuck Street. So maybe he has helped win over the Government to the need for a proper and efficient Defence Force in this country and to provide the facilities to keep it going.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: All right, I would not go back. You have to give me a little latitude. It is Christmas time.

(*Aside:* SENATOR V. C. FRASER: You had enough.)

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: In respect of the Shallow Draft, there has been a long period of disagreement between the Port Authority and the Barbados Workers Union over the cost of labour, the rates that should be in force in respect of the Shallow Draft. The Shallow Draft has been used for the boats coming in from the islands with fruit and stuff like that, and there was feeling that it would be unconscionable to require them to pay the same kind of port charges as the big liners and cruise ships. But I believe that there has been a stand off, as the Americans say, or, for those who play chess, a stalemate, between the Port Authority and the Barbados Workers Union with respect to the arrangements for the Shallow Draft. I think it is imperative that some resolution of that matter be arrived at.

One of the things that trouble me very much, Sir, is the use of the Shallow Draft for the importation of drugs into Barbados. I do not know how it ties in because of these loose arrangements, but more and more there is evidence that large numbers of parcels of drugs, principally marijuana so far, has been coming through the Shallow Draft and on to this island. Not many weeks ago there was one case in which a man was seen getting off one of the boats in the Shallow Draft and swimming ashore with a big parcel on his head, and when he was met when he reached land, it was a big parcel of marijuana. I mention these, Sir, because they are of some importance in relation to the whole management of the Port Authority.

It is not only a question, Sir, of the Shallow Draft in relation to drugs.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I guess security is part of it. But if you take me out on security, I think that that is one of the problems, because Government has not been able to

make up its mind whether they want Port police or whether they want the Royal Barbados Police to look after security at the Port. Until such time as they resolve that, they will continue to have problems of security. There is even an argument that you should use both, so that if you create the necessary amount of jealousy between the two security forces, they will watch one another.

I have another concern on Port charges. Perhaps I could draw Senator Clarke into substantive debate on it. It is time he wets his feet.

This relates to port charges in respect of goods that come into Barbados, refined and re-exported. I have not checked before I got here – I forgot to find out whether the system that obtained some time ago is still in existence – but you had a number of people like Structural Systems who would bring in raw steel, to use an unschooled term, do certain refinements and then re-export the steel, and they have a very good re-export business. My recollection is that they had to pay port charges that did not reflect the priority that Barbados was placing on the export market, and I am wondering whether the Government could not give some consideration to that kind of re-export business.

It is important, Sir, in this context also. Trade has fallen catastrophically during this year 1987. My checking of the Central Bank Report shows that there were over \$700 million in exports last year and that this year, to the end of June, the exports were in the region of \$150 million. Reasonable projection would say that there would probably be between \$300 million and \$350 million in exports from this country in 1987. That is a catastrophic drop in exports by any standards. In those circumstances, when a Government has decided, quite rightly, that greater emphasis should be placed on export promotion and that every reasonable assistance should be given to the manufacturing industry and the export sector, with that kind of drop in exports and all the attendant and consequential problems in any other sector of the economy, and indeed in the social lives of people, I believe they should look at the port charges now to see whether the Port charges are not a disincentive to many of the struggling manufacturers in Barbados.

I think that perhaps Senator Clarke, from his new perch, with all the wisdom at Bay Street, will be able to address some of these things. But do not let us fool ourselves, Sir. The Bridgetown Port is the hub of economic activity in this country, both from the point of view, as I said, of tourism, and also from the point of view of commerce, manufacturing and exports, and we therefore have to give a more than passing look at what is happening down there. We cannot afford to allow the excessive burden of port charges to affect in a negative way the kind of thing we are talking about.

1.15 p.m.

One final point, Sir, in respect of the Customs. I am tying it in with that too, because it relates, and I will say

why. The former Minister of Finance, the one who is now in disfavour, introduced a Budget in which he drew a distinction between goods imported from CARICOM and goods imported from outside the region, and it is posing a serious problem for the people at Customs. I think I mentioned this already. The volume of goods coming through the harbour is such that the staff at the Customs Department cannot carry out full enquiry in what is coming in, and I would like somebody in the private sector to tell me that what I hear is not true, because I would like to think that they are good and honest people, too, like the rest of the people in the community, but I understand that there has been a substantial increase in the re-routing of extra-regional exports through CARICOM so that they can benefit from the lower duties that the Minister of Finance introduced in the last Budget.

