
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 3, 1987.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, on Wednesday, June 3, 1987, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, (Minister of State, Public Service);

Senator F. G. Smith, Q.C.

Senator N. W. Boxill

Senator D. A. Comissiong

Senator G. L. Eastmond

Senator A. J. N. Phillips

Senator T. A. Prescod

Senator B. A. Miller

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

Senator the Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones

Senator C. A. Blackman, Q.C.

Senator P. Y. Forde

Senator J. S. Goddard

Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey.

Prayers were led by Rev. Dr. Lionel Crawford.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have to announce the following message:

“HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

His Excellency the Governor-General regrets to inform the Honourable the Senate of the death on Monday, 1st June, 1987, of the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, Q.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Barbados.

His Excellency the Governor-General further has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that, in accordance with provisions of Section 65 of the Constitution, he has appointed the Honourable Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, MP., to the office of Prime Minister with effect from 1st June, 1987.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Governor-General.”

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

STATEMENT RE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.

E. W. BARROW

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, in view of the melancholy news which has just been communicated to the Senate by His Excellency, it is not proposed that the Senate do any business on this occasion, but eventually to adjourn to a date and time to be settled by mutual agreement. However, before that is done, it would be proper for me, I think to make Senators aware, to some extent, of what is proposed in respect of the observations connected with the funeral of the late Prime Minister.

It is proposed, and I speak subject, of course, to any changes which the Cabinet may wish to determine, that the funeral service will take place at 4.00 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon at the National Stadium.

Invitations will be by ticket, and it is proposed that as many as 10 000 persons will be able to attend. In respect of Members of Parliament, please indicate to the Clerks what your requirements are. We are making arrangements to have tickets delivered to you not later than Saturday afternoon, because Monday is a bank holiday.

I have also asked to request of the Senate the use of this Chamber for the purposes of the lying-in state. I believe that that request will be granted. It is proposed, therefore, that on Friday and Saturday the body will be lying in state in this Chamber for viewing by the general public. I think that on the first day, members of the family will gather from 9.00 to 10.00, and from 10.00 on the general public may enter and view.

There are going to be condolence books available, I believe on the other side of the compound, as was done on the last occasion, so that all who wish to record their presence may be accommodated.

On Sunday, there will be a lying-in state at the DLP Auditorium, and on Monday, somewhere in, St. John. I cannot say precisely where, because I have not been able to consult authorities in St. John yet, but there is a general request that the people of St. John be allowed to have their own particular farewell of him after 29 years.

I should also have reminded you that on the first day, Members of Parliament may visit from 9.00 to 10.00, and on the last day, which is on Tuesday morning, members of the family early in the morning before anybody else. I believe that after members of the family have visited in the first hour on the last day, distinguished visitors and guests of the Government and of the country will come in and pay their tributes after 10.00 o'clock. 11.25 a.m.

The proposal is, and this is in accordance with the wishes of the late Prime Minister, and is the consensus among his family, which we have tried to accommodate, and I think successfully, is that after last respects have been paid here on Tuesday morning, probably at 11 o'clock, but this is not a firm date, because one does not know about departure times from the airport, the remains will be taken to the airport for cremation. That, roughly, is what is planned.

He left strict desires about how he wanted his funeral handled. We have blended those desires with the position he held in what is proper and owing to a chief servant of the country in these circumstances. I think that we have managed to get the best blend of personal desire and public conscious.

There are some details to be filled in, which I am not able to give now, because I have not been able to consult all my colleagues, and I have not been able to consult persons who will be playing a part in the funeral service.

I am authorised to say that the eulogy will be given by Dame Nita. She asked me to do it, and I commanded her to do it, and she has agreed. I think that it is very fitting that she should do it. It would have been personally very painful for me for a lot of reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: There is no more business before us, I think. The question now is when it is convenient for us to meet again for tributes. We do not want to make it too long on this occasion. It has to be as near as possible after the funeral, and I was wondering if it is convenient to members of the Senate to meet on June 11. This will be on Thursday. It is Cabinet day for us, but we will have to forego some part of it.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: June 11 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. This meeting will be devoted, I think, mostly to tributes, and then any very urgent business which may come from the Other Place; but I doubt whether there will be any business from them, because I do not even know when they are meeting.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Oh! They are meeting after us, but it will only be for tributes on that occasion and the passing of the customary Resolution of Condolence to the widow, children and relatives.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: The Condolence Book is here, and it is proper that members of the Senate should ascribe their names in it before it goes downstairs, and also the servants of Parliament.

I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Thursday, June 11, 1987 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Thursday, June 11, 1987 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Sitting accordingly.
11.30 a.m.

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SENATE DEBATE

of

11th June, 1987.

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The Right Honourable ERROL WALTON BARROW,
Q.C., B.Sc., LL.D., M.P.

Prime Minister

of

Barbados

THE SENATE DEBATES

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THE SENATE

Thursday, June 11, 1987.

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PRESENT

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

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Senator P. Y. Forde

Senator J. S. Goddard, and

Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey

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

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS, THE RIGHT HON. E.W. BARROW

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. Deputy President, when we adjourned for this date, it was for the specific purpose of paying tribute to the memory, work and the achievements of the late Prime Minister, to give Senators some moments of reflection on his life and career, and principally, to pass a Resolution

of Condolence from the Senate to members of his family, both immediate and extended.

This is a very melancholy occasion for me. I have made no public comment, except one brief one on the night he died, but I was associated with him for almost all of his public life, and before it. I cannot remember a time when I did not know him. I judge that I must have first seen him when I was probably about seven or seven and a half years old and he was about 15 months younger. I was aware of him because his uncle brought him to see my father and said, "This is my sister's second son." I did not know his name then, but that is my first recollection of him. All through our lives we have maintained a very close and intimate friendship, which was not particularly strengthened, (because it was impossible to strengthen it) by our association in public life; and the association in public life was a distinct element of that friendship.

I recount with some sadness now our last meeting. It was two weeks ago exactly. I had to see him on a routine matter. I went into his office and he asked me to sit, and he suddenly said to me, even before we started to discuss what had brought us together, that I should take the month of June away from work, and I asked why. He said, in his customary way, "Because I say that you should." Then, later on as we came down from the Cabinet Meeting, I realised, as I was descending the stairs, that he was about three or four steps above me, so I waited on the landing, and, very uncharacteristically of him, because he was not a demonstrative person, he put his hand on my shoulder and he said something like this: "How is it that we have known each other so long, have had so many disagreements, and yet are still together?" I answered him by saying, "There are two reasons. One is, and I will give you this as the least important, that you have not to my certain knowledge ever done me any evil, and the second, and much more important, reason is that you had the privilege of guiding the destiny of this country for a long time and you did me the honour of asking me to share the Government with you." When I

said this, because he was the kind of person who did not relish you paying him any compliments, he just tapped me on my shoulder and said, "Oh, you are always talking some mush or other," and he hurried down the stairs. What I did not know then was that when he got back to his own room, he said to somebody, "Don't let Mr. Tudor do too much". The person to whom he was talking did not quite understand him and seemed to want some clarification, and he said, "You heard what I said, do not overwork Mr. Tudor." That was the last encounter we had until I saw him in death.

2.25 p.m.

I would not like to idealise him in death beyond what he was in life. He was a very complex person with many moods; but there were some qualities abiding in him which, in my judgment, not only did him great credit, but reflected the innate generosity of his nature. He was a person with whom you could argue, and that was because he never ran away from an argument or from a contention, but he was always open to the possibility that he might be wrong, and when he got over the particular mood in which he was for a given period, he was quite willing to change his mind, not only quite willing to change his mind, but was quite forthright in saying that his mind had changed; as recently when he announced, I think a few days before his death, that he had reached a different conclusion in respect of a vital aspect of our announced policy. The one quality in that respect about him was that he knew that he would be subject to perhaps ridicule and criticism for announcing a change of mind, or a change of heart, on a particular matter. But he thought that if, on the one hand, he could say something when he felt in favour of it, then, on the other hand, he ought equally to be forthright and public when he felt differently about it.

I should like also to say that while a lot of people knew some aspect of him, it is a great misfortune to all of us that not all of us knew all aspects of him or many more. A lot of people who honoured and respected him because of the distinctions of his public life never had an opportunity to know him as he was outside of the panorama of officialdom.

I remember once hearing him on a very serious occasion — at least the external circumstances were serious — breaking into what I thought was a great irrelevance by asking one of the people present what is the best way to steam a dolphin's head. He asked the question with all the seriousness with which he would have asked for the best way to carry out a particular bit of public policy, and this was an aspect of him — if he did not know anything, or if he thought he was not sure about something and it flashed across his mind, he would break off whatever he was doing to get a clear and perhaps more positive understanding of whatever the problem was.

There was another aspect, too. It was that although he had a very astringent tongue, the astringency never got beyond the tongue. I once heard him say that it was a pity that he was not a member of a Parliament which contained all the people he had known in the public life of this country and had to meet all of them within the same grouping, or the same party, in a Cabinet presided over by a different person, because he had a healthy respect for all the people with whom he crossed swords. He spoke very feelingly of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Adams, with whom he had many disagreements, but whom he admired on very many levels and often wondered whether it would have been possible for us to have a country in which we could disagree with each other, and even say harsh things when need be, but that it should be understood that there was great feeling on the human level for one another.

He had, I would say, an abiding faith in the people of this country, not only on the public level, but in many private and quiet ways. If you asked him, for instance, why it was that he would leave his car and his brief case in it, or whatever he had, open and unlocked in the strangest places and walk a hundred yards away from it, he would always say, "I do not believe that there is anybody in this country that would hurt me or mine." To the end of his life he carried that faith with him, that whatever Barbadians thought about him as a politician, as their national leader, as a person they loved him, and therefore he took no special precautions about his life, his safety or his possessions.

He had, of course, some ideas which were his own, as we all do, and to that extent it was difficult to get him to change his perceptions of certain realities. For instance, he never quite understood, I think, that in a democracy all centres of power, or all centres of authority, give each other a certain equilibrium, so he always felt that a Government — and perhaps he was right here — should, if I may say, bend over backwards to listen, even although it had the deciding voice in most things. He felt that the media, the churches, the voluntary organisations, whoever they were, should be as loud in protection of their interests, but that when the Government spoke, the same respect should be accorded to the Government's point of view as the Government was expected to give to others.

I think that this was an aspect of generosity in him. He understood the arts of Government, but he liked a public dialogue, and perhaps the greatest misunderstanding of his public positions came because people saw him always as speaking as the Head of the Government, which, of course, he was, but they did not always understand that he believed in the free interplay of opinions and, therefore, that in his own mind he never believed that his point of view had any more weight than any other person's point of view.

2.35 p.m.

I think that there is a lot that he achieved which is not known, because he worked quietly, he mended a lot of bridges, he brought a lot of separate interests together. The many-sided nature of all of his activities attest to the fact that he never regarded himself in his capacity as a statesman as any different from anybody else. He thought that public service was a duty one performed, but, at the same time, while he respected the office he held, he did not endow it with any particular magic. I think I can truthfully say of him, Mr. Deputy President, that I saw no signs throughout our long association that he wanted power for its own sake. I think that he understood what his responsibilities were, but he was always in a mood to give authority its due place, and not necessarily the first place, in his scheme of things.

We had a lot of disagreements on policy simply because we were different people. We had different temperaments. I worked by instinct, and he, I think, was a bit more rational, and it was difficult sometimes for us immediately to mesh our views. If he disagreed with me, it would take him some time, perhaps, to see the compromising situation in the issue, or if he was going to change his mind, he changed it in his own peculiar way.

I remember an incident four or five weeks ago when we had a difference, not on anything important, but significant enough for us to look at both our positions carefully to see where the middle point was. When I approached him the next day, he looked up from his desk and said, "Cameron Tudor, you have now come here to 'soft soap' me." This was the kind of person he was, and this was an indication that his mind was changing and that he had reached a more accommodating position.

It is impossible for me, in a short tribute like this, to say all the things that he was. He was certainly the most honest person I have ever known. I have never known him to equivocate or to say something that he did not mean, and, perhaps, this particular aspect of his nature brought him into the most difficulty with people.

At the same time, I have never known him to speak with malice about anybody he had had a disagreement with. This was another curious aspect of his nature, because whereas in public he would speak his point of view and make his criticisms, if he had to speak about the person then in a non-public capacity, he would be the first to upbraid you if you thought that because of what he had said, or because of the position he took, it meant that he had a personal animosity against the person with whom he had the disagreement. This was another of his complexities. This meant, of course, that you could not risk taking up what Barbadians call, his fire rage, because he had none of it. He was just as ready to rebuke any of his colleagues who thought that they

should take a position against somebody maybe because he had made a criticism of them; because he always wanted to show that his disagreements, so far as he could articulate, were on points of principle and on nothing else.

