
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 16, 1988

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

Senator The Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, (Minister of State for the Civil Service);
Senator A. Morrison;
Senator N. W. Boxill;
Senator D. A. Comissiong;
Senator Mrs. V. C. Fraser, B.S.S., J.P., M.C.F.A.;
Senator Mrs. G. L. Eastmond;
Senator A. J. N. Phillips;
Senator T. A. Prescod;
Senator L. R. Tull, Q.C.;
Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E.;
Senator the Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones;
Senator L. A. Ward, G.C.M.;
Senator C. A. Blackman, Q.C.;
Senator Mrs. P. Y. Forde;
Senator J. S. Goddard;
Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey;
Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke, (Minister of State for Finance).

The Clerk announced that His Honour the President was absent, His Honour the Deputy President was absent and asked for a nomination for an Acting President to preside over this sitting.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: It is proposed that Senator John Wickham be invited to serve as Acting President for this sitting and Senator Lionel Ward be invited to serve as Acting Deputy President for this sitting.

The Clerk asked if there were any further nominations for the office of Acting President. There being no further nominations, the Clerk declared Senator Wickham elected Acting President for this sitting of the Senate.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Let prayers be said.

Prayers were led by Rev. Dr. Lionel Crawford.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in session. May I take this opportunity of expressing my regard and gratitude for the honour of presiding over this Senate on this occasion.

I hope the Members of the Senate will treat me with the kindness and delicacy which my newness in this position deserves.

Thank you.

Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, before we go into the actual business as set out on the Order Paper, I would like to draw the attention of the Senate to the fact that during our recess, the father of one of our Members, the father of Senator Louis Tull passed away. At that time the President of the Senate on our behalf sent a letter to the Senator, and I believe that this Senate would wish to associate with the sentiments expressed by the President and to pay tribute to the life and the work of the father of our Senator. And we would join the President in expressing our condolences to Senator Tull, his brothers and sisters and also to his mother, Mrs. Carlotta Tull.

I would like to move, Mr. Acting President, that we show our concerns and our sentiments by standing for a minute's silence.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: There being no objections, shall we stand for a minute's silence.

The Senate stood in silence for one minute.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Tull.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, Sir, I want to thank Senators for their expressions of sentiment and sympathy on the passing of my father. Some months have elapsed since then but the pain lingers.

And I want to express also my profound thanks to those who did what they did, and they know who I mean, at the time to ease the pain.

Thank you very much, Sir.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I have the honour to announce the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General:

MESSAGE NO. 4/1988

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Springer, he will be absent from the country during the period 22nd October to 23rd November, 1988, on a private visit to the United Kingdom.

Under the provisions of section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Denys Williams, GCM, will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during His Excellency's absence.
11.25 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

Report of the Fire Service for the year 1987.

Report of the Accountant General for the financial year 1987-1988.

The Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1988.

The Wireless Telegraphy (Land Mobile and Fixed Radio Telephone Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

The Mortgage Insurance (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

The 13th-14th Annual Reports of the National Housing Corporation for the years 1985-1986 and 1986-1987.

The Law Revision (Rectification of Omissions) Order, 1988.

The 5th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Transport Levy Board for the year 1986-87.

Guarantees granted under the Exempt Insurance Act, Cap. 308A Section 32 to the following:-

American Contractors Insurance Co. Ltd.

Capital Casualty Company Ltd.

Chandler Insurance (B'dos) Ltd.

Concordia Life Assurance Corporation.

Crescent Insurance Co. Ltd.

Enterprise Insurance Company Ltd.

European International Reassurance Company Ltd.

Peer Insurance Company Ltd.

Special Underwriters Reinsurance Facility Ltd.

The Annual Report of the Barbados National Standards Institution for the years 1984-1985 and 1985-1986.

The Post Office (Hours of Business and Hours for Closing Mail for Inland Delivery) (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

The 19th Annual Report of the Barbados Development Bank for the year 1987-1988.

Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the National Conservation Commission for the years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Acting President, I ask that this item be deferred until later in the session as I have questions to give notice of.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: If there is no objection, I propose that Senator Blackman's question be deferred until later in this session. I will decide when he will place it.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, by letter notice was given of a desire to deal with three Resolutions for vesting of property in the National Housing Corporation. I would like to seek leave of the Senate to add those three items to the Order Paper for today.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Tull.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Before we move further, I want to point out that I have not yet received the Order Paper for today. I do not know where they have gone astray or whether it was intended since I was off the island for a while. But I am approaching this debate in all innocence. I almost said ignorance, but I think it is innocence, because I am not at all sure that the Opposition can make a useful contribution to today's debate without fore-knowledge. I have a few minutes ago seen the Order Paper handed to me by Senator Goddard, so I now know what's on. I am not at all prepared for any of the debates today and I am suggesting that it is entirely inappropriate for the Government to go ahead with today's session in the knowledge that the official Opposition has not had any intimation – certainly I am speaking for myself.

I have not spoken to Senator Miller, and she is off the island at the moment. But I certainly can say for myself that I am unprepared and I suggest again that the Government defer its business until another day.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I do not know. My understanding and information is that the Order Paper was delivered to the residence of the Senator and it is a pity. That is my information and it is a pity they have not come into his possession. The three Resolutions relating to the vesting of the properties are already lands which would have been the subject of debate when they were acquired and I do not anticipate that anybody could have any difficulty whatsoever with them. But I do not know if Senator Tull might be persuaded to facilitate the business.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, I heard from Senator Lewis that the Papers were delivered to my home. I have not seen them at home. But I am sure he

would not have said that unless he was reliably informed that they were. In those circumstances I will try my best to go along with the debate. But I hope when I check at home again that I have no word that they were there, because I would find great difficulty in accepting those assurances in the future.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I want to thank Senator Tull for his consideration in this matter. It is an unfortunate occurrence. I am sure the Senate as a whole is grateful for his consideration.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: For today's sitting, Mr. Acting President, I would like to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) and also would like to seek leave of Senate for Senator Clarke to take charge of the first item of business.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I assume that the suspension of 45(2) Standing Order is to enable a process for Item 1, first reading of a Bill to validate certain changes.

The question is that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the duration of this session was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: In addition, the Senate will wish it to have it recorded that these Bills have been read a first time.

ARCHIVES ACT, 1988

Order 1 was called – To move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the custody and preservation of public archives, public records, and other documents.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Acting President, this Bill, the Archives Bill, has had a long gestation. As early as July 18th the Cabinet agreed to establish the post of Archivist and Assistant Archivist for the purpose of setting up a public records office. The following year the department came into existence. Since that time up to 1986 the first Bill was introduced into the Lower Chamber but died with that when the House was prorogued at that time. It has now been re-introduced.

Now the Archives Bill provides certain benefits to the country. The major beneficiaries will be those engaged in the legal and administrative matters as they pertain to the rights or obligations, precedents and papers relating to litigations.

11.35 a.m.

A second category of beneficiaries encompasses the researchers and those who are writing history. There are also other miscellaneous beneficiaries. For anyone who has been attempting to do any original research, that is going to the primary sources, it has been extremely difficult to find original material in Barbados, and that is up through the seventies. I remember myself when I was doing some work it was easier to find original material on Barbados, primary sources, at the New York Public Library and at the library of one of the major airlines in New York City than it was to find it here in the Archives at Black Rock.