These things merit some consideration, and at this time I will leave them with the Government. They may not be in a position to answer today – I hope they can – but if they cannot, I certainly wish that they look into these matters, because whatever affects one of us affects all.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy President, I want to pick up on a point that Senator Tull was just making to do with the increased trans-shipment business and our Port. We lost that business. It seemed to me, in the years that I was in the Government, that for the ten years there were two matters which went on and on and on to do with the Port and the Port Authority. One had to do with a Gantry crane, whether we should have it or whether we should not have it, and the other one had to do with the Shallow Draught. Senator Tull has spoken about the Shallow Draught, and at long last we have a Gantry crane, but because of those two matters and the inability of the Port Authority to come to some clear and definite position, we lost a lot of our trans-shipment business. It also had to do with the size of port charges. We are now getting some of that business back.

There is something else, which is allied to Port Authority affairs, which has been the cause of concern to manufacturers and to other Barbadians as well, particularly those who import goods, and that has to do with the container traffic and the practice which has been obtaining in Barbados of unstuffing containers well away from the Port. Sometimes we do not know what comes in in these containers. We do not know what blandishments are offered to customs officers, and we do not know what charges which sometimes should be properly attached to what comes in in containers which are being unstuffed in St. Lucy, in St. Philip, St. George and everywhere, and for a long time, it has been my view – I have said it in the Cabinet, I have said it in the Other Place and I am saying it here – that we should have a container park at or near the Port, preferably not at, where customs officers will have easy access and where

containers will be unstuffed in the presence of everybody, proper charges would be made, and the security factor would be more easily enforced there. We would be having a better idea of what comes in these containers, and perhaps what is not coming in these containers.

I hope that the Port Authority is not going to let this matter lie down, but would continue to look at it. There is a lot of land along Princess Alice Highway and the Spring Garden Highway that lends itself very easily. In fact, there are some private businesses which, because of the volume of business that they do, actually have container parks in the industrial estates along Spring Garden Highway and the Princess Alice Highway.

The other comment I wanted to make again picks up remarks made by Senator Tull in respect of the cruise ship business, and I want to go further and speak of the yachting business that can come to us. I would like to see the resurrection of the Harbour Police. It does not matter to me whether they are called the Harbour Police or what you may call them, but certainly some special port authority which has as its particular jurisdiction our inshore waters.

Certainly, it was the Barbados Labour Party's great vision that from Needham's Point, from the Hilton, down to Brandon's Beach would have been developed as a major facility – in – and onshore facility – for Barbadians and for visitors alike. Senator Tull is quite right about the complaint that the cruise ship passengers make, that they have no facilities to which they can have immediate recourse, to change so that they can swim, to have a meal or relax, and the hotels are not always welcoming. They are welcoming in the summer season, perhaps when business is slack, but in the winter and at the height of the season, when they are preoccupied with their own guests, they are not as welcoming as cruise ship passengers are accustomed to and would like to see in a place like Barbados. So the Barbados Labour Party had this great vision, which is partly underway, that from the Hilton right through to Brandon, we would develop – and when I say we now, I am talking about Barbados and Barbadians – the sort of facilities for Barbadians, because we are already enjoying these areas – traditionally Barbadians have gone to Browne's Beach, Pebble Beach and the beach above the Hilton – these are traditional early morning spots for a great number of Barbadians, from all over Barbados who trek there – and for the cruise ship and yachting traffic as well.

The yachtsmen, who now enjoy wonderful facilities in St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada and particularly Antigua at English Harbour, complain that we do not provide facilities for them. They have to get out in their dinghies to come ashore to pick up everyday necessities, like groceries, and they need to have proper marina facilities with easy access to ship's chandleries, and easy access to the sort of onshore facilities that they meet in other Caribbean countries. Lots of yachtsmen would come here – after all,

we are the first landfall out of the Atlantic – in preference to other places, and would come here first – and the word passes quickly in the yachting community, I am told, and I am told this by yachts people – if these facilities were made available for them.