Recently, his most, perhaps, prominent public position was in respect of the Central Bank. While I do not know all that he thought — I can only speak of the comments he made to me in discussion with me about the public position he took — it was very interesting to me, Mr. Deputy President, to discover that to him, as he articulated his thoughts to me on it, the most significant points of his disagreement was that if you had taken the cost or a reckoning of all the low income housing there was in this island, it would not come to, in value, more than perhaps a quarter of the cost of the construction of that establishment, and he really felt strongly that if you could not have \$100 million worth of housing, you should not have \$100 million worth of anything. This was the way his mind worked. When I said to him, "But the particular person was your appointment," he said, "And I am happy that I made it, because he was a Barbadian." So you always had to be careful when you were talking with him on these matters, because it would be quite wrong of you to suppose that the public position he took coloured his private view of people as individuals.

Much has been spoken of his love of the region. That, I think, will abide. He has left some marks on this area of the world in the hearts of people and, also, in the structures he sought to establish which will abide. He did care for the integrity and the independence of the Caribbean peoples, but it was not a judgement which was against any other people, it was simply that he wanted all of us in this region to feel not only our unity, but that we had the same amount of worth, or visions of self-worth, as any other people. It is probably in the last year of his life the thing that he most cared about, outside, of course, of his abiding love for Barbados, that the Caribbean people should recognise that they had an integrity to uphold, preserve and to strengthen, and that whatever other deficiencies they had, their independence and sovereignty should always be upheld and enjoyed by themselves, although in a wider outreach in the world beyond.

Mr. Deputy President, I think that it is futile to say of any national of this country that there would not be anybody better. Our country is going to live, I hope, for many more centuries, and many more generations of our citizens will come up in it and help build it and, hopefully, push it further on. What I would say of him, though, is that he has carved a uniqueness and a distinction in his life and times which is unrivalled not only by the variety of his interests, or by the instinct of his industry as statesman and politician, but, also, by the depth of his caring for the country which gave him birth. 2.45 p.m.

It has been said of him by one or two people that he was most Barbadian. He was that. He certainly never spoke like any other person but a Barbadian. All the nuances of our language he had, all the instincts, and I dare say all the prejudices of our people were part of his own makeup, but he was a delightful person to know, for those who had the privilege of knowing him.

There was also in his nature, difficult as this may appear to some to perceive, a genuine humility. Although he held the highest office which it was the gift of the people of this country to confer, you seldom heard him introduce himself to anyone, even to strangers and foreigners, as anything else but Errol Barrow. He never, for instance, said "I am the Prime Minister." If you did not know that, then you did not know it. Very often people came up for a second introduction and said to him, "Did you say you were Errol Barrow", and he would say "Yes.", and they would say "Do you mean you are the Prime Minister of Barbados?" and he would, very sheepishly, say, "Well, until the next elections", or something like this. This was the kind of person he was.

I know that the perception of him as a politician and as a statesman will perhaps be the most enduring because these will be the perceptions of the widest number of our citizens, and, of course, this is probably how he will enter the history books. But for those of us who have had the privilege of working with him, knowing him and of disagreeing with him, we will carry, I think, to the end of our days, the most glorious memories, and quite a lot of thanksgiving in our hearts that we had this privilege.

I think that I may safely say of him, because of the ebullience of his life and the way in which he thought and spoke about things that his morning and his noon-time were brazen, his evening was golden, and that each of these phases of his existence was polished until it shone after its own fashion.

I am enormously proud to have known him as a lifelong friend, enormously proud to have had the privilege of sharing almost all of his public life, and to my dying day I think I will be glad of both these privileges and remember him with gratitude.

A motion, Mr. Deputy President, is before us, circulated, which in due course, after members of the Senate have spoken and Your Honour has summed up our feelings for us, the Clerk will read to us and submit it to us for passing. I have seen it, and I have pleasure in moving it.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to second this motion. In so doing, I wish to say that, like Senator Sir James, I first encountered

Errol Barrow in my father's house. Like him, I may have been seven, I may have been eight, but I certainly remember that I was able to see over the top of the table, because one Sunday morning he sat at my father's breakfast table and I stood at the other end of it and gazed at them. My only recollection is that he was insistent, urgent and very confident that he wanted to run. I was brought up in a political family. Not being an athletic person, in our household, run, Mr. Deputy President, only meant one thing — that one ran for Parliament; and that was my first encounter. He repeated it over and over again: "I must run, I want to run." He was wearing a swim suit at the time; and, as I said, there was an urgency that I recall, and it seemed that he was very clear and confident that this was his intention. That was the impression I first formed of him, and the impression that lasted throughout my knowing him — a man clearly committed, urgently, confidently committed to a life of public service.

He gave much, Mr. Deputy President, and much has been spoken about what he has given to this country; but I want to remark most upon what he gave to public service — his time in the Royal Air Force, which was public service, and his many long years in the politics of this country and our region.

The life of a public servant, particularly those of us who are politicians, Mr. Deputy President, is hard, unfor- giving, public and exposed. It is also without thanks — we are denigrated, we are reviled. All of the other careers and professions enjoy the respect and praise of people. Doctors and lawyers are respected. In the humblest of trades in this country, people are respected, but politicians, I am afraid — and this is universal, it is not anything that is peculiar to Barbados, Mr. Deputy President — are much abused; maligned, reviled, criticised, and mistrusted, and I think that there is something instructive.

This is the second time, in nearly as many years that we have lost a Prime Minister of this country, and I do not know that it has caused us to reflect upon this in any material particular at all. Of course, the eulogies come at great length and with great profusion — attempts have been made to deify Errol Barrow, to the embarrassment of many — and even with the eulogies, we have seen that sometimes they, too, have been tainted with illhumour and illrumour. It is not any easy passage for us who choose to give our life to the public weal. It is not an easy life for us who choose to be politicians, and I think, Mr. Deputy President, that something is wrong there, that people only remember or wish to say kind things about us when we have gone.

It will, of course, be interesting to see how history and the historians of Barbados and of the Caribbean will treat Mr. Barrow's contribution. Already, from what I have read, there is a great deal of popular mythology

which has overtaken truth and clear vision. This is part of the nature of human kind, Mr. Deputy President, but I believe that, in time, the real essence of the man will come to be passed on to the generations which will follow us, and indeed I do think that the best epitaph is in what is left behind.

With your indulgence, Mr. Deputy President, I would wish to quote from an English poet. No doubt I shall be attacked for not quoting a Caribbean poet, not that I cannot quote a Caribbean poet, but these are the words which came to me this morning and caused me to go to my father's house, to his library, and borrow his copy of William Wordsworth so that I might make a copy of some words from his "Ode on Intimations of Immortality for Recollections of early Childhood," written between 1803 and 1806.

2.55 p.m.

"Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendour in the grass or glory in the flower
We will grieve not rather find strength in what remains behind
In the primal sympathy which having been must ever be
In the soothing thoughts that spring out of human suffering
In the faith that looks through death
In the years that bring me philosophic mind."

This was a man, Mr. Deputy President, who, like many before him, put Barbados first. His quest, as I interpreted it, was for a better life for our people. That was the motto of the Barbados Labour Party, which, after all is said and done, was the party of his first allegiance. Its original philosophy, I think, still governed this man's thoughts and his actions, whatever else, because, after all, Mr. Deputy President, in the words of Walt Whitman, a poet of the new world:

"Do we only learn lessons from those who admire us and stand aside for us and are tender for us? Do we not also learn valuable and great lessons from those who brace themselves against us and dispute the passage with us?"

That is the nature of politics. There is no apology for the fact that he disputed the passage with me and many who sit on my side in the political arena. That is how it should be.

He, in my opinion, Mr. Deputy President, like Prime Ministers before him, Adams Senior and Adams Junior, left some unfinished business. It seems that this is a part of the life of a Prime Minister. It is part of the life of people in other pursuits as well, but it seems that this particularly characterises Prime Ministers, that in my time, and of that only I can speak with this kind of authority, I have observed that they have passed on leaving much

unfinished business, passed on oftentimes, perhaps, disappointed men, men who had the charts to look back on their life's work and to be not entirely satisfied with all, but men who, I think, understood the instruction of the Talmud, that we are not expected in this life to complete the task, but neither, Mr. Deputy President, are we at liberty to abstain from it. These are men who had a courage to undertake the task and not to flinch, not to abstain from it; and that unfinished business is now our business, as in time our business will become the business of those who follow us. That, I believe, is the continuum of life and of living which must not be permitted to falter or to fail.

As a politician, and I believe that many who sit in this Chamber this afternoon must of necessity agree with me, there is no nobler calling, there is no higher service to which one might devote one's life than to the service of the country, to the service of one's people. This continuum, as I am saying, in which Errol Barrow played a part, and neither must our generation or the generation to follow permit his great work to falter or to fail. I cannot agree more with the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that the most fitting tribute, the most fitting monument to Errol Barrow, would be the continuation of everything he fought for, everything that he gave his life for, because like Prime Ministers before him, he has now joined the ranks of those heroes fallen on the battlefield. He died not in retirement, but at the helm of this country. I think that this should be the lesson, and the instruction that we learn from his life is that we must press on towards a mark, we must press on towards that goal which we set ourselves.

May he rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy President, quite a number of things have been said about the passing of our dearly beloved Prime Minister. I would like to add my little bit of what I know of him.

I knew of Mr. Barrow long before I knew Mr. Barrow. When he came back to Barbados, I was in Curacao, but we used to get the *Advocate* newspaper and the *Guardian*, and when you got a newspaper from a place like Barbados or Trinidad, you read everything in it, including the ads. I was gratified in reading of a young man, whose name I am not going to call, who was charged for an assault that took place at the Island Inn. The police apprehended this youngster on his way up Bush Hill. The then Commissioner of Police, in his exuberance, lauded the policemen for a piece of great work in apprehending this so-called offender. Mr. Barrow was a young lawyer, and I believe this was the first criminal case that he had. Somebody told this youngster about Mr. Barrow, so he went to Mr. Barrow to represent him. This is what struck

me most forcibly. When they were in court, according to what I read in the paper, Mr. Barrow pointed out to the magistrate that as a result of this Commissioner of Police lauding these two policemen for apprehending this man before the man was even tried, he started to convict the man without a trial, and, therefore, it would have to be a no case submission, which was accepted. That was his first case, and when I read the report, I said to myself that we now are getting somebody that will represent the man in the street.

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Barrow did not stop there. The first known extortion case that I know about in Barbados was one in which a man called David VanPutten — I believe all of you are aware of this — was trying to extort some money from Aubrey Birch who owned the Progressive Bus Company. I think he asked Mr. Birch to pay him some \$6000, and the instructions were that he was to put the money in a shoebox and drop it somewhere around the Garrison. It was the first pickup in the history of Barbados that I know of that was done on a bicycle.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I am serious. It sounds like a joke, but I am showing you the qualities of the man that I know, and I will go on to tell you about Mr. Barrow, because I have worked with him and I knew him.

David VanPutten had Mr. Barrow as his lawyer, and to all of us it looked like a clear-cut case, even to Mr. Birch. Because when Mr. Birch passed the taxi drivers by Nelson, they would say, "How are things going?" He would say "It is only for the key to turn now. He is in prison already." But then Mr. Barrow in questioning one of the officers who apprehended David, asked, "How long have you had this prisoner under your jurisdiction?" He said he had him for 24 hours. He then asked, "Have you had him for 24 hours? What did you give him to eat?" The officer said he gave him a beer. Mr. Barrow said, "You gave him a beer?" He turned to the judge and jury and said, "If this man was in prison for 24 hours and all he had was a beer, the man would be drunk. He does not know what he is saying." Another case went through the eddoes!

This was the type of man that Errol Barrow was. He started from early defending people like me and you.

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Well, not me, but people looking like me.

Mr. Deputy President, I had the privilege of working with Mr. Barrow. I remember, and this would have to be in the late Fifties, because this was after he had lost his

seat in the 1956 election, that I was introduced to Mr. Barrow by a gentleman by the name of Bert Henry. Bert used to come to my house almost every evening and we would sit there and drink and talk about progress we were making because this was around the formation of the West Indian Federation. We had not reached motor car stage yet. Most of us were on bicycles, but, fortunately, there were three of us who had reached motor car stage, and that was Everton Weekes, Lionel Craig, and myself. So Bert said he had to go to see Mr. Barrow. This was the first time that I would get to meet the man. So I said to Bert that I would take him down to Mr. Barrow, and I took him down to James Street, and Bert introduced me to him, and these were the words Bert said to him, "Errol, this is a man you should hold on to. This man knows quite a lot."

The second time that I went to Mr. Barrow was with the same Bert Henry. Bert was going for dinner and I told Bert that I would drop him there. He was in Black Rock then at Trevor, and Mr. Barrow came out and invited me in for dinner. I declined, I did not want the food, but I did not want it to appear that I was going down there just to give Bert a lift. But he insisted, and his wife came out and she also insisted, but I was adamant that I was not going to eat then. I said I would go another time, because I was not invited then. I wrote Mr. Barrow from New Zealand, after I went back to sea, offering myself as a candidate. He wrote me back saying elections were getting ready, and when I could get off, I should.