The major provisions of the Act are as follows. The conservation of public archives, public records and private manuscripts will be vested in the Chief Archivist. It also provides for the protection from wanton destruction, decay, sale and export of archives; it further provides for the selection of appropriate public records for permanent preservation and also for the classification of public records for retention, those to be destroyed or transferred.

There are 17 sections to this Bill and I will just run through them highlighting what each section seeks to cover. Section 3 establishes the Archives Advisory Committee on which it is proposed that five persons will serve:- the Solicitor General or his nominee, a member of the academic community, a public officer, a member of the public with a cultural and historic interest in records, and *ex officio* the Chief Archivist.

Section 4 delineates the functions of the Committee.

Section 5 sets out the power and duties of the Chief Archivist, and it really is of some interest that the Archivist has been performing the functions since 1964 without having these powers and duties clearly specified in an Act of Parliament.

Section 6 deals with the selection and transfer of public records to the Archives Department.

Section 7 sets out the procedure to be followed dealing with documents where a public office is closed.

Section 8 sets out the preservation and inspection of public records.

Section 9 – records of Commissions of Enquiry to be transmitted to the Government Archivist.

Section 10 deals with documents and manuscripts in private possession.

Section 11 deals with the prohibition of export of certain documents and manuscripts.

Section 12 sets out the manner in which public records may be destroyed.

Section 14 sets out the conditions under which regulations may be made under the Act.

Section 15 deals with penalties.

Section 16 – any legislation governing any records and documents, and

Section 17 sets out how the Act shall come into force, which is by proclamation.

Mr. Acting President, if indeed we are to fulfill the words of our Anthem, that is, that we should act as guardians of our heritage, it is incumbent upon us as a people to be able to trace our own history, not through secondary sources or through the eyes of others, but through individual and primary research. In order to do this we must have access to basic and primary information kept in a manner in which it is accessible.

This has become more urgent now with the transformation from the extended family to the atomic family. In the past we had the history of our country passed on by words through the grandparents to their children and grandchildren, now this is fast dying, and it is only by preserving our history in written form – and that includes not only the printed word but also film and pictures (photography), etc. – that we can ensure that we will indeed be guardians of our heritage.

Perhaps the time is not too far away when coming under this Department we will have also a chronicler of events. I think that as things now stand it is a passive role whereby you collect the information, but in the absence of the spoken word being passed down to us, someone, if we are to capture our true history, will have to go out and interview for our records and bring them into our own history.

Sir, with those few comments, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Acting President, the legal profession has to interact with the Archives Department on a fairly regular basis and I wish to say that by and large there is some co-operation. However, Sir, I have a concern whether the Department is as adequately staffed as it might be to respond to the several queries and demands for assistance that are made of that department.

For some time now, Sir, the old records in which deeds were written up have been stored at Archives for want of space at the Registration Department for one thing,

and copies have to be sought from the Archives Department. It can be sometimes a very painful and protracted experience to obtain those copies for the want of adequate staff in that Department, and I would like to ask the Minister to look into the situation in that Department with a view to giving them the staff and the support equipment necessary that there can be a timely response to the copies sought. I am still awaiting copies I ordered in March last year to complete a transaction, and this is really not quite good enough.

In other respects, Sir, I think the Bill is a useful contribution to the preservation of our records, and I support it.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, I applaud the Government for coming after some two and a half years with a piece of legislation that was ready in the Attorney General's Chambers for that period of time. I do not know what took them so long, but I am glad to see it here at last.

This piece of legislation is in consonance with the development of certain areas of our customs in this country. When we in the last administration introduced a whole series of legislation, pieces of legislation, in relation to intellectual property, patents, trade marks, and related to this, copyright, and we introduced legislation to protect the increasing number of people who were producing records in Barbados – there was a lot of piracy – and the Government at the time set about in a very systematic and determined fashion to modernise the law of Barbados in relation to historical records, patents and the like.
11.45 a.m.

I am glad to see this here. I want however to say, having quickly looked through it, that it is not all that is required, and in a way Senator Clarke in introducing this Bill touched on things that the Bill does not even look at. This tells me that the Bill would provide for the custody and preservation of public archives, public records and other documents and for related matters, and looking through it very quickly I see in section after section it relates only to public records.

Senator Clarke made an interesting point that with the demise of the extended family a lot of the passing on from generation to generation of much that transpired in earlier days has come almost to an end, but this Bill does not deal with that at all. This is dealing only with public records. The extended family was able to pass on by word of mouth much of the customs and the mores and the values of earlier generations.

When I was Minister of Education and Culture I got in touch with UNESCO and sought to get assistance from

them for a project for the development of recording of the early history of Barbados. There are a number of old people – we open our newspapers and we see centenarians – old people who have reached that land mark and who are full of the knowledge of old Barbados. And I am not now talking about Acts of Parliament; you can read that. I am not talking about Statutory Instruments; I am not talking about policy declarations made by Ministers of Government and the like. I am talking about the real salt of Barbadian life, the kind of element that made Barbados what it is, and that unfortunately is being lost.

I do not know what became of the project, Sir, but it was intended to have a team of persons who would go around with their tape recorders and would sit down over a number of sessions with older people in the society who had a tale to tell, like Senator Boxill, and then a central department, which should be, in my view, the National Cultural Foundation, should try to collate all of that information and put it into a whole and make it available and accessible to Barbadians as an integral and important part of our heritage.

Now Senator Clarke again, and I like his words, talk about the guardianship of our heritage, key words in our national anthem. Our heritage cannot be found solely in the preservation of public records, but in the preservation of the lifestyle, within the mores and customs of generations of Barbadians.

I want also, Mr. Acting President, very quickly to say that the Archives Department has suffered over a period of time from, as Senator Blackman said, inadequate resources. It is not only human resources such as staff, but indeed from a lack of new technical equipment for the preservation and maintenance of records. You would know, Sir, that these things tend to disintegrate very quickly, and I have seen some documents in archives, not now, ten years ago, that were in such a state that touch alone would cause them to disintegrate. But there are a lot of modern techniques and a lot of modern equipment that can be a great help in the preservation of these records.

At a general level, Mr. Acting President, preservation of our records and our history is important so that we can have a true picture of what transpired at any particular period in our history, especially in these days when there is an on-going, and in my view welcome, debate on what is the true history of Barbados, whether the history books that we read when we were going to school and whether the history books that were written for two and a half centuries were clearly reflective of Barbados at the time. When we are going through that debate we realise to what extent we have been short-changed by a lack of primary sources for our research.

I had the good fortune about six weeks ago to see a letter that was written by Clement Payne to Grantley Adams three weeks after Clement Payne had arrived back in Trinidad in 1937, and the letter gave me a new perspective on the debate as to the role Payne played and the role Adams played in relation to Payne's agitation and arrest and so on. The letter was put in the exhibition that was held at Grantley Adams House two or three weeks ago. The letter was there. I saw it before it got there because I had to give an opinion of certain aspects of the copyright, and when you read that letter you realised that a lot of what you heard about that period and the role, for instance, that Adams played in the Clement Payne's trials in Barbados, a lot of what you had been hearing was less than accurate.