The provision of facilities has begun. We see what is happening just across the road, across the carenage. Cruise ship facilities are now under construction at Bay Street, opposite Woodside, and at the old Bico building. The private sector is now taking an initiative, as the Government had always intended for the private sector to do. There are other lands, other windows, which are available which would not necessarily cause windows to the sea to disappear so much as to cause recreational facilities for Barbadians and tourists to be constructed right along this strip here, and something has got to be done about the Harbour Police Headquarters where there are now.

1.25 p.m.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity for the Government. The land and the facility is already in the possession of the Government to do something about operating that facility. The private sector will follow suit, but the Government needs to take the initiative and the Government needs to make more incentives available to the private sector so that we can see development of the whole of Bay Street right through Bridgetown, which includes a magnificent facility that had been planned for just next to the fish market at Cheapside. A photograph of it is to be found on the inside cover of the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto of 1986. Do not let the fact that it is our manifesto put you off. There were plans for that kind of facility with a bandstand, a parade of local shops, traditional shops like rum shops and so on, art and craft shops so that craftsmen could work on site, restaurants and for all of the facilities that tourists look forward to, and that Barbadians would like themselves to have access to, because I think the concept of the plaza, the shopping mall, is here to stay, so from the Hilton, as I have said, right down to Brandon Beach would have been a succession of facilities of all sorts of varieties.

I hope that the wider concept of the Barbados Port, not just what is happening down there, or what used to be Pelican Island, and all of the inshore and onshore facilities that might be offered would be part and parcel of a development plan that we could, perhaps, consider in the not too distant future.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, in response to the various points made by Senator Tull and Senator Miller, which are very valid, for the use of the Port, it was because of the Government's concern that the Port Authority had agreed in their Resolution to amend the tariff book to give certain effect to certain duties to be reduced to make the Port more attractive. As a matter of fact, the Port Authority is proposing in the amendments to lower

port duties to make it more attractive to do business in the Port of Barbados, because as has been rightly said by both Senators, we had lost a lot of trans-shipment business because of high port dues in this country. Some is beginning to come back, but we have to go the full way and assist the agents by a very reasonable reduction of port dues to bring about some kind of rationalisation in the amount of money being paid out at the Port.

It appears to me, Sir, that everybody at the Port is making money apart from the Government. That is very true, and we are very concerned. We have had a lot of ups and downs about the introduction of the Gantry crane. The crane is now installed, but it has not worked yet, because talks are now going on with the Union and the Port Authority about the rationalisation of labour as regards that new crane we have at the Port.

If this crane is able to work, hopefully, as soon as possible, we could go a long way in reducing the present overall expenses of the Port. But the talks are at a very delicate stage now. I do not want to refer to the present talks, because I do not want to interfere with what is going on between the Port Authority and the Barbados Workers Union as far as rationalisation of labour at the Port is concerned.

We are also very conscious of the security arrangements at the Port. We have something in place, but security officers being what they may, we believe that they have their own way at the Port, too, and despite the fact that we have a good security officer in charge, he cannot police the Port 24 hours a day. He has to go home, and, usually, at night people do what they like at the Port, and much to their own benefit.

But we are working on a comprehensive policy for both the airport and the seaport. We have to come up with something. We have to review the whole thing and we should be able to have something in place by May next year which would govern the operation of security arrangements not only at the airport, but the seaport, one common service whereby we would be able to man certain points, because it is at those two very important points that all of these things are occurring. We know that, so I can assure honourable Senators that I will be able to come back by now and May next year with a whole comprehensive plan for the operation of security arrangements involving both the ports.

This Bill is to validate all those things which were done since 1979, and when we were looking to reduce the Port charges, it was discovered by the Crown Officers that all fees that were being paid before were done against the law.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. Deputy President, I am disturbed by this remark that these taxes and dues be validated.....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot speak upon this.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I am sorry.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He has wound up already.