I am saying this because I was the only non-high school boy that was in Cabinet. This is showing you the type of man that Errol Barrow was, and Senator Tudor or Senator Smith can attest to this. Errol and I used to have some bitter arguments, but it never stopped the man from lending me his money. Sometimes I used to really cuss him and then remember I did not have any money in my pocket and would turn to him and, say, "Errol do you have any money?" He would not say, "You just abused me and I am not lending you any money. How much do you want." I would say lend me \$100, and right away he would pull out \$100 and he would give me. This was the type of man he was.

I remember when they were doing the National Stadium. I came to Cabinet late that morning. Cabinet took place at his house at Culloden Farm. When I got there, that Head had been passed, and I told the Prime Minister I would like the item recommitted, and he asked why. I said I wanted to talk on it, but I came late, and I apologised for being late. To show the type of man he was, he recommitted the Head. When I had finished prosecuting my case about why they should not have spent that amount of money, he turned to Senator Smith and said, "Your witness."

I bring out these things, because I hear a lot of people saying what a dictator he was. He was a dictator, because he dictated free secondary education, he dictated free school meals. He dictated all these things, but he was a man of the people. He was an extremely kind man.

People say that he was a tiger. Errol was a paper tiger. When I say "paper tiger", I do not mean a hard, tissue paper tiger. He would make a lot of fuss and he would attack everybody, but his way of attacking you was to get you on the defence. But if he attacked you and you started to come back, Errol would listen to you. He was not that type of person who thought he knew everything, and he knew a lot.

We would have some arguments sometimes. The only argument I never got into with Errol was about the Air Force, because that was his domain. But sometimes he would come into the engine room to argue about the engine room, and he would be mine. I would argue with him about law, and if he found that I was right, Errol would say, "You know, the first thing they taught me in Law School was never argue with a layman." I would say to the late Prime Minister not to forget that it is the layman who writes the law, not lawyers. Lawyers are only there to interpret the law.

I do not think that Errol Barrow ever hated anybody in his entire life. It is true he would say things about people. He has died serving his country and I am sure he has gone away with things he could have destroyed certain people with. He has never mentioned them. Sometimes he would tell me certain things, and he would tell me that he was going to tell me something, but not to tell anybody. As he came to me with that, I would say do not tell me, I do not want to hear. But I really wanted to hear, but I said I did not want to hear because I did not want him to tell somebody else and when he heard it, then he would feel that I told it. But the truth is he would feel that I told it. But the truth is he would still insist in telling me, because I really insisted in listening, too.

He was the type of person, as I heard Senator Smith say, who could have been the President of the United States. He could have been a Prime Minister of anywhere, because the man was deep. He knew almost everything. He was one of the most learned people that I have ever met, and he was one of the most humble, despite what he may have appeared to be, but you would have to know him as well as I had known him. I had a great respect and a great love for him.

We had our bitter differences, there are no maybes about it, and anybody who knows me would know it is difficult to get on with me, because I can be fairly difficult, too. I know that I am frenetic in my attitude in certain things. If I believe something, I do not care

who you are, I believe it. We would have our great differences, but it never precluded the man from having his respect and regard for me as a layman, and for the other people.

He died in office, as I would say, but he was working. On Saturday night before he died, I said to two of his very close friends at the dance which we had on the 30th of last month that I am going to ask them a favour, but not let Errol know, and I told them, "Do not let Errol come to work on Monday. If you let him come to work on Monday, he is going to die." I can tell you the names of the people. You can ask them if you doubt me. I saw that the man had worked himself too hard. He would not rest, all I would say to him to take a rest. His big problem was the unemployment in this society, that he could not solve it as well as he thought he could have. He died with that on his mind, and a lot more other things.

Errol, despite his age, because when you reach a certain age people seem to think that you are an old person, had a great love for youth, and this was one of his big worries, too, the youth of Barbados. He always thought of them, and he was disturbed that they were being contaminated with so much dope and all the rest of it. He was extremely worried about the amount of dope going around in this country and that the people who were financing the dope into this country were not being apprehended. He has gone to rest, may God rest him in his grave, as people will say, but I will say that it will take us maybe another hundred years to get somebody who will come forward to be as great as Errol Barrow. He was great in every respect.

3.15 p.m.

Before I finish I would like to say here, as I have said on the floor of this Chamber already, that I have never been a supporter of Sir Grantley Adams, but I have never been unmindful of the fact that it was people like Sir Grantley Adams who had the courage to form the nucleus out of which sprang the Barbados Labour Party, the Democratic Labour Party, the UPP, the PPU and all sorts of parties. We know that great men always have great differences. This was not the reason why I never supported Sir Grantley Adams, I have my own reasons for that, but you have to look around and see that you have such people as the leader, Sir James Tudor, Senator Smith, the same Errol Barrow, Lorenzo Williams, a lot of young great men who were with Sir Grantley who had to leave Sir Grantley. There must have been some reason, but that does not cloud my mind.

I am not one of those hotheads who will talk a lot of nonsense about knocking down Nelson. I would remove Nelson from where he is and carry him into Nelson Street where he should be.

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: No, this is true. The street is named Nelson Street. Nelson was a sailor, and we know when sailors come in, where they usually go. They either run into the church or they go and look for commercial ladies. I would put Nelson into Nelson Street. You could still erect a monument up there.

I would like the square here to be renamed Heroes Square and we, the people of Barbados, from all walks of life, should contribute to this. We should put up a monument to Sir Grantley Adams, a monument to Charles Duncan O'Neal, a monument to Errol Walton Barrow, and we should have a monument to Frank Worrell. These are heroes who have contributed, who have changed the complete nature of Barbados and the West Indies. I know other people will call other people's names, but these are the heroes for me.

I do not want to see any little, foolish thing like what they have at the ministerial building for Sir Grantley Adams. I want a proper monument put up for Sir Grantley Adams, a lifesize thing, and one to the other great men whom I have just called, because Errol Barrow can be classed among such people as Sojourner Turner, Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King — all of these from the United States — and he can also be in the class of Marcus Garvey and there is absolutely no reason why there should not be a proper monument to him and the others, because these are people who have made a complete metamorphosis out of this society, a complete change from a worm into a butterfly.

Errol gave us free secondary education, and the other names I have called, like Sir Grantley and Garvey, fought when the odds were not a hundred to one, when the odds were a million to one. We have to accept these things, whether we like them or not, and I think the time has come when we have to start honouring our own. If we do not honour our own, who is going to honour them for us. The time is now, and I think that everybody should be willing to contribute to help the Government erect the monuments to these people I am speaking about, and that Trafalgar Square be renamed Heroes Square, and we could put up our heroes there, too.

Mr. Deputy President, I would like to join with all the other people who have spoken so ably and so well about our beloved and departed Prime Minister.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. Deputy President, to rise to pay tribute to our late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, in the light of all the manifold tributes that

have already been paid to him, is to attempt to gild the lily.

Every Barbadian, regardless of what political party he or she belongs to, if they have a shred of honesty in their hearts, would have to admit that Errol Walton Barrow was a great, outstanding and illustrious son of the soil. His contribution to the social, economic and political advancement of this island beggars description.

In my opinion, on the domestic scene his greatest contribution was in the granting of free secondary education. There are so many numbers of young men and women from poor and disadvantaged homes who now today hold high positions in this country that should be eternally grateful to Errol Walton Barrow for bringing in free secondary education.

On the regional scene, we know that he was one of the founders of CARIFTA, which did quite a lot for the Caribbean and then it expanded into CARICOM, and Errol Barrow was there, too. It is my view that the Caribbean has lost more than Barbados has lost, because with the charisma, experience and knowledge he had, when Mr. Barrow got up to speak in other Caribbean countries they had to listen to him; because he was one of the architects of whatever they are doing now. There is no other politician in the West Indies that can say that. We have lost a lot there.

To crown it all, if that was not enough that he had already achieved, he was, as is said, the father of independence. He caused this country to become independent, and we can never ever forget that.

Mr. Barrow was a man of vision, an indefatigable worker, and a man who had the courage of his convictions. He was afraid of no man.

I do not want to speak personally, but I knew him very well. I used to be in Black Rock fairly often at his home, and at Culloden Farm. We were at school around the same time, but I being older than he, when he was in the third, I was in the sixth. You know, the third form boys would know the sixth form boys, but the sixth form boys do not know third form boys, so we were not that close then, but I would say that he has left a mark on this country which is indelible.

I must say I was very heartened to hear Senator Boxill mention the name of Grantley Adams. I feel that when the day comes, we will give Jack his jacket, regardless of which party he belongs to. That day is what, I believe, Errol Walton Barrow was working for, too, so we will always be commemorating what his life was.
3.25 p.m.

It only remains for me now to extend sincerest condolences to his family, and pray God that he rest in peace.

Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. Deputy President, I do not think that it is likely that many of us are going to find something new and original to say in tribute to the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, but I would hazard a guess that it might not be inappropriate to suggest that looking at his career, and this is from someone seeing it not close at hand but very much from a distance, some words from Tennyson's *Ulysses*, might well be appropriate. Speaking to his comrades, *Ulysses* said that one of their goals was, "to seek to strive to find and not to yield", and it may well be that these words in a way reflect a great deal about the way in which the late Prime Minister appeared to operate.

I would like to approach my words of tribute in a way that, perhaps, is likely to be slightly different from the way in which others may do, or have done so, because it seems to me that if one wishes to pay tribute in a context like that in this Honourable House, one cannot avoid seeking to provide something of a balance in one's comments. It cannot be all condemnation and it should not be all praise, because no human being is perfect, and, therefore, it seems to me that we need to look at the strengths and weaknesses, the achievements and the mistakes, the good legacies and the bad legacies, as someone who has stood for such a long time in such high public office in our country.

I propose, therefore, to make very brief mention of what, to me, would go on the debit rather than on the credit side, and I shall be very brief. I think that the late Prime Minister left us some very bad legacies, and if I was asked to say what I meant by that, I would say that the two that come immediately to my mind are those which are, unfortunately, entrenched in legislation, the Public Order Act and in 1974 the very undesirable changes in our Constitution, which open the door that should never, in my view, should have been opened. I do not think that the late Prime Minister's unquestioned achievements should permit us to blind ourselves to errors that were made.

Let me pass on to the positive points which I wish to make mention, and clearly one has a very difficult task in selecting what one would put on the credit side of the ledger, because there is no doubt that there is a great deal to go there. My selection would be very similar to some of the points made by Senator Jones. Certainly, for anyone who had the opportunity and took the opportunity to play so leading a role in the achievement of this country's independence, and who could, on the Caribbean scene, be one of the architects of CARIFTA, later CARICOM, I would say, what more could you ask? I think that these are unquestioned and unquestionable tributes to the late Prime Minister.

But as a citizen of this country, one who is proud of being a citizen of this country, what I tend to remember as a citizen, perhaps, more than that, is the way in which some of his private life became open to the public, and that is probably not as good a way of stating it as it could be stated. I am thinking, for example, as so simple a matter as that of the then Prime Minister going into a supermarket and functioning, acting and behaving as an ordinary citizen. This has always been a matter of tremendous impressiveness to me as a citizen, and I do not know that there is anything else that is, perhaps, more likely to strike me than the willingness of someone in the highest public office in the land, without show or pretence, to act in a way like that.

I remember that it was some time around about 1978, while doing some little bit of a review of Barbados as I saw it, that I made the point in words something to the effect that neither of our Prime Ministers had shown any tendency to move around preceded and followed by Police outriders and/or police cars, as was not unknown in other countries in the region, nor had either really evinced the desire for pomp and circumstance. It would seem to me that our country has been remarkably fortunate, very fortunate, in having been served in that office by two such persons.

I have no doubt, and I believe that this view is shared by everyone in this Honourable Chamber, that in the annals of our country, the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, will have a pre-eminent position, one well-deserved, and that on the honour roll of this country and, indeed, on the honour roll of the Caribbean, his name will be high among the list.

Like others, I would like to take this opportunity to extend condolences to those near and dear to him who were bereaved on his passing, and I would like, Sir, to end with a paraphrase from Shakespeare's *Othello* that reflects the way I feel: I think we can truthfully say that he has done our state great service and we know it.
3.35 p.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, we meet this evening not in gladness of heart, but in sorrow at the death of the late Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow.

Mr. Barrow served the public of Barbados for over 30 years, but, Mr. Deputy President, mere duration of time in office constitutes the smallest part of Mr. Barrow's history. Throughout that long period he has constantly been the most loved and most implicitly followed by friends, and the most dreaded by opponents, of all living Barbadian politicians. In all the great questions which has agitated this country, especially the independence question, the amendment to the Constitution question,

and the late amendment to the Better Security Act question as connected to the Emergency Powers Bill, his has been the leading and most conspicuous part.

In the year 1951, he was first elected to the House of Assembly, and although he was defeated in the year 1956, there has never been a moment since 1951 till his death when a very large portion of the Barbadian people did not cling to him with an enthusiastic hope and purpose of still elevating him to the leadership of this country.