It is unfortunate that we have gone through that period where we did not have this primary source. As Senator Clarke said, you can get more information in the public library in New York or the library in London, the British Museum, on Barbados than you can get anywhere in Barbados, and I believe one of the things that Government should perhaps set about doing is to try to get some repatriation of a number of records that are important to Barbados. It has happened before. I know these places resist it and they resist it very stoutly, but I believe with a certain amount of pressure that a number of the records of Barbados that are documents that belonged at the time to the Government of Barbados and the people of Barbados should be repatriated. I think it is important if we are not to continue to be buffeted by those who are accused of being revisionist and those who are accused of being traditionalist and those like you, Sir, and myself who are caught in the middle and not know whether we go to the right or go to the left, because we do not have adequate primary material from which we can make our own objective assessment. I may read Senator Comissiong one week for instance and say what he says sounds plausible, but I don't know, and then the next week I read someone else who puts a position that is the opposite pole from what Senator Comissiong writes and I am caught in the middle, and from time to time I have time to check but I don't know what to check and where. These things are important.

I know that Government concerns itself primarily with material things, buildings and roads and schools and pensions and salaries and that kind of thing, but it is the development of this aspect of the life of a community that perhaps makes it something more than just a loose collection of individuals. I will give you an example of the kind of neglect that we have in this kind of resource - the Richard B. Moore Library. The Barbados Labour Party Government can go and be put in the same ship as the Democratic Labour Party Government in respect of that.

It was one of the best collection of books and materials existing anywhere on Barbados and it was put to languish in the Centre for Multiracial Studies at Cave Hill in climatic conditions that were not conducive to long life of those documents. You needed proper airconditioning at the right temperature, proper advice how to maintain those documents and even more important than all this was to have made them accessible to the public.

When I saw them I almost broke into tears because they were in boxes, they were on the floors and they were all over the place that suggested that somebody did not care too much. It is this kind of thing that we in this country have to concern ourselves with a lot more because this is the condiment to living in this community. We are not just mere brutes and beasts. We are a civilized people who are sensitive to our experiences, our history and our culture.

I understand, Mr. Acting President, that section 10 talks about documents in private possession so I do not want to say anything that is wrong. I have not had a chance to look at it because I had not seen it. Section 10, perhaps, we can deal with in committee.

When we get into committee, Sir, I shall deal with Section 10, particularly Section 10(4) because there is something else I would like to develop in the area of the preservation of private records, not public ones because public ones, as I say, paint only a certain part of our history.

I want, finally, to say, Mr. Acting President, that the Archives Department, a section of the Public Library and the Barbados Historical Society, better known as the Museum, have to collaborate and work together in respect of the materials that are in their possessions.

Now, I saw a debate raging, not going on, recently in respect of the Museum which suggests to me that the Museum is still perceived in Barbados as the private preserve of a handful of privileged people, but it cannot work that way.

The Museum is too important to the community as a whole for it to be perceived in that way but I know again, Sir, from experience, that quite often there is not a proper correlation on the one hand and a collaboration on the other between these three departments in respect of the materials that are in their respective hands. And I would think that it would be useful if this Archives Advisory Committee could have their terms of reference widened a bit to include all materials of a certain age and period that would be useful for scholars and historians and for the general public to have a true and genuine record of what transpired in Barbados at a particular time. One then would not have to rely on charge and counter charge, charlatan and counter charlatan to determine what really was the situation in this country at any given time.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Acting President, I have listened to the comments of Senators Blackman and Tull and on the question of staff and equipment, if indeed, we must make the materials useful and meaningful, (i) they must be properly preserved and (ii) there must be a mechanism to retrieve this information. So those points are well taken. Government is cognisant of this and of the responsibility to preserve and to actually make the material available to would-be users.

On the question that Senator Tull raised as to why we took two years after this Bill was introduced in April of 1986 to bring it, the file tends to suggest that the original Bill was drafted primarily on experiences on the British legislation, the Bahamas and Bermuda and on the file it was suggested that we should look further afield before we introduce this legislation.

On the question of the Richard Moore's Library, it is my understanding that the books have now been made available to the Community College and they shall be finding a permanent home there in the not too distant future.

Your point is well taken. I think that in a small country like Barbados there has been too much duplication and, in this case, triplication of effort and I think effort should be made to coordinate the activities as suggested by Senator Tull between the Archives, the Library and the Museum.

Just one last point before I finish responding on the question of Archives. I think it refers to information 30 years or older.

On that comment, Sir, I move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

On motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR WARD in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 9 inclusive were called and passed.
12:05 p.m.

Clause 10 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Sir, I move that Clause 10 stand part.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting Deputy President, Sir, I had raised the question during the Second Reading in relation to the private records of individuals and wondered to what extent the Bill had made provision for those to be incorporated in consideration of this Act.

Clause 10(1) says:

"The chief executive officer of any private institution or any person in possession of any manuscript or document of historical, cultural or literary value, shall notify the Chief Archivist of the existence of the document or manuscript."

It could perhaps be taken that this section, general as it is, may include the kind of preservation of public history within the breast of private persons. I am not sure that it does. And I can only reiterate the point that I am making, Sir, that although this Bill is good in itself for looking after the historical records of the Public Service Government documents, public documents, that it is a bit short on the preservation of an important aspect of our history and that is the oral traditions, the lifestyle, customs, usages and so on which are not contained normally in public documents. And although I am not urging the Government to interfere with this Bill which I commend for the purpose for which it was set out, I am just urging on Government that it gives other consideration to means whereby it can do something for the preservation of that kind of old history that is as important in its way as the preservation of documents.

The question as to – and with your leave, Sir, and with the leave of the Senate, because I believe we passed it in Clause 8 – but the question in relation to the thirty year period of prescription for public records in my view, Sir, is a little bit unreasonable. It says for instance that:

"Public records less than thirty years old in the Archives Department shall be regarded as confidential and shall not be available to any person for research unless

- (a) the material contained therein has previously been published for general information; or
- (b) the Minister has given permission to examine the record."

I often wonder what it is we have to hide, Sir.

When I was in Government we had a draft Bill on information, well I do not remember what they called it, I do not remember the exact name of the Bill but it related to making public information in Government departments, opening up the files earlier than they are currently. I do not

believe in Barbados we have anything to hide, Sir. And I think that with proper safeguards – we have to think for instance of things covered under the Official Secrets Act, we have to think about the security of Barbados – but barring them, Sir, almost anything that passes through Government Departments should be public.

I remember when there was a debate here some years ago about disclosure of assets by Parliamentarians, everybody felt that a Parliamentarian should have no private life, a view that I strongly disagree with. You have a public life and a private life. And I did not then support it, although it was supported by the Government of which I was a part, and I have to keep telling Senator Boxill all the time, Sir, how he puts it, that because you do not like the field placing, you should not drop the catches. But I did not support that. I do not see why you should disclose your private affairs to the public. A lot of people in Barbados feel so. And if they feel so about a person, an individual, how much more so they should feel about the Government documents be made available, not for nuisances to have things to throw about? You mean for research? Scholars wanting to write on something must wait thirty years before they can have these documents available to research.