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

On motion of Senator A. MORRISON, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

1.35 p.m.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Senator A. MORRISON the Bill was reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Senator A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I am obliged to make an intervention here. It was my understanding that it was the wish of the Senate that we should proceed without a break and conclude our business.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: But there are only two more now, aren't they? You can't stay with us another twenty minutes to half an hour? Could you not spend another half an hour perhaps? All right, quickly.

SPECIAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Order No. 4 was called - To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Special Loans Act, Cap. 105.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the Government of Barbados, during the late 1985 and early 1986, negotiated with the People's Republic of China for a loan of some \$30 million Chinese Yen, approximately Bds. \$16.5 million for the purpose of constructing a gymnasium with a seating of over 3 000 persons. The agreement was signed on May 16, 1986. When, however, steps were being taken between the Central Bank of China and the Central Bank of Barbados, it was recognised that the loan could not properly be made under any existing legislation, because the Special Loans Act did not provide for borrowing by the Government of Barbados from another Government.

The purpose of this amendment to the Special Loans Act is to permit the Government to borrow not only from institutions and banks, but from another Government. This amendment to the Act therefore will facilitate the implemen-

tation of the agreement which was signed in May 1986 for this loan from the Government of the People's Republic of China to the Government of Barbados for the purpose of constructing the gymnasium. It is a simple amendment, Mr. Deputy President.

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

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Deputy President, I will be very brief. It would be a little bit difficult for me to sit down and not say a word in the Senate when we are talking about loans. I was wondering before the Minister mentioned it which Government we are going to borrow money from, so I am glad to hear it is the Chinese loan. But there are other things that perhaps can bear a little bit of scrutiny at this stage.

I was not here today when, I heard, a reply was given to a Parliamentary Question asked by Senator Blackman about the disposition of the loans that were contracted in the last year. I do not have all the answers nor do I need them. What I do know is that the money that has been drawn down in these loans has all been spent and gone already.

We were wondering at one stage, and we had some assurances from the other side that a lot of this money was to shore up the foreign reserves and was not going to be used for expenditure on Current Account and so on. But the facts are, and I would like to be proved otherwise, that not only has the money been drawn down and spent and not kept in any reserves, but that the reserves in Barbados are the lowest they have been for over a decade. So not only has the money been spent, but the Government has been printing money, increasing the money supply. Get up and say on the floor that it is not true. I want to hear you say that.

I remember that the Democratic Labour Party in Opposition talked about printing money and increasing the money supply as if it was an act of Beelzebub, and gave firm undertakings to this country that they were not prepared to take that particular route. Despite that, they have been printing money, despite the fact that the money they have drawn down has not been kept in reserve as they intimated, but has been spent in some measure on current expenditure.

The deficit at the moment at the end of October – this is in the Central Bank report, it is nothing that I have dreamed up – is \$175 million. This is the overall deficit, the Current Account deficit is some \$81 million. These are absolutely frightening figures. So when one hears the unilateral and the blatantly partisan making out that all is well in the state of Denmark, this Denmark, we know that they are not only fooling the people, but first of all they are fooling themselves. The foreign reserves are dramatically dropping and are now perilously low, and this at a time when, as I pointed out earlier, export earnings dropped from a high of over \$700 million in 1983–84 to what I believe would be around \$300 million, because the figure up to the end of June was \$150 million.

I really want the Government to be open with the people, because if things are as the reports are saying – these figures I am giving, Sir, I reiterate, are drawn from the Central Bank Report – things are not very good in the country. I must give credit to the Minister of Finance..... I know they have about four, including a new one from today....

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: The Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, I notice, from the time he took over the Ministry of Finance, has been saying that things are not good. Those of us who are in politics realize why he says that. After all, you cannot let another fellow later on say that he left it good and they messed it up. So early o'clock the new Minister of Finance said, 'I took it over real bad, things are bad.' He has made at least four statements that I know of in which he said things are bad, the economy is in trouble. I have to admire him for saying it even though he may not have been saying it for the – I do not want to get my foot out of the crease, Sir – most noble of reasons. 1.45 p.m.