In the wake of his party's defeat at the polls in 1976, after he had served 15 years with other men, to be defeated was to be forgotten, but to Errol Barrow defeat was but a trifling incident, neither changing him nor the people's estimate of him. Even those of the other political party who had been preferred to him for the highest office have run for briefer courses than he and left him still shining high in the heavens of the political world.

Mr. Deputy President, he had his way with people, too. He wove a spell around people, the long endurance spell with which the souls of men were bound to him is a miracle. Who can compass it?

It is probably true he owed his preeminence to no one quality, but to a fortunate combination of several qualities. He was surpassingly eloquent, but many eloquent men, Mr. Deputy President, fail and fall by the wayside, and they are not, as a class, generally successful. His judgment was excellent, but many men of good judgment also live and die unnoticed. His will was indomitable, but this quality often secures to its owner nothing better than a character for useless obstinacy. These then, Mr. Deputy President, were Mr. Barrow's leading qualities. No one of them is very uncommon, but all taken together are really combined in a single individual, and this is probably the reason why such men as Errol Walton Barrow are so rare in the world.

Mr. Barrow's eloquence did not consist, as that of many fine specimens do, of types and figures, of antitheses and eloquent arrangement of words and sentences, but, rather, Mr. Deputy President, of that deeply earnest and impassioned tone and manner which can proceed only from the great sincerity and thorough conviction of the speaker, of the justice and importance of his cause. This it is, Mr. Deputy President, that truly touches the cause of human sympathy, and those who heard Mr. Barrow never failed to be moved by it, or ever afterwards forgot the impression.

All of his efforts were made for practical effect. He never spoke merely to be heard. Whatever Mr. Barrow did, he did for the whole country. In the construction

of his measures, he ever carefully surveyed every part of the field and duly weighed every conflicting interest.

Mr. Barrow's predominant sentiment from first to last, Mr. Deputy President, was a deep devotion to the cause of the poor and the underprivileged, a strong sympathy with the oppressed everywhere and an ardent wish for their elevation.

But Errol Walton Barrow is dead. His long and eventful life is closed. Our country is advancing as a successful Third World country, but, Mr. Deputy President, could it have been quite all it has been, and is, and is to be, without Errol Walton Barrow? Such a man the times have demanded and such in the providence of God was given us; but he has gone. Let us Senators today strive to deserve, as far as mortals may, the continued care of Divine Providence, trusting that in future national emergencies he will not fail to provide us the instruments of safety and security.

Mr. Deputy President, history, while it knows his many errors, will yet deliberately pronounce that among the souls of eminent men who have gone on before Errol Walton Barrow, scarcely one has got a more famous and none a more splendid name.

I end by quoting a favourite stanza from Shelley's "Adonais", when he mourned the death of his dear friend John Keats, and which Errol Barrow constantly referred to when we used to discuss philosophy at May Phillips, and it is this

"Peace, Peace! he is not dead, he doth not sleep
He hath awakened from the dread of life
Tis we, who lost in stormy visions, keep
With phantoms an unprofitable strife,
And in mad trance, strike with our spirit's knife
Invulnerable nothings — We decay
Like corpses in a channel; fear and grief
Convulse us and consume us day by day,
And cold hopes warm like worms within our living clay."

Mr. Deputy President, I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to the family of Errol Walton Barrow and I would end by saying, may he rest in peace.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS. Mr. Deputy President, this is a time for paying tributes, but with your permission, Sir, I would like to congratulate the organising committee, which did an excellent job as far as the lying in state and the State Funeral, which took place at the National Stadium, were concerned. I think that the precision of the ceremony at the stadium was something that should be a lesson to Barbadians.

3.45 p.m.

I believe, Sir, that Sir James was the chairman of that committee, and I take this opportunity of congratulating the committee, through him, for a job well done.

Sir, this is a time for reflection. Many good things have been said about our past leader, and I now reflect on a few things that come to my mind. First, as I saw his mortal remains leave the eastern wing of the national stadium for the airport, I thought, the chief is doing what he liked to do for the last. He was on the way to the airport, he was a man who liked flying, and his mortal remains were bound for Miami, a city of the United States which he liked. He had several friends there, people like Colin Mayers and a Mr. Balgo, who was a pilot with him in the war days.

I should further like, Sir, to reflect on him as a true democrat. I have sat on the General Council of the Democratic Labour Party and the Executive Council, and I watched him operate his party, in my view, in a most democratic manner. But what came to my mind as I watched the composition of the pallbearers, it came to my mind that here was a true democrat. I saw Mr. Freddie Clarke, who, to my knowledge, is one of the closest friends of former Prime Minister St. John and uniquely so, one of the closest friends of the late Prime Minister Barrow. I saw, too, Mr. Frank Odle, one of the greatest gentlemen there is in Barbados, and Mr. "Derf" Odle. They, to my knowledge, are affiliated to the other political party, but in death Mr. Barrow was portraying that democratic outlook. It was not a question of whether you were a "B" or a "D", but you were a Barbadian first and you were considered to be a pallbearer for him in his last days.

Mr. Barrow had certain caring wishes. Like Senator Miller said, all Prime Ministers die and leave a lot of work undone. Mr. Barrow had a wish that womenfolk should be removed from the cane field. He had as a wish of full employment for all Barbadians. He had, as a wish, housing for all. In the last two areas, that of full employment and housing; I know in recent times he was working very closely with Dr. Don Blackman in a project, which I hope will still be carried through, which would increase the housing stock in Barbados considerably, and which would increase the employment potential considerably.

Mr. Barrow loved all Barbadians, whether you were a "B" or whether you were a "D", and in response, I gained the impression that most Barbadians loved Mr. Barrow. I am sorry that my friend Senator Tull is not in his seat today, but in recent times I have been chatting with Senator Tull in an informal way and on many occasions he has expressed his love of Mr. Barrow and what a great statesman he thought him to be. Senator Tull gave me as an example that, since the Government changed, he wanted a favour done, and he spoke directly to Mr. Barrow. Mr. Barrow promised that

he would have had it done for him, but, unfortunately, left the island forgetting to have it done. But as soon as he arrived at his destination, he called his office and gave instructions that the matter which Senator Tull had discussed with him was to have been looked after. I know that after you are gone, many kind things are said about you, but I am happy to say that discussions which myself and Senator Tull had in recent days all gave me the very strong feeling that Senator Tull had a deep admiration for Mr. Barrow.

I like to see Mr. Barrow in all his ways. I believe that he went through a very trying period from the year 1976 – 1980, when he exercised tenacity of purpose, great faith and, of course, resilience. This Chamber may recall that after the Democratic Labour Party lost the elections in 1976, the then Government established a Commission of Enquiry which was to look into certain dealings, as they called them, and infelicities of the past Government, which was formed by the Democratic Labour Party. Before that Commission full evidence was led which completely cleared the Democratic Labour Party and Mr. Errol Barrow of any misdeeds. The final summation of Sir Herbert Duffus was that all roads led to Mr. Barrow. That was all he could say. But it is my view that if you are a good Prime Minister, a good company director or a good company Managing Director, all roads must lead to you, so that did not say anything other than good of Mr. Barrow, as far as I am concerned.

I recall, too, Sir, that after the 1986 General Election was lost even in our political party there was a long post mortem as to who was the cause of the loss of the election and why the election was lost. Throughout all these ranglings, Mr. Barrow continued to guide the ship as it should be guided in a time when, obviously, the sea was very rough.

A Party in Opposition, and a political leader in Opposition, can be a very lonely entity. But Mr. Barrow spent his time while in Opposition doing several things, three of which are well known to me. One was the writing of his cookbook, which, I believe, has been completed since he has been returned to Government.

Second was the magnificent job he did in the supervision and so on of the auditorium which the Democratic Labour Party has at George Street, of which this party is very proud. We are more so proud that it was done while we were in Opposition, so that it could not be said that he took the Government's funds or the Government's material to build an auditorium for the party. Mr. Barrow himself worked almost around the clock because the auditorium was one of the goals he seemed to have had in life, and I am glad that that is one goal he lived long enough to see completed and functioning under Mr. Clyde Lewis in a very effective and efficient manner.

Thirdly, we in the party would have to thank him for having stayed with the ship in those days when it appeared as though the ship could have been sinking, because I recall that after our first five years, the party even found it difficult to get funding. He, along with a few faithfuls, kept things going.

One thing I did realise about Mr. Barrow after he had lost the 1976 election was that it took him a long time to accept that he was no longer Prime Minister. But, after all, he was in power for 15 years, and I believe that if you are in a position for 15 years, it does take some strength and some conditioning of the mind to understand that you no longer hold that position.

In spite of his being Prime Minister, with a busy schedule of state, Mr. Barrow still found time to deal with matters of a personal nature for those people whom he cared about, people like the general public who would go to him from time to time with their problems, some of them quite unrelated to Government.

The last time I spoke to him, and I saw him in person, was on the Thursday morning before his death. He was looking after a matter for me while he was the Leader of the Opposition, unrelated to politics, of course, but while in office he still continued to look after this matter for me. But what is remarkable about that particular matter is that on the Thursday morning when I went to see him, when I saw him for the last time alive, was that he summoned Mr. David Thompson to this meeting, and he gave Mr. Thompson comprehensive instructions, I believe lawyers call this a briefing. It was remarkable, because it was the first time he had asked another person to be in on the discussion. When I reflect on it, I thought that his instructions were as comprehensive and clear as Mr. Thompson or any other attorney-at-law would need to have them in order to do a good job.
3.55 p.m.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say on his behalf, his work on earth is o'er, his battle won, may God grant him the serenity and peace of mind which he so richly deserves, and may he rest in peace.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy President, this afternoon I have heard many adorning tributes to our late Prime Minister. Many have been said within the last few days, and, indeed, they are justifiable. I have a tribute to make, and I will read these three verses, which I wrote this morning; before I say other things;

"I pondered with care what to say, to express my appreciation this day, a special word, your favourite sayings, but a tribute most deserving.

"The more I thought, it came clear to me and I knew just what I had to do, to prove my love from this point on I behold the price to you. I will honour the place wherein you now dwell, the essence of your being, and in so doing I know it is true, perfection is what I will ever be seeing.

"For in that man truly he was as near perfect as could be as far as I am concerned, to take on the load that he had taken on, to think that one human being could have the capacity to do so much in his short space of time on this earth, because the work he did it would have taken someone double the time of his age, maybe over 100-odd years. It is only in every 150 years you can see such a man. What a man!"

My family from Six Roads knew Errol Barrow before I knew him. They always talked about the man, what a great politician he would become, and a deliverer of the people of Barbados. They would always say no one in that family or any family of theirs could ever vote against Errol Walton Barrow. That was the type of household I was brought up in.

My husband was fortunate to sit very near him at Combermere, and I think Mr. Barrow had said they had sat on the same bench. When I was married a few years after, I got to know Mr. Barrow. I was usually a very shy and a very simple person. I remember very well that when the supermarket was nearly finished, I said my parents would have liked to know that Mr. Barrow opened it. Lady Douglas opened it, but Mr. Barrow gave the feature address. It was when I had spoken on that occasion, which I heard about after but not told to me then, that Mr. Robert Maw from Barclays Bank — he was the Manager of Barclays Bank — had said to Mr. Barrow, "She is a budding politician. You have to take her into your fold."

Some time after that I was at the beach, and I came down to the supermarket and got a telephone message from the police that Mr. Barrow wanted to see me. I told them to let Mr. Barrow know that I am at River Bay and he could see me. The police called me again and said that Mr. Barrow said he would be coming on Sunday evening. I did not know what it was all about, but he did not turn up that Sunday evening. On my way coming down, my husband was driving me to the supermarket for I had some business to fix, and when we got to St. Lucy's Church I saw Mr. Barrow's car, and my husband blew his horn and stopped. He asked me if I would join him in his car, which I did. On our way down to St. Michael, Mr. Barrow asked me, "Have you ever thought about politics?" I said, 'Yes, but you know I cannot discuss politics so much in my home, because my husband is a civil servant and I have some very strong views, and often we argue.' He asked, "What do you

think about coming into politics?" I said "I would like to, but I did not think that I would like to be in the Senate, because it appears to be a rubber stamp, and I would like to have a voice where I can speak openly." He said, "I am glad to hear you say this because I want you to run for the St. Michael North East seat." I said "But you know I am very green." He said that had nothing to do with it. I said there was something else, my children were overseas and I said I would have to bring them home and have a conference. My children came and my son especially said that he wanted me to be in politics, and he asked his father to give his support to me. As most of you know, I won that seat, and I was made a Parliamentary Secretary.

There came a time when I made some comments at the Employers Confederation Meeting when they had a strike, and Mr. Barrow called a meeting which I attended, and he spoke to me and all. You could always tell when he would be vexed, and he said, "I heard about the comments you made at the Employers Confederation Meeting, and I was surprised to think that people ask you to come to something and then you say something and somebody can take it back." He said, "Let me tell you something, whether the union is wrong, or right - for you and for us the union is always right."