For instance, let us take the situation in Grenada 1983 where the Government was part of a multinational group that decided that certain actions should be taken in Grenada. They are throwing their arms up in despair, Sir. I am making a case out, Sir, for openness, and for making available records for scholarly analysis and for the information of the public. When you tell the scholars that they have to wait thirty years before they can see a lot of the information that informed the decision, most of us would be dead and all we would know is that a lot of foolishness that was written by people outside the Caribbean and even more foolishness that was talked by people in the Caribbean, all we know is that we have to live with that because the truth, the factual truth has got to be hidden away somewhere for thirty years. If this is what I understand this Bill to be saying, Sir, because I must reiterate that I am only taking a cursory look at it and that struck me. If I am on the wrong course and maybe something in the Bill suggests that I am, I would find no fault at all, Sir, with one of the Ministers of Government getting up and bringing me back on the rails.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Sir, I move that Clause 10 stand part.

The question that Clause 10 stand part was put to the Senate and was agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 17 inclusive were called and were passed.
12.15 p.m.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, The ACTING CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AT RIVER ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the acquisition of land at River Road, St. Michael for the purpose of expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, the Government proposes to acquire 2 parcels of land at River Road for the purpose of expansion of the premises of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In this connection, a Section 3 notice was published under the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 in respect of 559.5 square metres of land with a dwelling house thereon the property of the late Iva Griffith and a second parcel of 626.5 square metres of land, the property of Casper Inniss.

These 2 parcels of land are residual from land previously acquired by the Crown following the development resulting from a road improvement project at Collymore Rock. This was part of the Pine Road/Culloden Road/Collymore Rock development. In the first instance, it is proposed to use these lands for car parking purposes because the existing car parking facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are totally inadequate. There are staff amounting to almost 1500 persons and there are only 512 parking bays. This causes a great deal of inconvenience and frustration to members of staff if doctors have to rush there for emergency situations.

The land acquired will provide some, approximately, 80 additional parking bays and this will go some small way in satisfying the existing shortage of parking facilities. Now there is not much land available in the proximity of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for future expansion. But it is proposed that this acquisition might at some future date be used also for expansion of the hospital along with any other suitable lands which may become available if offered for sale to the Crown.

This Resolution seeks the approval of the Senate for the acquisition of 2 properties which will go some way towards alleviating the problem at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in relation to its parking facilities.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Resolution do now pass.

Senator Tull.....

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, Sir, the hospital at the moment is the kind of issue that would admit of a little bit more examination than has been given by the Minister. It is true that the Resolution before the House is for acquiring a piece of land for more parking space. But let us talk about the hospital a little bit more, Sir.

The hospital at the moment is in a ferment of industrial activity. There is a lot of disenchantment, a lot of disappointment, and there is even some hostility and this is because of what is perceived by the people who work there, not only the nurses, Sir. We hear about the nurses but there are others – the ambulance attendants, ambulance drivers, and the people who work as the maids and in the kitchen at the hospital. The reason for this, Sir, is because the Government has been failing consistently to provide what they have promised and what they are in duty bound to produce, like clothing. Now, the ambulance men at the hospital at the moment are using their own clothes because the Government has not given any uniforms since late 1986 and they have worn out those uniforms and they are working in their own clothes. Not only are they not getting their uniforms, they are not even being compensated for having to wear their own clothes in place of uniforms.

There are problems also like policemen parking themselves on wards in the hospital 24 hours a day around the clock when they have absolutely no reason in law to do so. If a person is under arrest or a person escapes lawful custody, the police have a right to be there while the person is a patient in the hospital. But if a person is not under arrest nor is that person escaping lawful custody, it is wrong. It hurts the recuperation of the other patients on the ward and it offends against the sensitivity of the professional and support people who work on the respective wards. Now that has been happening. I do not want to lean too much on the police now. God knows that they have enough pressure on them. But that is a practice that must stop and people who work in the hospital complain about it.

There is also, Sir, the question of the shortage of materials in the hospital. There is a persistent complaint that many of the materials needed which are basic materials for the running of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are absent. All

this has contributed to low morale in the hospital and has been part of the spark of the industrial activity and talking problems.

12.25 p.m.

I am not getting even into questions of the problems of regrading and salary increases and that kind of thing. That will be spoken of at another time and perhaps in another place. I am not dealing with that, I am just dealing with these irritants – I put it no higher than that, Sir – which when added together cause a great deal of disillusionment in the hospital. The Government has to look at that, because if they don't they are going to have an explosion on their hands, because things are warming up.

I also want to make a few comments very briefly about the hospital extension. One of the things that was planned by the last administration was \$11 million in physical extension of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The extension started and it was to provide new operating theatres, lecture rooms, a new casualty and one or two other things which I do not now remember, some doctors' offices and so on.

Perhaps the Minister could give us an update on what has happened with that extension, how far they have reached and whether they have stuck to the original plan, or if they haven't, give us some idea.

Now I am not probing just for the sake of probing, what I know is that the University of the West Indies Hospital at Mona has taken a very savage beating by Hurricane Gilbert, and all of us in Barbados feel a tremendous amount of concern at that event, but I have asked on several occasions in Parliament, either in this Place physically, differently constituted, or in the Other Place, physically that is, about the plans that the Government has for medical education for Barbadians.

There are two things that have happened that we need to take note of, Sir. One is that the University Hospital in Jamaica has been so badly neglected because of the economic situation prevailing in Jamaica over a period of time that the Government of Jamaica has not been able to keep it up to the standard that perhaps is required for delivery of medical education in the 1980's. Secondly, there were plans for the opening of a new medical education facility at Mount Hope in Trinidad and that would have made a lot of difference in terms of training of doctors. I am thinking now primarily about Barbadian doctors.

The situation at the moment is that for a Barbadian student to get into medical school in the University of the West Indies he or she has to get the minimum of a Government Exhibition, and more often than not people who reach that level still cannot get in because the

competition is so fierce. You cannot tell me that you cannot be a good doctor unless you can reach the level of a Barbados Scholarship, because probably in two out of three times that is the level you have to reach if you are going to get into medical school in the University of the West Indies.

We have to begin to think in Barbados about medical education for our children, for our citizens, because there is a shortage of Barbadian doctors. I have said that before and some people challenged me on it. It is obvious to see. We are importing doctors into Barbados all the time, especially from the Indian subcontinent, and if there were enough Barbadian doctors there would be no need to import any doctors from anywhere else. The reason why there is a shortage of Barbadian doctors is because it is extremely difficult to get into medical school in the University of the West Indies. I am not blaming the Government for that, but they must look at it. They are the Government. It is a concern and they must try to address it.

I was making the point, Sir, about the extension of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in that general regard to provide more opportunities for medical training, because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is now a training hospital for the Faculty of Medicine of the University of the West Indies. It is that at the moment, and we have to plan and think down the road as to what may or may not develop. Suppose things deteriorate more at Mona, suppose the medical facility at Mount Hope in Trinidad never gets off the ground because of the economic woes of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, what is to become of Barbadians who want to be trained as doctors? And more important than that, what is to become of the situation of the Ministry of Health in Barbados when it finds itself in the difficulty of having no Barbadian doctors to work in this country?

In respect of the \$11 million extension, I believe that was a projection for the greater availability of training facilities for trainee doctors in Barbados, and if that is pursued the way it should be and other steps are taken, all of the clinical training of Barbadian doctors could be done in Barbados. Their pre-clinical training does not require any Mona, any Bonn, any Baghdad or anything, because in their pre-clinical training they are doing straight academic subjects, whether pathology or bio-chemistry or whatever. These are things that can be taught in any classroom, and indeed could be taught right here on the campus at Cave Hill or anywhere else for that matter. It is the clinical facilities that are the important difference.