But other people in the Government have been making statements repeatedly giving the impression that the economy is doing all right. All they are trying to do is to establish that the Shadow Minister of Finance has been off target when he predicted that in 18 months things will go under, forgetting, of course, conveniently, that when he made that statement he was making that statement in relation to the massive amount of money the Government had taken out, the massive amount of money the Government had given in concessions, and said that it was untenable that you could continue the way you were going on unless there would be ultimate trouble in 18 months. But what happened in the very next budget of April this year? The Government did a little fancy foot work and redid what they undid the year before and took back the money. So those who are saying that that is what the Shadow Minister of Finance predicted, but now look the time has passed and the economy is not in collapse, although I say it is, those who say that would not in all honesty say that his prediction was based on a Budget of July, 1986 and the measures in that Budget, but that what they are talking about today. They failed to take into consideration what the lawyers call *novus actus interveniens*, a new factor has arisen, that is, you nail the people for \$58 million in new revenue and therefore you cannot expect the argument of July last year to be valid any longer.

Sir, I have gone a little bit off course, but I am cautioning the Government again, because I say it in this Chamber and I keep saying it, that more than half of the work that we have done in here in debate related to borrowing money. There is not a single piece of significant legislation in terms of social development or anything else in Barbados that has come with the Government in almost

two years. We have not had anything to stick our teeth into. Resolution for acquiring land, borrowing! Resolution for acquiring land, borrowing! And a lot of minor amendments like validating something that went wrong for a while and things like Government bonds. That is what has been coming to this Senate. We have not seen any serious legislation in Commercial Law, Family Law or anywhere in the social area, whether it is in health or education. Nothing has come to this Parliament in almost two years!

I want the Government not to feel that because they have not been hearing more from the people, all is well. I know that we are reminded over and over about what the people did. I am going to remind them about what the people might do – what they might do! – because if there is anything that has characterized this Government in the last 20 months, or whatever, it has been a breach of faith to the people – fooling the people and telling the people one thing and doing something else all the time.

In respect to the Chinese loan, we support the amendment to make it possible to get the loan from the People's Republic of China. But I am at a little bit of a loss, and perhaps the Minister can clarify this for us before the debate is finished, because the Special Loans Act has been around for a long time, and my question is, has the Government during that period never borrowed money from another Government? I do not understand it.

(Aside: SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Nineteen sixty-eight.)

SENATOR L. R. TULL: It has been around since 1968. It is now almost 20 years, and the Act did not include Government before, and I am wondering whether the Government has not borrowed any money from another Government in the last 20 years. I know that statutory corporations, like the VIF, the Venezuelan Investment Fund, is not a Government. I understand these things.

(Aside: Institution.)

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Yes, I understand. So I am not talking about borrowing from institutions. I am not even being contentious. I am just asking for information.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I may be hungry but this is important, Mr. Deputy President. My colleague, Senator Tull makes important points to do with loans already made – in fact, the answer to Senator Blackman's question, funds drawn down. We cannot see what the Government has done with the money, except that we see that the foreign reserves are falling, that manufacturing is at a standstill and that the Government's finances are in a terrible condition. And Senator Tull has made the point that the Government is now engaged in the business of printing money.

There are only two of us representing the Opposition in here, Senator Tull and myself, and he has dealt with money passed that has been drawn down and we cannot see

what the Government has done with the money. I want to deal with money passed that has not been drawn down.

We heard about some of those loan funds in the answer to Senator Blackman's question – loan agreement finalized, but funds not drawn down – and again today I ask the question, what are the Government's priorities? I understand that this money is to come from the Chinese. I thought they were giving it to us. I gather that we are to borrow some and they are going to give us some. If I am wrong about that, I would be obliged to be corrected.

But what are the Government's priorities? We are borrowing this money from the Chinese to build a gymnasium. But we have already passed money this year in the second World Bank Project to build schools, and not one cent of that money has been drawn down to build a school since May of 1986! We hear about the Venezuelan loan – agreement tied up, passed this Honourable House, but not a cent drawn down! This is money in respect of the Barbados National Oil Company, the BNOC. Where are the Government's priorities?