There was another occasion on which Mr. Barrow had to speak to me, which I will not go into in great detail, because I have a book to write, and I know that he will feature in it. On that occasion I knew I had to speak my mind. It was near election time and it was not me alone he was talking roughly to, and when he came to me he told me what he had to say. I was not pleased as a woman, because I felt that I was no longer a child. Reflecting, I can see now that Mr. Barrow felt that, being a greenhorn, I had to learn and he was there to teach me, but what Mr. Barrow did not understand then was that I was developing, and I spoke out openly and publicly and I resigned from the party, but I knew that it would have hurt Mr. Barrow. Senator Boxill made sure that I was back in that party, he brought the card for me to fill out, and I was sold a ticket to some function they were having at headquarters and I was told, "you have to go, you must go, you must attend the function." I attended the function and when I got to the door, Mr. Barrow met me, and he held me and he kissed me and said "I am so glad you are back."

4.05 p.m.

I am saying this because a lot of people will think that Mr. Barrow was a man who hated people who spoke out or who had a disagreement with him. No! From then on Mr. Barrow was my best friend, Mr. Barrow was my brother, Mr. Barrow was my adviser. There are so many things that I can tell you, all within the last nearly ten or eleven years.

Mr. Barrow was a frequent visitor to my home. Before elections last year, a committee was set up at my home, of which I am sure that Demora Kirton would be proud and happy to think that I can say on her behalf that she cared for the man, and Carol Haynes and Harcourt Lewis. Mr. Barrow was the one that we looked up to. This was a very serious committee that we had and it was right there, and then I took sick and I had to fly out.

I remember that during that period of time that the committee was there, sometimes Mr. Barrow would call and say "What have you got there to eat? I have some business to discuss with you, there is something I have to talk to you about," and I would say, "Skipper, it is fine." He would come over, and he would always sit at the head of the table, and he would discuss what he had to discuss. On one occasion I remember he was annoyed about something, and he said "I cannot get hold of Harcourt and I came to you." So I said "I cannot agree with this thing," and he went back to Mr. Lewis and he said "We do not agree on this".

I am just telling you the type of human being he was. People might have tried to tell him he should not be this or he should not be that, but Mr. Barrow liked people who could stand up to him. He respected women who had the guts and the courage to tell him to his face; not to get behind his back and say something about him. Mr. Barrow has confided in me. He has been, I cannot describe, words cannot describe.....

When elections were called I was overseas and my son-in-law called me. I was not as well as I should have been and ready to come home, and Cranston said to me "Mr. Barrow asks you to return immediately. Elections have been called." I caught the first plane out and I returned.

He was good to my children and my grandchildren as well. They said to me today, "Mummy, don't ever forget the things that Mr. Barrow has said to the staff at the supermarket, don't ever forget them, because they loved him." My staff knew what he wanted, they respected him.

I remember that last year I needed some advice, and Mr. Barrow looked at me and he said, "Something is wrong, what is bothering you?" I told him, and he gave me the advice and said, "Who is your attorney?" I told him Colin Williams, and he said "you have a good man, that is a good man."

He has not only given me advice on one occasion, recently he gave me some advice again, but what I liked about him most was, you never knew when he was coming to lunch. Since he has been in the Government he

would call and say "I am coming to lunch," and my children want me to tell you of the last lunch which he had with us. It was most significant.

Mr. Barrow had called a few days before and he said "I am sending you or I will bring you some callaloo and I will have lunch with you, but all the children should be present." He came in a chauffeur driven car, and before we had lunch he sat comfortably — and this is, I would say, about six weeks ago — in the patio where he could get some air and he spoke with us. We were having some drinks and then we said it was time to go into lunch, and I said, "Your usual seat, Skipper," which was the head of the table, and he said, "No, that is your seat today. I am sitting on your left." And he talked to us about some of everything you could think about. He said he had to travel quite a lot within the next few weeks, and the things he talked about were very personal things, memories we will have to remember a very long time.

4.15 p.m.

I remember one thing that he said. He said, "You know, some of the women of Barbados do not think, that I like them, but women do now know the power they have. Women in this country have so much power, but they just want a man to do things for them". He said, "They talk about discrimination, but there is no Ministry of Man's Affairs, but they have a Ministry of Women's Affairs."

He knew what he wanted for this country. He wanted every human being to be independent, not because the state was independent, but he wanted the people of this country to stop being beggars. He wanted the business community to help the people of this country. He wanted to see people with shares, people who had been working as workers in businesses to be participants in businesses. He did not want to see poverty. He wanted people to be proud of this country.

He always said that mothers are mostly responsible for their children, not the fathers, the mothers had undergone the pain. The fathers must be able to see them, play with them and teach them to go the right way, but we, the women, he would say, are responsible for these children being in drugs and being the way they are.

He gave them free education. He had done everything. He was disillusioned eventually, because he felt that people abused the system and abused the freenesses that were given to them. He often asked, "How much can a human being do for some of the people of the country?"

He was a Caribbean man respected all over the place. The glowing tributes that have been paid can tell you about the vast wealth of experience and love that was in

him for other people, and the affection that all people gave to him.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond, you have five minutes more.

SENATOR G. L. EASTMOND: Thank you, Sir.

His spirit lives on, I know this, although his body is dead and it has gone. I knew that his time was not far off, because he had said some things that made me aware, that when he died, his son must carry out certain wishes. When I saw him at that time I knew that he was not well, but yet he came back, and I had the feeling that, perhaps, he would be with us for a little longer, but then when I saw him recently on the television, I knew he was going.

I have lost my family and I have lost a good friend, a brother, and this country has lost the greatest politician that time will ever know. He was the greatest in our time.

On behalf of my family, my staff and myself, I wish to express sympathy to his wife, his children and all other relatives, and I wish the new Prime Minister the best of everything, and that he will have not only my support, but the support of my family.

I thank you.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, there is a great saying, "Service to humanity is the greatest service of all," and from my young days, when I was a teenager, the words "Dipper/Skipper" meant quite a lot to me.

There is a man who is still alive today by the name of Trini who used to walk with Errol Barrow and sit in his office, and he also came to my house and he talked a lot of politics. At both of my grandparents' houses, there were political arguments and discussions in which I would get involved. One of my brothers who admired Errol Barrow, especially for his work in the RAF, and it is not a strange thing that he emulated him and went off to the RAF..... He is now back here giving service to his country as an engineer at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. He thinks, too, that Errol Barrow was one of the greatest men that has ever lived.

I should like to reflect on some of the very serious things this great man caused me to think about. I know that he had a great concern about the education of persons who were not privileged before to get this type of exposure, and I recall that when free secondary and tertiary education was implemented in this country, it is always good to hear from people outside of the country. I have travelled reasonably extensively, and travelling to quite a few places on that particular occasion, people could not understand what Barbados had found, if Barbados had found gold, or oil, how we were going to do it,

if we had looked at other great nations who could not achieve this. They saw it as a stroke of genius. They saw it as a means of equality, because if there is one thing that can bind us together and can give us true equality of opportunity, it is education, and I think we are all aware as Barbadians that if there are two things a Barbadian talks about, there are a house over his head and education for his children.

This has resulted in what we would call the master's child sitting down with the maid's child. It has also resulted in many of the maids' children doing far better academically than some of the masters' or mistresses' children, and all of this is as a result of the foresight of the man Errol Barrow. Listening to people abroad, they would always ask, "How can this man be a dictator? No dictator would ever want free secondary education. A dictator would want to keep people ignorant so that they would never understand what he is doing."

Even in some of our Caribbean islands, there are people who still vote by symbols; not so in Barbados — thanks to the great man, the Honourable Errol Walton Barrow.

Looking at the National Insurance Scheme which was also implemented by the late Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, I recall that in Jamaica, one day there was an argument when I said that we had a National Insurance Scheme and we had maternity benefits for women. I recall Ms. Mavis Watts saying to me she did not believe that, and I took out a copy of the National Insurance Act and I put it in her hand and said, "You are a lawyer, you can read it for yourself." Those are some of the things that people outside were looking at. Little Barbados, 166 square miles, and yet we were able to achieve these things without having resources other than the resources of our people. We had no gold, we had no bauxite, but we had the foresight under the leadership of the man Errol Walton Barrow.

4.25 p.m.

I remember in my early days as President of the Democratic League of Women having many, many arguments with Errol Walton Barrow, and I think anybody here who is in the party will tell you that they do not think there is one woman who has had more arguments with Errol Walton Barrow than I have had. I always stuck to my guns, and at the end of these arguments, when the meeting was finished, he would come and put his arm on my shoulder and would either say one of two things: "General Fraser, you were good", or he would probably say to me, "You mean you had to get the last word on me?" We enjoyed that sort of rapport. I remember too at a meeting a man getting up to say something, and he said, "Oh no, no, no. Let the two of us argue. We will argue it out. She is able to stand up to my arguments", and we went backwards and forward.

On the Saturday night before his death the late Errol Walton Barrow and I had a very long conversation. I remember his sister saying that it is what I wanted for a long time, a long conversation with him, and he talked about the symposium which I was going to attend. It had taken some ten years after all the discussion and quarrelling at the various Commonwealth Heads of Government Conferences to get through this point about the setting up of Commonwealth Information Units, and he talked to me about the different phases, and I recall being present at some of the conferences like in Copenhagen, Nairobi — this, of course, was going on way back — and then in Nassau, finally they were able to come to a decision. He told me that he was happy that somebody from Barbados was able to attend. He was very pleased that I was able to go to this conference. He knew that I would put my best foot forward, and he hoped that Barbados would be able to benefit significantly from this conference.

But, strangely enough, I have a mother whom Mr. Barrow had adored very much indeed. We call her, lovingly, "Mumsy", and he turned and said to me just out of the blue, we had just finished talking about conferences, "How is Mumsy?" I said she was okay. He said, "Tell Mumsy that I am coming to see her soon." I said I would tell her. He said, "Are the sugar apples ready yet?" I said, "Not for you", making a joke, and he continued to say, "Tell Mumsy I love her; please, when you go home give her that message for me. I love her." You know, to me that was a bit strange to see how he kept commenting on that, as if he was sending a message to her to say to her, "Goodbye, Mumsy! — I am leaving you." They used to sit and talk politics for hours when I was not at home, and he would always make the joke with me, "I saw Mumsy and we talked our politics in our own way for hours, and I told her she had better stir some coucou, and we finished our chat over the coucou, but, thank God, you were not there to hear what we discussed; that is our own little secret."

Do you know what was funny? When he was arriving at the dance, his sister and I were sitting on the outside and he was wearing these braces, and I turned jokingly and I said, "Who dressed you?" and he said to the lady who was accompanying him, "You see what I tell you! She is always interfering with me, she is always criticising me, but anyhow I love her." These messages kept coming out.

The man was so humble. Lots of people in the Caribbean and beyond could not understand how a Prime Minister could go to a supermarket without guards and soldiers and all these people that you would get in Latin America. As a matter of fact, they could not go, they would have to send somebody else. I remember being in Bogota and some of the women from Latin America saying to me, "How is it that your Prime Minister drives himself and this sort of thing?" They just could not

understand that kind of thing. To them, it was strange, but even if you wanted him to have policemen or soldiers driving him, he would never accept that, because he was not that kind of man.

He wanted to be quite independent. He saw himself as a person without all this fuss and paraphernalia. He saw himself as a citizen who was devoted and dedicated to his country. As some people have said before, he could have chosen several careers, he could have gone outside of Barbados and made quite a lot of money, but he chose to serve his country, he chose to bring about the better life for the people of Barbados that he had promised them. He chose to do without a lot of things that other people have so that he could serve his people, and serve them well he did.

I think we should always listen to the international scene and hear what people have to say about him. President Johnson said he was a great man of a great people, and there were many great people throughout the world, including the Caribbean, who said these things of him.

Errol Barrow was a man who gave you, and I have found it to be so, very useful advice. The first time that I ever visited his office was in early 1976, when I was going to Argentina to represent Barbados at a UN conference. He called me early in the morning about 5 o'clock and asked me to come to his office. When I got to his office he said: "Did you see a lion outside the door?" I said, "No, Sir." He said, "Well, I said that to you because you have never come to my office to see me, and I thought there was a lion outside the door so that might be the reason why you never came." I said, "Well, you know me already. I do not believe in visiting the offices of Prime Minister and Ministers. I believe in doing the work I have to do, and if I have to ask them a question, I can ask them a question, make an appointment or something of that sort, but I do not think that I should just go, because I am a member of the party to take up people's time". And I recall him saying on several occasions that whenever someone visited him and took out a passport of the party, he started to think differently of that person, because he felt, and I am saying some of the things the man said, that that person was only visiting him because he wanted to show him that he was a member of the party, and whatever it was he should have it before somebody else. These are the kinds of things that Errol Barrow would say. He was not concerned about your passport. He was concerned about the fact that you were a Barbadian and you came to him, because he said he was very much a servant of the people and not a master, and these are things I will always remember him for.

4.35 p.m.