Where I am travelling, Sir, is to suggest to the Government that it gives immediate urgent attention to the upgrading of the facilities at the QEH for clinical work and the possibility of the training of Barbadian doctors entirely in Barbados. This is not jingoistic, this is not making any

nationalist plea, it is dealing with the reality of the situation in the University of the West Indies.

An average seven or eight Barbadian doctors are trained per year in the University. That is too few, and the University has said that for every place in the University, first year entrance, there is a minimum of seven people who are qualified for the place. They weed out all the people who are not suitable and of those whom they consider suitable there is only one place for seven students. We have to deal with that, Sir, we cannot sit back and talk about pre-paying University dues and that kind of thing. Pre-paying is a lot of what the old people call "powful" talk. You cannot afford to do that, Government does not pre-pay anything. Instead of getting into that we might spend a little bit more time seeing for ourselves, seeing what the future may hold for us and be prepared for it, and in that regard, Sir, I think the Government has a very important responsibility in making sure that our health services for the future are not weakened because that kind of vision does not currently exist.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Acting President, I rise to take up a few of the points that Senator Tull raised. Some were very good. I like the one about training our own doctors and so on, and what he said about a Barbadian not getting into the University for medicine unless he has a Barbados Scholarship – he said an Exhibition, I don't even think now they can get in with an Exhibition – but there were other points he made which were not so good, which I have to deal with.
12.35 p.m.

I commend him when he is good, but when he is not good I have to flog him. Now he mentioned earlier about the police keeping guard at the hospital for 24 hours or something like that. I am not saying that it is right or wrong, but this is something that has been obtaining from the time there was a hospital. The Senator said that unless a person is charged or there is a conviction against him that there should be no police keeping guard there. He seems to have forgotten that just a few years ago there was a policeman keeping guard over Burton Hinds. Was he charged? You had a policeman there to prevent people from going into his room; so don't come to me with that kind of thing.

The Honourable Member mentioned something about ambulance drivers and people who are disgruntled. Not so long ago, last month to be exact, the Honourable Member would have remembered that I opened Ambulance Week and I did not see any complaint about the ambulance drivers not getting uniforms. The Honourable Member seems to have forgotten I was Minister of Health not so long ago, and these are things that I did not see in the complaints, but I will say that the papers in this country are extremely wicked. You would have seen I think on the 9th of the

month that some of the nurses went out. If they want to strike they have a right to strike; that is their privilege, and the papers the next day were saying that there was nobody in the delivery room and how people were giving birth to children in the corridors and that kind of thing.

Mr. Acting President, I investigated it and these are the facts that I got from the matron. Nursing personnel absent – no Sisters were absent; 22 staff nurses were absent, one special nurse and thirteen assistants. Nursing personnel present: one senior nurse, five Sisters, 19 staff nurses, no special nurse, five nursing assistants. Nursing personnel scheduled for duty: five Sisters, 41 staff nurses, one special nurse, 18 nursing assistants.

Now to put paid to that article that appeared in the paper, there were six deliveries that took place during that time. I don't think I should call out the names of the people here, but one had a birth by caesarian operation at 22.28 hours by Dr. Welch, another at 22.05 hours by senior nurse Ms. Waterman, another at 03.02 hours by Dr. Demoge another at 21.00 hours by senior nurse Waterman again, another one at 23.25 hours by nurse Waterman. Ms. Waterman did a lot of deliveries during that period. There was another at 06.05 hours.

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Let us be realistic. The nurses have been misled. I am not saying that the nurses would not have some grouse at certain places, but you know and I know that it is the union leaders who are fighting for positions. Let us call a spade a spade. One is trying to get ahead of the other and as a result they are misbehaving and misleading the nurses. Do not forget that during the time of the Barbados Labour Party these same nurses came out and went back in without anything. After a week of being out they went back in and nothing took place. You did not give them any revision of salary or anything like this; so we have to be realistic. The problem is that the union bosses are fighting each other with Mr. Goddard on one side and.....

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Boxill, I have been fairly elastic in my interpretation of what is relevant or not relevant to this Bill before us and to go into details about the union and the inter-fighting in the union is not very relevant. I think you have made your point.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Acting President, I did not mean to put any strain on you, but I just wanted to get into the records that Senator Tull must not get in here and make those kinds of statements. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I think you made that straight.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: The Resolution really does not deal with nurses; it is dealing with land.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I am glad you have noticed that.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: But after he had some leeway I decided to take some leeway too. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do not pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GARRISON AND HIGHWAY NO. 7

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at the corner of Garrison Road and Highway No. 7 for the purpose of the preservation of the historic building known as the Savannah Club.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, the Government is in the process of acquiring certain property at the corner of Garrison Road and Highway No. 7 for the purpose of preserving the historic building known as the Savannah Club. A Section 3 notice was published in 1987 relating to the land on which the Savannah Club is sited. Initially it was thought that the property comprised some 5,000 square metres of land which was owned by the Savannah Club. A later survey suggested that the Club owned only 3,342 square metres of the land while a portion of 1,648 square metres belonged to the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd. In truth and in fact the amount of 1,648 square metres did not belong to the Light and Power Co. Ltd. but was also the property of the Savannah Club. The acquisition proceedings which were commenced to get the land from the Light and Power had to be discontinued, and it is now proposed that Government continue the action to acquire the 1,648 square metres of land which adjoins the premises of the Savannah Club to ensure that the whole area south of the Savannah Club going right on to Highway No. 7 becomes the property of the Crown to continue the purposes for which the Savannah Club, a very historic building, was acquired.

The premises will be under the direction and control, in the first instance, of the Defence Force and the ultimate purpose for which Government will utilise the buildings are not yet known although consideration is being given to proposals which were made by the Garrison Committee that the historic buildings not only need to be preserved, and the National Trust are in agreement with this, and maintained in a certain condition, but that they might well serve the

purpose of the tourist industry in this country if it was decided to develop a museum of some sort on the premises.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT RICES IN ST. PHILIP

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of various parcels of land at Rices in the parish of St. Philip for housing purposes.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, the Government of Barbados has been having discussions for quite some time with regard to the acquisition of land for low income housing development. 12.45 p.m.

As far back as 1984 the Government of Barbados and the World Bank held discussions on areas of possible assistance which that institution could provide and it was decided that certain parcels of land needed to be identified for the provision of adequate shelter facilities for low income groupings.

In October of 1986, Cabinet agreed that certain sites be acquired for this type of low income housing and among the sites agreed upon was Rices in St. Philip. Originally, it was thought that the Crane, St. Philip, might be a suitable location but this was subsequently altered to Rices.

The low income project will include elements for service of lots, for upgrading of the urban infrastructure, for home improvement loans and for technical assistance projects.

The objective of this would be to assist Government in providing affordable housing solutions to low income groups and to assist in re-organising and streamlining its housing sector agencies to make them more efficient and responsive to the island's needs.

The acquisition proceedings in respect of land at Rices was commenced with the publication of sections 3 and 4 notices in respect of four parcels of land.

During the time that the field work was being undertaken, it was realized that they would have to revise it and there are, in fact, five portions of land.

Now, Rices is a tenantry which under section 22 of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act permits tenants to exercise their rights to purchase the lots they occupy.