I believe that a gymnasium is important. But I believe that new schools that have to be built, that old schools which desperately have to be rebuilt and refurbished, are as important, and in some cases more so than a gymnasium. I believe that the oil exploration that the BNOC needs to be getting on with is equally important. So I want to ask this question, not unlike a question I have asked in here already today, why does the Government believe that it is more important to seek this amendment in the Special Loans Act so that it can now go out to borrow money to build a gymnasium when it has already secured loan funds that it has not drawn down to build schools and to engage in oil exploration? The end question is the first question I asked when I got up, what are the Government's priorities in these matters?

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I am going to answer the last question first, because the last speaker is totally aware that it is the Government, of which she was a member of the Cabinet, that authorized a Minister to enter into the agreement with the Chinese people. This legislation now has nothing to do with this Government's decision to borrow. It has to do with this Government's decision to honour a commitment made when the Minister of the former Government signed an agreement with the People's Republic of China.

1.55 p.m.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir: Senator Lewis is not answering my question. He is stating the obvious and he is restating what I have already stated. I understand that it is a former commitment. All I want to know is why it is having priority over monies already borrowed and funds not drawn down. That is not what he is answering.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: All I will say, Mr. Deputy President, is that the person asking the question does not understand the question she is asking.

Any monies which will be borrowed as a consequence of this amendment today has nothing to do with priorities, because that priority was previously determined when the agreement with the People's Republic of China was made. It is as simple as that. The priority had already been made when the people in Barbados spoke in May of 1986, and if when the agreement was signed it was understood that there was no source and no vehicle to enable the funds to flow, then the question of the priority would not now arise. But the priority had already been determined.

In order that the construction of the gymnasium may proceed, it is necessary to have this amendment to the Act.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I have answered, Mr. Deputy President, I am not even being allowed the courtesy by the questioner to answer the rest of the matters which are really extraneous.

The answer about the World Bank Loan is that the World Bank Project is continuing. You only draw down loan funds when you are ready to apply the external element of them, and I believe that that answer is known to the questioner. As soon as one is ready to utilize the external portion of that loan, it will be drawn down, because just as when the first World Bank Loan was being used, some local funding had to be provided before the external portion is drawn down.

With regard to the Venezuela Investment Fund, most of us would be aware that the expansion programme of the Barbados National Oil Company is going to proceed shortly and that some work is going on out at Woodbourne, based on a Canadian loan. When one set of funding is in place, the rest must follow. It is only a matter of time before the funds for the Barbados National Oil Company are also drawn down.

With regard to the housing, the Minister responsible for Housing has, in fact, made statements indicating the status of the projects which will utilize these Venezuelan funds. At an early date in 1988, the funds relating to the construction of houses will also flow from the Venezuelan sources.

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

On the motion of Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: In asking that Clause 2 stand part, I need to draw attention to the fact that at the end of the line at Clause 2 there is to be a comma instead of a period. This minor alteration was done in the House of Assembly. There should be a comma after the words "another Government" inside of the quotation mark.

Having pointed out that, I now move that Clause 2 stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I put the question, may I draw the attention of members to the insertion of a comma in the last line of Clause 2 inside the quotation marks. This amendment having been made in the Lower House, there is no need for us to pass the Bill with amendment, and I will therefore put the question in the normal way.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Special Loans (Amendment) Act, 1987.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BRIDGE ROAD

Order No. 5 was called -To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of 16 parcels of land at Bridge Road, St. Michael for the construction of a new bridge.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, I will be very brief with this.

It appears that in June 1983 certain proceedings were instituted under the Land Acquisition Act for the compulsory acquisition of several parcels of land at Bridge Road, St. Michael, which would have facilitated the construction of the bridge and the road works associated with that. It was subsequently decided, however, that the Ministry of Transport and Works should seek to have these small portions of land donated or transferred for a small sum instead of invoking the procedures for compulsory acquisition, and the Cabinet further suggested that the Ministry of Transport and Works should consider whether or not the provisions of Section 8 of the Highway Act could not be applied in these cases. So the proceedings which had commenced under the Land Acquisition Act for these parcels of land were for this reason suspended while the appropriate Ministry awaited further instruction from the Ministry of Transport and Works. Again, for some reason, these instructions were not forthcoming.

2.05 p.m.