I recall when he said that Ministers are in office — I know most of you will remember that — they had no power, only God had power. These are things that we

must remember, and these are things that we must strive to live with and allow to be some of the guiding principles of a man who was so great, but yet so humble, from the things he said and the things that he did.

I want to tell you how much Mr. Barrow was respected in the Caribbean region, and how it came forcibly to me, even if it did not before, but it did. When we were trying to get women's desks set up, whenever I visited a Prime Minister's Office or a Chief Minister's Office, the first thing they would ask me would be about two people, Errol Barrow and Frank Walcott. I should say they are two still, because there is Dame Nita Barrow. These are three of the outstanding Barbadian people that people used to ask for all the time.

I got the news of Mr. Barrow's death when I was at dinner, because I was in Grenada attending the same conference I mentioned. When I got the news I went back to the dining table but I could not eat anymore, and Mr. Sang, the Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, came over to me and he said, "This is not your face, something has happened. What was that phone call about? It surely has disturbed you." Before he could say that good enough, I heard this loud noise and there was crying in the kitchen. I had forgotten that two weeks before that, Mr. Barrow had stayed at that same hotel, and the young lady who said that she had to serve him a drink at a special time was crying. She had heard the news on the radio. And if you wanted to see a federation, you should have seen a true federation then. I was taken to my room almost immediately, and on one of my beds there were about ten women, Jamaicans, Grenadians, Trinidadians, Tobagonians, women from all over the region. On the floor there were men seated, and I do not know if all 75 people were in my room, but these were all there. They were talking all sorts of things about Errol Barrow, what he had said, some of the things that he had told them, how they thought of him as a man, and then they had a service in my room. The Guyanese led the service. They read from Hebrews, and there was a whole sermon. During that entire week I was never left alone, some people were always accompanying me. It was like Caribbean Federation until when I said goodbye to them and got in the car.

I had to do a lot of things to keep myself from shedding tears. We had to finish the final draft and, therefore, I had to keep my head on. But when I got to Grantley Adams Airport, it was a different matter. I felt a sudden tension release as, well I am home now, and when I got here to the Senate Chamber I could not keep back my tears. I want to say I have no excuse for my tears, because they were the tears of sincerity, truthfulness and honesty of purpose. If ever there was a man that I had great and deep respect for, it was Errol Walton Barrow.

As I said, I do not think there is any woman who had more arguments with him than I have had. But when you think of the quality of the man, he was never annoyed after that. There was no enmity against you because you had an argument. As a matter of fact, he liked especially women to stand up to him. When you could stand up to him and tell him what you had to tell him he felt good. Sometimes he would say, "I said that because I wanted to make you sharp."

I want to say that he will always be in the memory of the people of the Caribbean and the world. A young man said to me that he cannot remember, other than the late President Kennedy, anyone else that so many people grieved for. I thought that if young people are thinking this way, truly the man has fulfilled his earthly work.

I should like to read what was done by the National Organisation of Women as a tribute:

"PEACE

Some have found it in the garden,
Some have found it in the stream,
For the peace of true contentment is the depth of every dream,

Some have found it on the hilltop and the search of ages old,
But no man has ever found it in the selfish stride for gold.

There are countless ways to win it,
Some have found it in a child,

Some have come to it through sorrow when our hearts were reconciled:

It is the hope of every skipper wherever he may be,
That peace may follow labour in the days that are to be.

Sleep on beloved for your living was not in vain."

I think the greatest tribute that can be paid to Errol Barrow is for us, especially the women, from the Caribbean region to keep on working, to keep on remembering that service to humanity is the greatest service of all, to let our light shine and to build Caribbean unity and peace, and be forward thinking, for I think it is from the non-governmental area that this unity will start and will come. I do not think it will come from the politicians, but from the number of organisations which gather in the region. They have got to push.
4.45 p.m.

To his sorrowing relatives, his wife, and to his family, I express my deepest condolence. I also express condolences on behalf of the Caribbean Women's Association and the National Organisation of Women. I want to say, truly his living was not in vain.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS. Mr. Deputy President, I speak of a man who I knew as a humane and gentle person. My first encounter with the late Prime Minister was when I was introduced to him by a blind man who was his neighbour. It was Errol Barrow's practice to spend some evening with this blind man and I happened to have been visiting the blind man's home. I did not have any contact with him after that meeting until the Democratic Labour Party won the confidence of the people of this country in 1961. I was an officer in the Ministry of Finance, Clerk of Estimates Committee, and I had just completed the first draft of the Estimates with the Barbados Labour Party Administration and I was faced with the task of redoing the Estimates during the month of December. I well recall one or two encounters, including one with Senator Tudor, when I was given an instruction to do something which seemed to me to be wrong, and I had the temerity to tell the then Premier that it could not be done that way. I believe that from that initial contact, when I explained as courteously as I could, and yet as forcefully as was necessary, that it could not be done as they wanted it, that I was able to gain the respect and confidence of this man. I say this because several were the occasions as a public officer in which I had to give advice which was rejected but yet respected.

My association with the late Prime Minister spans a period of more than 26 years, most of which I served as a public officer in this country. In 1965, it was Errol Barrow who insisted that I should go on secondment to work at the Hilton Hotel Project, and I remember very well the manner in which he was able to interact with the several persons who worked on that project and gain their confidence. But what impressed me most was the obvious commitment which he had given towards the success of that project, and although he was not the Minister, as far as I can recall, responsible for the project, because he had the capacity and role of Prime Minister he made it his business to visit the project frequently to ensure that it was successfully completed.

In 1966, when this country was heading towards independence celebrations, it was my privilege to be invited to serve with him, and indeed to serve with the office responsible for making the preparations for this country's entry into independence.

That I was impressed with the man's leadership is without question. But I was also impressed with the humility which he exhibited. In 1969, when a decision was taken that Government would get involved in data processing activities, to ensure that he understood clearly what was happening, it was not above Errol Barrow, in the role as Prime Minister, to leave this country and go to Cuerno Vaco in Mexico and sit down in a classroom. One other Chief Minister in the Caribbean did it, but he was in the classroom with students. This was the sort of

man who was willing to walk with and to hold hands with all sorts of people in his quest for knowledge, to ensure that he was on top of the situation and to lead this country forward.

That Errol Barrow was highly respected by his Caribbean associates has already been referred to by so many persons. I can testify to that because of my association with him on several occasions when we would travel to meet with leaders of other countries, for instance, meetings with the University Grants Committee, of which he was chairman for several years, in the times when the university was scrambling and hoping to develop and expand its services in this region. It was also my good privilege to be associated with him in the days when Barbados was playing a major role in formulating regional institutions. Indeed, somebody has alluded to comments he made which eventually saw the Caribbean Development Bank Headquarters coming to Barbados. He appointed me to be the alternate Governor of the Caribbean Development Bank in 1973, and thereafter, for several years we were associated with the affairs of that institution which has made such an indelible impact upon the total economic advance of the several countries in the Caribbean. I believe that none of us will ever be able to fully say all of the things and recite the sterling contributions which this man made not only to Barbados, but to the total Caribbean scene.

I have been the beneficiary of his confidence. There is absolutely no question about that. He has been to me like a father, brother, and more than a friend. It was because of my clear understanding of what he sought to do for this country that, one year after I had retired from the Public Service, I responded to his invitation to identify with the affairs of the Democratic Labour Party. It was at his invitation that I became a member of the Executive of the Democratic Labour Party, and some time after the passing of a mutual friend, the late Horatio Cooke, I was appointed as Treasurer of the Democratic Labour Party. This brought me into even closer contact with a man whose memory I shall always remember and treasure.

He lived for this country and he died in the service of this country. He was a sort of man who did not move about, as many of us have said, with any pomp and ceremony. On the occasion when he was sworn in as Prime Minister recently, because after the election we walked together and talked, I remember him saying to me, "I want to be sworn in and I want no persons present except my son David." He was sworn in as Prime Minister without any fanfare or fuss, just he and his son went to the swearing in, and this said something to me.

4.55 p.m.

I have during the past year recognised that Prime Ministers are always lonely persons. I clearly understand the difficulties and the inward trauma which persons in these high offices must necessarily live with. It is because of that, and because of my relationship with him, that when he said to me that he was going to New York on the weekend of May 23, and he said to me, "You will be in Antigua," my response was "But I can probably fly over to New York," and his reply was "I would like that." I believe that he was saying something to me, and it did not occur to me at the time, because about a year ago we had been invited to visit New York, but I am glad that I took the opportunity to go to New York to share with him in the interaction with the people of Barbados in New York who loved him, who understood his mission for this country.

It was also my privilege to be in his company last Friday night when he spoke at Independence Square. I was with him the Saturday night at the party headquarters, and because we worked in the same building, I was also in audience with him, along with three other persons, on the day he died.

I have not shed any tears yet, because I do not think tears will, of necessity, say anything. I believe that the soul and the spirit of the man will live on in the hearts and the minds of all those people who respected him, and there are several of those people. I can only say that I thank the Almighty that it was my privilege to sit at the feet of a present day Gamaliel. It will be ever my privilege to have experienced the fathership, the brotherhood and the friendship which he gave to me, and I can only wish that, in the priestly tradition, his soul may rest in the paradise of the saints. The only thing that those of us left can do is to seek to follow in his steps.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I cannot claim to have had a long association with the Prime Minister. I was yet a school boy in 1961 when he took office and, with effect from the January term of 1962, introduced free secondary education.

It is the introduction of free secondary education and, as Senator Fraser has said, the development of a National Insurance and Social Security system in Barbados that I think rank among the considerable achievements that were attained in the ten year period 1961-1971, a period that I would describe as the salad days of the Administration of the Democratic Labour Party.

I will be brief, Sir, but there are a number of things that come to mind that I wish to put on the record. Under the Constitution the Prime Minister had responsibility for the appointment of judicial officers in this country. It was an indirect role prior to the constitutional amendments of 1974, but I think it is worthy to record

that in the 25 years, more or less, that he was involved in the administration of the affairs of this country, he was responsible for nine of the ten appointments to judicial office that have taken place in Barbados, and yet, as the learned Chief Justice said last week in the tributes, there was no question that anyone could look at the courts and describe them, as happens in the United States, as "the Barrow courts." This says something both for those who sit on the Bench and the people who appoint them, in that the appointment having been made, I do not think — and I have it on good authority — any attempt was ever made to interfere with the course of justice, nor was there any attempt to intimidate the judges in any way by way of the denial of those entitlements to which they were due under the Constitution.

As I said, Sir, I do not claim a lot of acquaintance with the Prime Minister, and the number of occasions on which I have had reason to speak with him is sufficiently distinct that I can recall them well. On those occasions I have always been received with courtesy, politeness and consideration. An instance last year, in particular, underscores this.

I was responsible, as Chairman of the Council of Legal Education, to identify a speaker for the graduation in Trinidad last year. A very important personage in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was approached in about March, but by the middle of June, no response had come back about whether the invitation was accepted or not. We got into July and I still had no acceptance, and I was prevailed upon to advise that very important personage that a refusal would be an answer, and if a communication did not come within a very short period of time, we would be obliged to withdraw the invitation. Having had my bluff called and the refusal come back, I was then put in the position of having no speaker, and knowing how sensitive Trinidad is to Barbadians coming to their own territory and behaving in a certain way, I was not minded to ask a Barbadian personage to go to Trinidad and make a speech, but members — a Trinidadian and a national of another Caribbean country — advised me that the Prime Minister would be a very acceptable person — he was not seen as a Barbadian in the Trinidad context — to go and give the graduation address, which he did. When I approached him, all he said was, "What date did you have in mind?" He looked at his diary and said, "No problem." So what had taken me four months to get a no, I got the response of a yes to in just really five minutes of conversation.

The last time I spoke to the Prime Minister was just five months ago when he attended my admission to the Inner Bar, as he said, to make sure it was done correctly, that I was properly sworn. That is the last occasion that I remember speaking to him personally.

I think that the Prime Minister's contribution in the field of education, though, is perhaps his single greatest

achievement, because it has done a lot to make everything else possible in Barbados. During his tenure, the University of the West Indies developed from being a college of arts and sciences to a full-fledged university, with the addition of the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill, which gave it a regional status, and if monuments are being looked to as a permanent memento for this distinguished Caribbean and Barbadian lawyer, I should like to suggest that some consideration be given, as has happened with the law schools which have been dedicated to a distinguished jurist in the case of Trinidad, and a distinguished Prime Minister in the case of Jamaica, the Faculty of Law could be appropriately dedicated to the memory of the former Prime Minister. The authorities in Trinidad very quickly on the death of John F. Kennedy named their auditorium in St. Augustine the John F. Kennedy Auditorium, so if precedent is sought, Mr. Deputy President, I offer that as justification for my proposal.

5.05 p.m.

I would like to record on my own behalf and that of my family my condolences to all those who mourn his passing, and to say, as others have said already, that his departure will be a loss not only to Barbados but, certainly, to the wider Caribbean region.