Two parcels of land belonging to John Marshall and Stephanus Clarke are occupied by houses owned by tenants and some of these houses are partially built of stone. It is not proposed that these persons vacate the land on which, even although there may have to be some alterations to the existing areas, they presently occupy.

This Resolution seeks parliamentary approval for the acquisition of five parcels of land which are located at Rices to enable Government to proceed with the proposed low income housing project as part of a larger activity to provide housing for persons in this community.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: In speaking on this Resolution, I should like to congratulate the Government for this forward step. My reasoning is that if there is one thing that Barbadians like to know they have is a house or a spot of land.

There are many young persons who have been purchasing houses and putting them in the backyards of their parents, their grandparents and everywhere because there is a dire yearning for land and ownership.

Also, there is a problem with many of the unscrupulous people who rent houses to people who are charging some fantastic amounts of money, especially to one parent families and I refer particularly to women in some cases who are earning just over \$100 a week and when they have to pay away \$60 for housing and many of these houses do not have the kind of facilities that Government would offer in housing areas or will offer to persons when they would have removed them.

I think that more and more we have to get serious about this whole question of when somebody gets a starter house and when somebody goes on to more development or that person earns a better salary. I think we need to look at this very seriously.

I have found that in many of the housing areas that are owned by Government, there are people there who have passed the starter house situation. They have now developed into the middle income sort of group and they will not leave because the rent is cheap and they have the necessary facilities.

They do not consider that there are other people who would like to get the starter house facility that is vested in the National Housing Corporation and I think we have to do

something about that particular area of activity in that there are people who have, and I know several women have come to me and said that they applied for a house for a long time and they would like to get this house, or they have applied for some piece of land.

Some of them have gone and bought a flat top house, they do not have anywhere to put it but they wanted to get this money out of their hands because if they get the money they might spend it. If we are looking at a very serious development in our society, we must, therefore, look at those children who are attending secondary schools, are getting free secondary education, and some of these children feel a little bit ashamed to go to some of the houses that their parents now live in and, therefore, I think we have to put some kind of emphasis on when a person gets a house in a Government area and when a person leaves that house – in other words, when that person moves on. We have to reach some kind of criteria for telling that person "we are now going to make these houses the houses of whatever people."

If their income rises or something like that, we are going to have to find some means to look at that very seriously because it is preventing a lot of the people who want small plots of land, and they earn small incomes so they cannot pay for a middle income house nor a upper middle income house, and that is one of the things that bothers me.

As I travel along in the country, I have seen people with flat top houses even on the new road going up there towards the Airport. I do not know if any of you have seen, but I saw two very well constructed flat top houses up top of the pasture area there. It means that somebody parked them out there for a little while until they get a spot.

Many people have said to me that they are waiting for various areas where they understand Government is to sell land and they are living at their grandmother, or they are living at some relative and they would like to buy that spot of land.

Only this morning a lady called me and said how pleased she was to hear that the land in St. John will be for sale because she had her money put down there to buy a spot ever since. This lady is a cleaner in a particular place, by no means a middle income person, but she has a daughter attending one of our very prestigious schools and a boy at the university and she is a one parent person. She is the mother and father for her children.

Therefore, I have seen this Resolution as a step in the right direction and I know we have later to come to other

areas where people are going to be able to acquire small plots of land. They are going to be able to buy the land now so that they are going to be able to have the benefit of units.

I must reiterate the point that I feel very strongly that those persons who are in rented Government houses, who have passed the stage where they can now go on to owning a house, and, indeed, some of them do own houses, and this is a very wicked thing, and rent them out and still continue in there and prevent other people who are yearning which puts a big burden on any Government, a very serious burden, when you stay in that house and you do not allow the other people the opportunity.

12.55 p.m.

They may have houses rented out or something like that and have other income coming in; yet these people have one little income and they have got to pay rent, and they have no facilities like a toilet in the house. They have to go out in the yard to the toilet, sometimes the houses are leaking and all sorts of things. And these are the people I would like to see really getting the benefits from this type of thing. I know however a Government tries to legislate things, there are always people within other areas of activity of Government who have their friends and have their own rules. But I sincerely hope that this would be watched very carefully and that we will monitor the situation and see to it that persons who really require this type of assistance gets this assistance most readily.

Thank you, Mr. Acting President.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Tull.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, Sir, every time we talk about housing in recent times, we cannot understand where the Government is coming from.

The Barbados Labour Party tried to make this country a property owning community by the enactment of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. It was going to transform large sections of this community from renting into ownership of property. And it was criticized at every turn, mostly through ignorance, Sir, but sometimes through malice; criticized at every turn by the people of the Democratic Labour Party. They went out there and they told people all kinds of dire stories just because we were trying to achieve exactly what Senator Fraser talked about, that we did not want people any longer to have their houses propped up on a few stones and a toilet out in the yard and to get wet every time they had to go to the toilet and that kind of thing. We wanted to end that because we felt that Barbados had reached the stage of development where that kind of living was beneath what we should expect. But the criticisms came.

I am even more confused, Sir, when I hear, them talk because of the mixed signals they are sending. At one time we are hearing from the Minister of Housing that they are moving away from Government rental units. In other words, they will build fewer units for rental or stop building them altogether and encourage people to own because the problems they had encountered over three decades with people in the housing areas, as we are hearing from the other side today, were such as to encourage us to move in another direction.

Before the Government changed, Sir, the policy was to get the existing units sold to the people. And anybody who is practising law will tell you that the units all over the island are being sold off to the people, in my view, for next to nothing, and as they should be. I see these draft conveyances from National Housing Corporation coming into our chambers regularly.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE rose.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Are you on a point of order?

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Yes. Point of order, Mr. Acting President. It is the expressed policy of this Government to sell of the rental units to those people who want to buy them. The policy is not to discontinue providing rental units, but the rental units where people want to purchase, Government is willing to sell them to them.

I thing I just wanted to make that clear.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: That is a point of clarification.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: I am sorry. A point of clarification.

SENATOR L.R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, I am very glad to hear what Senator Clarke has said. What he is saying is two part, one that Government's policy is to follow that of the previous Administration to sell off the existing housing units in the housing areas to the people, the tenants, that they are continuing that policy. I am glad. I am glad to hear that. What he is saying, I believe he is saying, he could put me right again, is that their policy is also to build new rental units in Barbados. So they are selling off existing ones and they are also building new units for rental. If I am wrong, he had better correct me. Now I think you have to make up your minds exactly what you are going to do. There are a number of people at the bottom of the economic scale who will never be in a position to own a home, to buy one. But that is a small number of people. But Government has a responsibility to

make sure that those people do not get wet when the rain falls. But what I am hearing, Sir, and it has not come out in the introduction to this particular Resolution, but what I am hearing in talks with the Government is units of such a price that we are not talking about these people at all. We are talking about people who more and more are able and are willing to acquire their own homes. Every time the Government has opened up housing units for sale, they have been gobbled up like hot cakes, Sir, everywhere. And they have not been gobbled up by the solid middle class as they call them, Sir, they are gobbled up by the workers. Every single time. You look all across Barbados and whenever Government has gone in and put in sites and services and cut up land and say it is for sale people buy them immediately.