This matter hung fire until May this year, almost four years since the compulsory acquisition proceedings were started. The Ministry of Housing and Lands drew the attention of the Cabinet to this situation. The Cabinet agreed that the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act should be invoked to regularize Government's use of these parcels of land.

Specifically, it appears that Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act had been invoked in respect of 21 parcels of land at Bridge Road. Since then, survey plans received from the Ministry of Transport and Works indicate that 25 parcels of land had actually been used in the programme at Bridge Road. However, when these survey plans were compared with the schedules which accompanied the published notices, only 16 parcels of land could be clearly identified for acquisition, so in the meantime, it is proposed to proceed to complete the acquisition of these 16 parcels of land, and in this connection, Cabinet approved for introduction into Parliament recently, last month, the Resolution concerning these 16 portions of land about which there is some certification.

The draft Resolution which has come to us from the Other Place was prepared in respect of only 16 parcels of land which have been verified for the construction of the new bridge at Bridge Road, St. Michael and the associated road works.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, this concludes Government Business for the day, and again, I wish to thank Senators for their attendance and their diligent concurrence in these matters.

I think, Sir, that we are not likely to meet again this year, and I should like to take this opportunity, as I move the motion for the adjournment of the Senate *sine die*, as I now do, to express to Your Honour and to all the Senators, and exchange with you, the greetings of the season and hope that we should all have a refreshing holiday with our families and our friends.

Before I sit down, however, I should like to mention one disturbing incident which concerns one of our members, who, unhappily, is not present with us today. I refer to the attack on Senator Eastmond at her home a couple of weeks ago which, I am sure, we all deplore. It has been a very distressing incident.

She is happily on the road to recovery, but I believe we should take this opportunity to send our best wishes to her for a complete recovery.

Sir, I wish you and your family and the families of all the Senators a very happy and enjoyable Christmas, and a

very prosperous and hard-working 1988. We should return with renewed vigour to the tasks which will lie before us.

We had known earlier that another member of our body, Senator John Stanley Goddard, had been ill. I believe that he, too is recovering nicely. We would also like to convey our greetings over the holiday season to him and his family, and wish for his continued renewal of strength.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Speaking on the adjournment, Mr. Deputy President, I wish, on behalf of the Opposition, too, to offer season's greetings to all Senators, to you, Mr. Deputy President, and to the staff of Parliament. They have worked hard and diligently during the course of this year, sometimes under trying and physical circumstances, as there have been workmen in and out of the Chamber, and they have had to accommodate both Houses meeting in really very cramped and uncomfortable circumstances and I would like to compliment them for the way in which they have managed to carry on, so that we, parliamentarians, have hardly noticed any particular discomfort.

We have had our papers delivered and the business of the people have gone on, and so I wish to use the opportunity to say a very special "Thank you" to all of the staff of Parliament, senior staff, junior staff, even those who help us to park in the yard, although that still leaves a lot to be desired. We want to wish them, and their families, too, a happy Christmas and a bright and a very prosperous, we hope, 1988.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to join in the Christmas wishes. I would like, however, to take the opportunity on this motion on the adjournment to refer to something that just passed, and that is the arrangements made over the Independence celebrations, and to commend those responsible for the arrangements which were made.

I think that I should particularly single out the arrangements in which the members of the Barbados Defence Force took a hand, and it was noteworthy that in those matters where involvement was keenest – there is a small exception to which I will make a small reference shortly – things went relatively much better than where other hands were responsible. I am not saying so with any criticism, but it was very marked when they were involved. The only exception I made was when the captain that was in charge of the "Spectacular" panicked and he said, "Move those people" in a very impolite fashion.

I would like to wish you, Sir, and my colleagues and the staff a very Happy Christmas.

I hope for 1988, Sir, better notices of intended sittings of the Senate and that the Order Paper reach us a little before

Monday night so that we come better prepared than we have been in this session.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I should like to thank those Senators who have spoken and who have so kindly expressed good wishes over the holiday season to not only

my family and myself, but on behalf of all of the Senators in this Chamber and the staff at all levels of Parliament.

The question that the Senate adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourn the Senate accordingly.

2.15 p.m.

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