The *Times* of London in its obituary said; "Through personality and breadth of vision rather than any conscious campaign, he broke down barriers in the society and created a climate of financial competence in Barbados which did a lot to make Barbados the country we now have today."

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy President, I hastened here this afternoon to offer a few words of condolence to the family of the late Prime Minister, Errol Walton Barrow. I was at the Community College completing some examinations, and while there in that atmosphere, I was pre-occupied with a thought that we lost a very important element of influence and stabilisation in the parochial affairs of Barbados as well as in the region, and I felt it was an imperative for me to be here this afternoon to offer a few words of sympathy to his family, the nation and the members of the Democratic Labour Party.

Prior to the victory of the Democratic Labour Party I was virtually unknown in the political life of Barbados and I feel that I am testimony of the egalitarian spirit of Mr. Barrow. I remember prior to the elections of 1986 I used to keep very close contact with him and Sir James Tudor, and we often exchanged words about politics in Barbados and the region, and I always expressed the feeling that he was really one who was capable of reuniting the Caribbean people.

One night during the elections, I had the privilege to be at his home. We were discussing where we would start the first meeting. It was Dr. Blackman, another friend and I, and he suggested to me that I should select the location, and I recommended the Ivy Housing area, and the speakers for that meeting.

Prior to this, like many other Barbadians, listening to Mr. Barrow in the political struggle in the 1970s, I was of the opinion that he was very forceful and dynamic, and sometimes one got the impression that he was a bit arrogant. After having the pleasure of being at his home and recognising his modest behaviour, (he was full of humour), I said to myself, here is a man of humane qualities, but when he has to face the struggles of politics he takes on his role seriously.

In talking to him from time to time, he would make mention of people like Marcus Garvey and some of the great socialists in the world, and I felt that we had something in common in terms of philosophy, and I gained more and more respect for him as a result of that. I would like to say I can more view him in an objective sense, because I did not share the period of the relationship with him on a social basis, but mostly on the dialogue of politics, and it has given me a more profound insight into the thinking of the late Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow.

I think that a demonstration of his concern for the people of the region was when he made his first major speech after elections, in Georgetown, Guyana, when he talked about the great links between the Caribbean people through their blood relationships, consanguinity. He indicated that they were all African people — it was implied in his speech — throughout the region, and he considered all of us, the African people of the Caribbean, to be one family. It was a speech that meant much to me, and I felt he was making a historical speech.

Since then, the atmosphere at the parochial level, which prior to the coming into power of the Democratic Labour Party appeared to be in limbo, was brought back in line with a more cordial spirit among the people of Barbados, and it was extended, as well, among the people of the region. All the difficulties that we were experiencing between our regional Governments appeared to be solved with his coming into office, as Mr. Barrow would say, but I believe that while you are in office, sometimes you have to execute power. It appeared that we had found a solution in Mr. Barrow in bringing the region together again.

As I said before, I cannot claim to have been that close to him, like many people, to have shared his social life, but I respect very much the introduction of free secondary education in the year 1961 by Errol Walton Barrow, because my entire family were recipients of that

free secondary education, and we are extremely grateful for it. It has given to the working class people of Barbados the opportunity to indicate to persons, and I have mentioned in this Chamber before, of other social strata in Barbados that working class people have the potential to achieve great heights. The multiple effect that it has had on Barbados cannot be measured just by looking at the simple introduction of the free secondary education. It has produced bank managers, great politicians, scientists, teachers and people in various professions in Barbados. Free secondary education has been the bedrock of great progress for the Barbadian people, and its contribution has been substantial in that particular area.
5.15 p.m.

In addition to that, he has also looked at the area of social legislation, as has been mentioned here before, the area of National Insurance. That, too, has been a great help to many people in Barbados who, on occasions when they are not well, still have the opportunity to be given some form of compensation to keep them through that interim period of sickness.

Mr. Barrow went on and brought the country to nationhood in 1966. That is another important period of demarcation in the history of this country, and it will be always remembered.

On the basis of his contribution to Barbados, his sound philosophy and his respect for the working class people of this country, I am extremely happy to be associated with the Democratic Labour Party, of which the late Prime Minister was the leader, and I want to say to his family that Mr. Barrow has been a great man to Barbados, and to the nation, you have lost a great stabilising influence, and I hope that in the future we will see people honouring the wishes of Mr. Barrow in taking this country forward and into progress in the days ahead. I believe that he has done good for this country.

It is extremely difficult for me to say anything else that could give any more credit to his character than what has been given before, and I would just like to extend my sympathy to his family once more, the nation and the members of the Democratic Labour Party.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. Deputy President, you will understand that my intervention on this occasion will not be very long, since the length of my acquaintance and the depth of it with the late Prime Minister is not as extensive as those of other speakers. I shared with Mr. Barrow a contemporary period at school. We saw each other over the distance between the difference in our ages, and so we were figures to each other and very little more than that.

More recently, however, and I expect Senator Comissiong would be delighted to hear this, I had to work with him for a few months, because I shared with him a responsibility for some decisions about the disposal of the literary work of H. A. Vaughan, and we disposed of that responsibility to our satisfaction, and to the storing of much of the work in the Archives and the Barbados Museum.

But it will not be necessary to count a long period of personal acquaintance, or acquaintance outside what one read in the Press about Mr. Barrow's cooking, and recognising the importance of his political activity, to know that he was an important person in Barbados. And it is not only because he was Prime Minister, because in my perception his behaviour, bearing and achievements had a character which I regard as quintessentially Barbadian. If one wanted to describe what a Barbadian was or what Barbados is, it is easy to look at his life, look at him and his character and say, just as one said about Brutus "there was a Roman", to say about Barrow that he was a Barbadian, and the country and the character of the country become illuminated, because it is through the microscope of his own life and his own character that one sees what a country can be.

And if you wanted to push it a little further without being fanciful, you would merely have to look at the quality of his funeral service. I have personally never been so impressed by any public event than I have been on Tuesday evening. It was brilliantly done. I have never seen better. I have seen horse guard parades, I have seen many other parades and other events, but I have never seen anything so brilliantly done and so magnificently reflective of the spirit and character of a people as that, and it is ironic that a major part in that was played by the Barbados Defence Force. I say no more to make my point.

The decision to have his body on that occasion appeared, at first, to be unnecessary, and to be perhaps something that he did not want, but in the event, it was most tastefully and brilliantly done, and I think that if a tribute had to be paid to the memory of someone who led the country for several years and the manner of his leaving it, that was a substantial one. When the gun sounded that final salute, there were screams, wails of weeping from some quarters of the congregation, and then to the sound of the Last Post the hearse was making its way, just departing, just leaving the scene. It was one of the most moving moments that I have ever experienced. 5.25 p.m.

It is not necessary, therefore, to say much more than that. The record of this particular Meeting, Hansard, and I expect a similar meeting in the Lower House, will afford the historians material enough and pointers enough to do some work. I do not expect that Mr. Barrow's cookbook will really provide much biographical material,

but certainly the manner of his work in Parliament and in the country, and the record which will come out of the memories recounted here, will provide the insights into a magnificent contribution by a person who has been, first and foremost, a Barbadian, and that, Mr. Deputy President, I salute.

SENATOR P. Y. FORDE: Mr. Deputy President, there has been much said by way of tributes to confirm what the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, meant to the people of Barbados. There has been an enormous amount of goodwill for him from all classes of our society, despite their different political persuasions. He has been a monolithic figure in the Caribbean for nearly 30 years.

I first met Mr. Barrow in 1960 as a visitor to his home at "Trevor", Black Rock, where politicians at the time gathered to discuss matters of state and the federal experiment, as we had then. Those were rather interesting discussions, when one could discern Mr. Barrow's fine qualities and the vision he had for Barbados and the wider Caribbean. As he was valiant, I honour him, and I leave the historians to do justice to his life and his work.

He made sweeping social reforms for Barbados, and, of course, the highlight of his career was independence for Barbados in 1966. When we think or speak of Barbados as independent, the name of Errol Barrow must loom large. He has set a splendid example of service, and this and future generations will always be in his debt for his vision and leadership.

On behalf of my family, both here and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I extend my deepest sympathy to his sorrowing relatives and to his colleagues and friends, and I trust that his successor will draw strength from the example of this Barbadian patriot and statesman.

May he rest in peace.

Thank you.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy President, I too, would like to associate myself with the very fine tributes that my fellow Senators have paid this afternoon to the life and work of the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Barrow.

I cannot claim to have known the late Prime Minister well. I remember having one meeting with him back in the 1960s, when I, as a Director of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, had to see him, along with other directors, regarding the financial restructuring of the CBC. I think it was in 1967 or 1968, when I was the President of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce that year, I invited him to address the Annual General Meeting

at the Marine Hotel, which he did, and I remember him speaking at great length, without a note, and giving a very interesting address covering a wide range of topics. Since then I have met him maybe ten times, casual meetings, usually in a supermarket when he would stop in to buy a few things to take home to cook.

I had one — it was a privilege — serious meeting with him, the only private meeting I ever held with him, in Miami last November. I had the honour on that occasion to introduce him at the Miami Conference sponsored by the Caribbean Central America In Action, and he delivered what was an outstanding and very memorable address dealing with the integrity and sovereignty of the Caribbean island states. I had met him at the Miami Airport on the day before when he had flown in from Atlanta, and he asked me if I could meet with him in his room, as he would like to review how the conference was going — I would be introducing him the following day. We met that afternoon and we covered the review of the conference in a matter of minutes. Mr. Barrow then quickly steered the conversation away, and we discussed a very wide range of topics pertaining to Barbados, in particular, but the Caribbean, generally, because he knew of my interest in the Caribbean through the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Deputy President, it would be improper of me to divulge the specifics of that meeting, as I consider it a private meeting. I was privileged to be a party to it. It made me realise more than ever that Mr. Barrow did not see the future of Barbados or the Caribbean in terms of trade initiatives or trade treaties. He saw the future of the Caribbean in terms of its people. He saw the Caribbean as people of all races, of all classes and of all creeds working in harmony and working constructively for a better future. He saw this harmony as vital, as essential for our future stability and development.

Mr. Barrow was a man with many strengths, which far outweighed any weaknesses he had. In spite of my not knowing him well and not being in agreement with him on things he had said and done on several occasions, I could still admire his many fine qualities — his humanity, his vision, his pragmatism, his sense of duty, just to name a few.

It seems to me that he looked on his life's work as a vocation. He seemed to have a special sense of mission, a special sense of purpose. That is the only way I can explain how he could give so easily of his time and of his talents, how he could give of himself so selflessly. His achievements were many and they were varied, in the fields of politics, economics and social services. I believe we, his contemporaries, can identify some of those achievements, but I believe that history will recognise and acclaim many more.

The late Prime Minister is a national hero. I hope that we will honour him, not in hero worship but by continuing his life's work of dedicated service to others. I hope that we will remember him as a fine human being, as a Caribbean man and, truly, as an outstanding Barbadian.

May his soul rest in peace.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Mr. Deputy President, I agree with those who have expressed the view over the past week that there will never be another Errol Barrow. I believe that a number of very unique and special circumstances coalesced to form the character and personality of that great Barbadian. From his very birth, his life was a special one. He was the nephew of Charles Duncan O'Neal, the great socialist. From very young he must have imbibed the great socialist principles and the principle of identity with the interest of the working people. He was the son of Bishop Reginald Barrow, and I, as a son of a Minister of Religion, know the special and unique influences and pressures that are brought to bear on the child of a Minister of Religion, and if you are lucky, you have held up before you the great moral values, and I believe Mr. Barrow was lucky.
5.35 p.m.

At a very early age he experienced not only the confines of Barbados, but the variety and diversity of the Caribbean region. He lived in the United States Virgin Islands as a youngster. His family had tangible links with St. Vincent and other Caribbean islands. So at a very early age he would have become exposed to the uniqueness, vitality and the specialness of being a Caribbean person.

He attended Wesley Hall Boys School, where he was imbued by the spirit and personality of Rawle Parkinson, and he must have imbibed there, also, the principles of self-reliance and industry that were the hallmarks of the late, great headmaster of Wesley Hall.

He was exposed in 1937 to Marcus Garvey, and that, too, must have left its mark. He was exposed to the phenomenal 1937 riots that played so large a role in creating the new Barbados. That, too, must have opened his eyes to the need for change in Barbados and to the possibilities of the new society that he was to play so large a part in the building later on. He was exposed to World War II, to the Nuremberg trials, great issues of human suffering, to the great problems of the 20th century of racism and nationalism. He was exposed to these things at perhaps the most profound and fundamental level in the days following the end of World War II.

He attended the London School of Economics at a time when it was traditional for Barbadian scholars to opt, instead for Oxford and Cambridge, law and medicine. It means that even at that age he had his mind set on the future, because at that time economics was a relatively new academic discipline, in the direction of the modern world, of a modern Barbados.

He came back to Barbados and practiced law and became involved in politics in the era of the late 1940s and early 1950s, the era when the energies of the masses of people were being released following the end of World War II, the time of the great achievement of universal adult suffrage, when the ordinary Barbadian man and woman came forcefully on to the political stage in Barbados.