Now I am a little concerned about the policy of the Government for this reason. The Minister of Housing made a statement some time ago, some weeks ago. Were he not a fellow that I am well disposed to, Sir, I might say an idiotic statement. Since I am well disposed to him, I would not say that. He says that he has asked each of the twenty-seven representatives in the House of Assembly to let him have thirty-five units for house spots, get it on his desk and he will deal with it and he will have these units by 1991. Twenty-seven times thirty-five, I do not know what it is. But that is what he said. What kind of policy is this?

First of all, it goes against the grain of the position the Government says they are taking. It goes against that. But in addition to that, Sir, it shows that there is no Housing Development Plan for Barbados. Of course, there is no Physical Development Plan, but there is no Housing Development Plan because if you can tell each constituency, you take a constituency like St. Michael North where you have Eden Lodge and all of it is practically tight Government housing without even enough room to put up a canteen, and you are saying, well you must give me thirty-five and I will get thirty-five units in each constituency, it shows it is a Government that has no idea at all of what it is doing. What kind of planning could that possibly be?

I am sure that Members on the other side now they think of it, if they have not before, will say "well that was really a stupid statement, I do not know why he said it," and probably rake him over the coals for it.

But when you put that alongside the fact, Sir, that the Government already has, I almost said thousands, but they certainly have more than one thousand existing house spots in Barbados owned by Government, they already have more than one thousand. The Government, the National Housing Corporation has endless number of land for house spots across Barbados. Parish Land, Christ Church alone must have four hundred. But all across Barbados, The National

Housing Corporation owns, or it is land owned by Government not yet vested in the National Housing Corporation that accounts for a large number of house spots.

It is therefore a little bit difficult to understand what is the rationale for this promise of house spot proliferation in the manner in which it is articulated by the Government.

I want also to say, Sir, that one of the things that the Government obviously has not taken into consideration in this whole business is the question of *pari passu* development of drainage along with house building. Now we have had a lot of rain in the last four months, Sir, and every time it drizzles, the country floods. And this is because the Government is building houses on what was primarily at one time arable land and some of it related rab land. I have no quarrel with their building on the rab land. But they have to understand that there is a certain amount of ecological disruption, if I can put it in those ways, every time you change the pattern of residential *vis-a-vis* agricultural allocation. And a lot of it is happening.

The Government, the National Housing Corporation, instead of getting up making these facile statements should be out there.

1.05 p.m.

As they can see now, the island is getting washed away not only St. Andrew, although they have to move people out of St. Andrew now to other places because the situation down there is so bad. Still he says that he is going to give Mr. Neblett 35 house spots in St. Andrew. But at the moment because of the drainage situation the neglect in cleaning of the suck wells and the drains generally in Barbados...

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: every time you spit it floods. It is as bad as that at the moment. Well it does not matter to me at this stage what was the situation in respect of drainage and wells 3 years ago. Because if they were not looked after then the people have already passed judgment on that. The Government must not always keep looking back. Their duty is to look after this country. And they keep saying all the time, well you all did this back there, and then they will justify it today. In my view is a serious dereliction of duty. So do not throw that at me. That is the situation.

Now I am talking, Sir, about this situation where there is a change in the ecological balance in Barbados and it has very serious effects which we must address our minds to.

The problem in St. Andrew will continue to be a problem. It has been a problem for a long time and it will continue until we make it a major project.

Now the Barbados Labour Party Government started a major project, if you want to go back, because we separated off what is one-seventh of the size of the island, the whole Scotland District, and started a number of projects there. A lot of studies were done on it and we started a number of projects to transform the nature of living and activity in that parish. For this reason, for instance, we started a cherry project because we needed to grow a lot more trees in the area and get benefit - not just grow the trees but get the benefit from it. I see Senator Fraser's face light up. She wants to know where are the cherries. I do not know what the Government has done about the cherries. I do not know what the Government has done about anything.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, it is not my Government. I thought I was in Opposition. Anyhow, we started that. We started a massive cattle industry down in that area and there are certain benefits from that.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Beef industry. I do not know what it is. I am good in understanding without having the terms of art. They started this industry down there and they have also looked at the whole question of major relocation of people in the area because of the danger inherent in the land slides which will continue for a while until certain scientific developments are done, and also because of the difficulty in bringing services to people who live on certain peaks and hills and down in certain nooks and crannies of that area. Now these are things that we want the Government to look at and we want an imaginative Ministry of Housing to deal with these issues, not looking at intelligent Barbadians and saying that the solution is that each constituency will get 35 house spots. A fantastic policy! It is the most inane statement of 1988 and I am sorry that that particular Minister was the one to do it. It is making official so to speak the spoils system. You do not look at each area and determine - well this is an area for housing or that area is not an area for housing. It is the spoils system. Give the fellows something so that they can go out there and make a little noise. It has nothing to do with the overall development of Barbados.

Now I am a little confused here about the question of Rices. I saw the plan but I am not good at reading plans. But I thought the Minister in introducing this was saying that the land was tenantry land, that it was owned by tenants.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Oh, it is just 2 lots. Oh, I see because I would want to know if it is owned by tenants why the Government is compulsorily acquiring the land and then to sell back to the people again. I understand.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: He tells me to read my document. They did not give me any document.

Asides.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well, I do not read as fast as Senator Boxill so I have not absorbed everything. We will get back to these tenants. I am not sure also from the introduction whether the Minister is saying that they are acquiring the lots to put in sites and services to sell to the people or whether they are going into building houses up in Rices. Perhaps he could explain to me because they are two different things. The Government could acquire the land like they have done in places like the Glebe in St. George, put in roads and services and then sell the lots to the people, or they can go right ahead and build houses on them in addition to that. I am not sure from the introduction which of these two alternatives the Government is proposing.

I also have a problem, Sir, with this question of building costs. We have two areas that we need to address under this very umbrella of housing. The one is the increase in homelessness in Barbados. Now I mean it in two senses. I do not mean like in the United States where you have a lot of people sleeping on the sidewalks. But I mean that too. I do not mean that only. I mean that too. That there are numbers of people in Barbados, and the numbers are growing, where people are sleeping on sidewalks in Barbados and are sleeping in abandoned buildings because they have nowhere to live and the private social services are being strained to the limit to provide some assistance to these people, a bed now and then and a cup of tea in the morning.

So that is a problem we have to deal with and it does not fit into the traditional housing activity of Government. This is not now building houses in the housing areas for these people. But Government has to be concerned about the construction or the acquisition of a home or homes for people of that ilk - people who are half way between the mental hospital and the sidewalk and so on. The Government has an overriding responsibility to find some place.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Not the infirmity. These are not sick people, not the infirmaries. I am not talking about sick people. I am talking about people who are not ill but they are shiftless and have no resources and they must not be allowed in a Barbados that boasts of a per capital income of nearly \$12, 000 a year. They must not be allowed to sleep on sidewalks or to beat about the bush and sleep in people's garages when the people have gone to sleep. I want to hear the Ministry of Housing talking about this. I want to hear the Ministry of Housing in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Services and so on dealing with this issue. Housing is not only for those who are able to pay. I also want to see the Government take a bold initiative not only in that area but in the area of reduction of unemployment of this country through an enlightened housing programme. You see they are so - what is the word, Sir? They are so lacking in imagination that they cannot tie in the activities of one part of the Government with the other.