I think that all these powerful circumstances created a unique individual, and I will not say that we will never see a greater person, but certainly we shall never see a person who so admirably represents the best qualities of the Barbadian people.

I should like to add my support to Senator Boxill's call for a statue to the late Prime Minister, and not only a statue, but I should like to add my own call for the Government to commission an official biography of Errol Walton Barrow, and to do it very soon. It is a pity he did not see it fit, or did not find the time, to write his own autobiography. I think it is crucial to the development of the youth of this country that we have access to a properly documented, well-written official biography of the life, times and work of the man Errol Barrow.

I have had much to say over the past week. I have been given a lot of opportunity, I must say, especially by the television station, to say much about the political work of Errol Barrow, and I do not intend to go into that here this afternoon. I just want to draw reference to the direction that Errol Barrow was pointing this country in, especially during the last year of his life.

If we want to find a concise and cogent statement of where he wanted this country to go, we need look no further than the text of the two outstanding speeches that he made during the past year, the speech he delivered to the CARICOM Heads of Government at their meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, and the speech that he delivered in Miami. I think he was making three fundamental points. He was telling us that our future lies in the Caribbean integration movement. He made this point very forcefully in Georgetown, Guyana. He said that we should not even confine that integration process and movement to mere matters of trade and economics, but we have to begin understanding ourselves, appreciating ourselves, appreciating the wonderful achievements, unique institutions and the unique personality and character that we, as a Caribbean people, have developed

over the centuries. We need to begin understanding that and developing it.

He also made another fundamental point, that we have, as a people, as a nation, and as a region to protect the sovereignty and integrity of our nation and of our region. He was very strong in his pride as a Barbadian and as a citizen of the Caribbean. He made the point that we had to defend our independence and stand tall as a people, that we were not here to accept largesse or freedom from anybody, that our principles must be those of self-reliance and doing things for ourselves. In fact, at the Miami conference he told his friends in the American Congress that if they wanted to assist Barbados, the way to assist us was not to give us aid or largesse, but to free up their markets to Caribbean exports. He said that they should do that not as any favour to the Caribbean people, but as a practical measure to redress the phenomenal imbalance in trade between our countries and the United States, and that that was not asking for a favour. That is how Errol Barrow thought and spoke. In fact, the Americans themselves are now asking Japan to correct the imbalance in trade between their two countries, and this is no favour.

5.45 p.m.

He was not looking for favours.

The first fundamental point that he made during the past year, and the third fundamental lesson he was trying to teach us, is that we need to embark upon the urgent task of resuscitating our economy and making our economy more competitive internationally, and I believe this is what Senator Goddard was referring to, with all classes, all people, all sectors of the economy working towards that common goal. I believe this is what the programme of the Democratic Labour Party over the past year has been aimed at, from the Budgetary Proposals of last year. Errol Barrow was trying to say to us that we exist in a very precarious environment, we are a small island economy, and that if we are to survive, every sector, every class, all people must be involved in that process and we must pull together.

I believe that these are the three fundamental lessons that he tried to leave with us over the past year. The third one is perhaps the most fundamental, because in making that challenge to the Barbadian society, he was saying that our salvation lies in our own hands, in the skills, the determination and the will of the people of Barbados to succeed, and I believe he was throwing out a special challenge to the young people of Barbados, the ones he had done so much to educate.

Sir, I should like to conclude by offering my condolences and sympathy to the family of Errol Barrow, to all his friends, colleagues, the members of his party and to the members of his Government, who so dearly feel

his loss. I should just like to echo the sentiment that has been expressed here today, that the greatest tribute we can pay to Errol Barrow is to make sure that we continue his life's work, and by our so doing bring it one step closer to fruition.

I thank you.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr. Barrow in his private life, I only knew him in his public life.

So much has been said about Mr. Barrow's public achievements that I can think of nothing that I could add to what has already been said without repeating the various sentiments that have been expressed.

I should like to associate myself with those sentiments and I would like to express my sympathy to Mrs. Barrow and the Barrow family.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy President, I merely rise so that the records of this Honourable Chamber will indicate that I spoke on an occasion on which we were paying tribute to the late Prime Minister. I have had over the past week occasions throughout the island, by television and radio, even throughout the Caribbean, to give sketches of my knowledge of Errol Barrow, and I think from those sketches and from my television appearances the public of this country is aware of how I feel both about my personal loss as well as his loss to Barbados and the Caribbean.

His passing leaves me as one of the elder statesmen of the Democratic Labour Party, being its first chairman and its founder, and I take this opportunity to pledge to him not only my support for the man he designated as his successor, but to the party which he helped found, and of which he expects a very great deal.

To honour his memory, I pledge to dedicate myself to see that it continues on the path on which he set it after May 28, 1986, to see that the unity which he established continues, that the in-fighting with people does not take place, that the policies which he has established by the manifesto, on which the people elected us, are carried out.

I have had to say, and I say it again, that nothing flourishes under a great oak, and perhaps the new Prime Minister, now that the branches have been lopped off by God's mercy, has the sunshine and the rain falling on him. The people of this country will realise that in the person of the successor to Errol Walton Barrow we have a stalwart, a man of intelligence, integrity and ability, and for him I have the highest hopes. If anybody thinks he is going to be a walk-over, he is going to get the shock of his life. All he has to do is to take some of those very qualities which Errol

Barrow exhibited when he ran this country — integrity, firmness, decisiveness, and he must expect, as Errol expected, loyalty from those whom he has selected to assist him, and if he doubts anybody, or anybody's loyalty, it is his duty as the Prime Minister of this country to rid himself of anyone who attempts or in any way tries not to let the goals and aims of Errol Barrow be fulfilled.

If we as Christians believe that after death there is a life and that the human soul is immortal, perhaps somewhere over Barbados hovers the spirit of Errol Walton Barrow looking to see if those things which he stood for, the goals which he had set for himself and this country and his party, are being carried on.

On the eve of the election in May 1986, he selected Lloyd Erskine Sandiford — not that a Prime Minister can bequeath any country to any one man, I have told him before that it was never his to give — and fortunately, the party has selected Lloyd Erskine Sandiford to lead this country until the next election, and I think that in paying tribute to Errol Barrow, I could not but say that since on this man falls the burden of running this country, to follow in the footsteps of a man whom we hear we can never equal again, this Honourable Senate owes it not only to pay tribute to the late Prime Minister, but to go on record as wishing the new Prime Minister God's speed, good luck.

As for me, in respect of all those goals the late Prime Minister stood for, all those things he said, and all the hopes and aspirations he had for this country, I expect that he, even if he fails, will endeavour to carry them out. Only by doing that will we know that the soul of Errol Walton Barrow can rest in peace.

5.55 p.m.

I take this opportunity to extend to his son, David, of whom I am godfather, and the rest of his family my sincerest condolences. My family and I wish them God's blessings and God's guidance in their moment of sorrow, and we wish them to know that the Almighty never places on people greater burdens than they can bear, and when a tragedy like this befalls someone, God in his wisdom knows why he has done it.

Life has to go on. You who are left behind have to carry on life. We mourn, we weep, we are sorrowful, but until our time comes, until that day which we know not of arrives for each and everyone of us, we owe it to ourselves and to our country to do the best we can and to follow the service and the standards set by Errol Walton Barrow.

May his soul rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Much has been said, and very much more will be written, about our late Prime

Minister, the Right Honourable Errol Barrow, but I cannot allow an occasion such as this to pass without expressing how the life of such a great man did impact on my own, and at the risk of being repetitive, therefore, I too, have to tell of a number of incidents.

The year was 1959 and I had just completed a European tour. In fact, I was in Italy when the cruise liner left without me. I somehow managed to go back to Britain, and immediately upon my return I thought I would find a brilliant young advocate who would represent me, and, of course, I chose the then very vibrant advocate Errol Barrow. Needless to say, we won the case, but I should like to say that I went into his office as a client and I came out as a friend. That was a long, long time ago, and in the years that followed, we became good friends. Like so many others, I enjoyed his hospitality. My wife, then my fiancée, and I would sometimes be invited to enjoy his cuisine, like so many others around this table, and I was particularly encouraged by him over the years.

I remember at the time of independence when he called and asked if I would chair two of the important committees. I asked him if he felt sure that I could do it, and he gave me the confidence to go on. I was very pleased with the outcome. That was the nature of the man.

I think that he will be particularly missed as one of the chief exponents of the movement towards the full integration of the people of the Caribbean, and today, as we pay tribute to the late Prime Minister, let us give thanks for his life, for his ability to impact on the lives of other persons, especially on the young.

I think myself fortunate to have known him, because when so many generations, generations yet not born, will be learning of him from history books, I can say that I, too, got to know this great man. I should like to congratulate the committee headed by Sir James Tudor for the very capable manner in which they arranged his funeral. The funeral arrangements were very well done, in very good taste, with great precision, and I should like to place this on record. I think that the greatest way, however, that we can pay tribute to Mr. Barrow is to continue the work which he has begun, and I should like to pledge, unreservedly, my loyalty to his successor, the Honourable Erskine Sandiford. Anyone who follows in the footsteps of so great a leader must, of necessity, find it very difficult, and I think we must give him time to put his own stamp on things, give him all the support and loyalty we can, but we must not expect him to do things exactly in the same way that the Right Honourable Errol Barrow did.

Over the years I also got to know the father of our late Prime Minister quite well before he passed. A number

of the qualities which were exhibited by his son were, in fact, very noticeable in his father.

Very shortly I hope that there will be set up a committee to decide on the ways and means of honouring our late Prime Minister. I would support the suggestion of other honourable members of this Chamber that a life-sized statue be erected in his memory. I do not know if a place such as the Culloden Roundabout would be appropriate, near to one of his former residences, but I would certainly support this, and I certainly should like to see, say, the Lodge School renamed the Errol Barrow School. He has contributed so much to the parish of St. John that I think this would be another fitting tribute. There should be a committee which would decide on the details of means of perpetuating the memory of so great a man.

It is my opinion that his was a liking not merely for abstract efficiency, but rather a burning desire to benefit his fellowman.

I join my fellow Senators in expressing condolences to his widow, his family, and his close friends, as well as the members of the party, who were so very near and dear to him.

I now invite the members of this Honourable Chamber, my fellow Senators, to rise and join me in two minutes silence.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: First, we will have the Resolution read to us.
6.05 p.m.

The Resolution was read as follows:

"WHEREAS Errol Walton Barrow, formerly of the Royal Air Force, Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science of the University of London, Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, one of Her Majesty's Counsel, Member of the Honourable the House of Assembly for the constituency of Saint George from 1951 until 1956, and for the constituency of Saint John since 1958, Premier of Barbados from 1961 until 1966 and Prime Minister of Barbados from 1966 to 1976 and from 1986, died on the 1st day of June, 1987;

AND WHEREAS this Right Honourable gallant and learned gentleman dedicated his life during the Second World War to the causes of freedom and democracy for mankind;

AND WHEREAS, thereafter, in his practice of the law and in his service in the political life of our country he espoused and strove for total emancipation and

maximum development of our citizens and manifested, in a career unsurpassed in patriotism, in achievement and distinction amongst the citizens of our Country, his commitment to justice for all and the right of our Country to the highest regard in the Commonwealth of Nations;

AND WHEREAS he fathered and nourished the independence of our Country;

AND WHEREAS his vision for our Country transcended the perimeters of its territory and encompassed and comprehended his desire for its contribution to the integrity of the Caribbean, to regional unity and integration, as was manifested in his initiatives for the creation and development of our major regional institutions;

AND WHEREAS in his commitment to the pursuit of his objectives he sought for Barbados and the Caribbean the noblest pinnacle of achievement and respect in the world by the exercise of our skills, by our efforts and by our maturity in our independence;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Honourable Senate pay the accolade of our highest tribute to the late the Right Honourable Errol Walton Barrow, an exemplar of dignity, courage, nobility and humanity and a leader by example, and lament the deep tragedy of his loss even as, in himself and as Head of our Government, he pursued unswervingly the causes that guided his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Honourable Senate express our thanks for his life and convey to his widow, Mrs. Carolyn Barrow, to their children and to his other relatives and friends our feelings of profound grief and regret and our deepest condolences on behalf of our nation and of ourselves at his passing. 11th June, 1987."

SENATOR F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy President, before we pass this Resolution, I see that we have cited quite a few things that the Prime Minister was, but they also left out that he was Leader of the Opposition from 1978 until 1986. I do not know if you want it in. I was Leader of the Opposition from 1976 – 1978. Since they were reciting the system in Parliament and the offices he held, if the Leader of the Opposition is that important, then it should be included. That is all I am saying.

(Aside: SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: We did not wish to put it in.)

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I would like to formally move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I should like all honourable Senators to stand for two minutes' silence as an indication of our passage of this Resolution.

Honourable Senators stood at their places in silence for two minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Clerk of Parliament will kindly forward a copy of this Resolution to Mrs. Barrow and to the members of the Barrow family.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.

6.12 p.m.

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