We have a serious unemployment situation here and I read in the newspaper recently and I laughed, Sir, loudly - a big guffaw, that there is a shortage of artisans in Barbados. You know what has been happening, Mr. President, Sir? This Government has been taking skilled artisans, skill carpenters and masons and sending them up to Canada and the United States on a Farm Labour Programme so that they can ingratiate themselves to the people in constituencies for a vote. They got to plan better than that. How can the Ministry of Employment take up skilled artisans and send them to pick apples at a time when we have to sustain a building boom in Barbados, to keep more people employed? But they do not have any plan, Sir. I want to hear coming out of the Ministry of Housing not all these little seven standard explanations. There are foolish things they are doing. We do not even want to hear about that. Those things are not critical policy areas. We want to hear about critical things of how you are going to come up with bold initiatives to address the kind of problems that we are talking about.

When the Barbados Labour Party passed against the opposition of the DLP, the Freehold Purchase Act, Sir, what we did was not only to transform the quality of life in every plantation tenantry in Barbados. If you go through now you see all the old houses pushed down and bright spanking new bungalows up and people living the way they never dreamed they could live.

1.15 p.m.

It also did something else, Sir. It made every single carpenter, mason, electrician and plumber in this country get work not only five days a week, but seven days a week, because on Saturdays and Sundays they were working all through the tenancies of Barbados helping construct these bungalows. That is a serious contribution to housing in

Barbados; but I don't understand why the Government has to come in with all these little, almost monkey, things all the time and think that they are making an impressive case, like 35 house spots per constituency.

Rices, St. Philip. I would like the Minister to tell us what were the criteria used to determine priorities for development. There is no crush for houses in St. Philip, there is no crush for spots in St. Philip. I am talking in relative terms to other parts of the island. This is pure coincidence, but the Minister has Rices in his constituency; but certainly Rices is not the top of the list in the area of development for houses we are talking about, Sir. Could the Minister, to lay some of my fears to rest, explain what criteria he used, if you are going to build houses all across Barbados for people who cannot get homes, why he started in Rices.

I also want to know, Sir, whether there has been any proper study done of the housing needs, the priority areas for housing, the interaction with other social services like proximity of schools, whether the schools near Rices are already over-full, whether there is a bus service serving the area. I want to hear that all the integrated planning, that all the various strata of Government activity has been pulled together to determine which place comes first, which has the right to have housing over another.

To come into the Senate and to debate at a level at which the Government sees fit, Sir, is an insult to people who are not part of the Government. It may be good enough for them. This is why the whole country is crying out for some kind of leadership in every area of governmental activity. Everything is shut down and men who we thought had some ability to think, to create and to initiate are now seen to be hibernating and we do not know when the winter will be over.

Housing in Barbados is the most pressing and urgent and critical social need. We have made tremendous steps in many areas, in areas of health care, of education, of transportation. We have made significant strides in the areas of workers' benefits and so on, but we are lagging behind in housing. The housing stock in Barbados is inadequate for the housing needs, both in terms of the quality and the quantity, and all we plead with the Government to come up with a housing plan that everybody can see and the public at large can sit down and discuss and pay attention to, the Government seems not to have the ability or the resources to bring that kind of plan to Parliament. It is hurtful in a way, Sir, that we, those of us who already have our homes and are concerned about those who have not, should have to continue to deal with a Government that is both feckless and irresponsible when it comes to matters of major concern to this community.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Acting President, the Honourable Member I would say started to fulminate against this Government with things that he knows are not exactly true. The Resolution was dealing with land and houses to go on land, so I am dealing with that too. He started talking about the Barbados Labour Party having this plan where every Barbadian should own a spot of land, a house and so forth, but the Honourable Member seems to have forgotten – either, as I said before, he is one year old, or if he is in his fifties he has fifty years of one year's experience – because the Honourable Member should know, as every one in here knows, that the first body which started to sell the houses to the tenants and the land was the Democratic Labour Party.

I bought land for a lady in Canada, but one of the problems we were faced with then, and I guess we are still faced with now, is that we do not have enough Surveyors to survey the spots that the people can claim their house spots. He knows this as well as I do. The Barbados Labour Party came in with the idea that they want always to do something better or different from what the Democratic Labour Party had done, and as a result when we had the Tenancies Act where over five houses was a tenantry, they came in and made two houses a tenantry. So if you were living on your land, you had an acre of land, and you had pity on somebody and told them to put their house on your land until later on, after the person was there a couple of years the person would come and tell you that you have to sell them that spot they were living on. This created a hardship both for the landlord and the tenant. That is one of the reasons why I believe – I am not saying it is a fact – that a lot of house fires were taking place, because people could not get people off the land.

You have land that you bought 20 or 30 years ago and you decide you will put it by for your family. Out of your good heart you allow somebody to come and rest their house at the head of the land for a little while until they can find somewhere to go, but up to five years they have not found anywhere to go and the next thing they say to you is they are not moving, they want it, when you want it to give to your children. So, you see, it created a hardship.

The reason why we brought in the Tenancies Act, Mr. Acting President, was because a lot of people were telling the tenants who were on the tenantry that they had to move because they wanted to sell the land to somebody who wanted to pay a big amount of money for it, and the law was that over five houses became a tenantry. This was in order to protect these people, because as we all know, a house is not anything like a cap that you could put into your hip pocket and walk about with, and some of the houses were in such a bad state that if you moved them, although they were there for a couple of years, you would have to put them in what is known as a paper bag or haversack, because

they were all dust and you could not get them back up. You had to build a new house then for the person, so in order to protect that person, to give that person some sort of tenure, we brought in the Act. The Labour Party came in and in order to think they were doing something better than us they said that two houses created a tenantry, and here is where you get the problem.

1.25 p.m.

It was unfair to the landlord as well as unfair to the tenant; so let us be realistic in these things. The Honourable Member knows that only last week or the week before he wrote a letter to the Water Authority claiming for some pipe that the Water Authority had laid across somebody's land by mistake because one man claimed it was his land, told the Water Authority to go ahead and lay the pipe, the Water Authority laid the pipe across the land and now it is discovered that this land belongs to somebody else who is his client. So when he is saying that we are not going in and cleaning suck wells, he is a lawyer and knows as well as I do that if the Government went on these properties and say they are going to clean, they are trespassing and he would be the first to come and plea for these people that the Government has been trespassing as he did not long ago.

Mr. Acting President, years ago when sugar was king in Barbados, the estate owners were responsible for cleaning wells. There were a lot of wells in the areas and the estate owners used to see that the wells were clean in order to take off the water so that you would not get the drainage problems from which we are suffering now. After a lot of the estates stopped planting sugar and went into diversification and some went into tenancies and so on, the estate owners refused to clean these wells. I would not say that they deliberately refused, but they just did not clean the wells anymore and as a result – we have a manager of an estate here who can verify what I am saying is true – this is how we have got the problem.

The Honourable Member knows, because he is a legal person – I would not say he is a legal luminary, but he is legally trained – that if the Government even goes into gullies to clear them and go across somebody's land, you can be charged for trespassing, and he knows the law of trespass better than I do. He studied law, I did not. I know a little bit about it, but the Honourable Member knows what I am saying is true. It is all right to get up here and play to the press.

When the Honourable Member talks about the project in St. Andrew and St. Joseph, Mr. Acting President, we have been having this problem, for years, and I remember when I was a Minister in 1965 I said it would take any Government not less than US \$100 million, not even Barbados dollars, to rectify the situation in St. Andrew. The

situation in St. Andrew is one where there is a lot of clay, which is true also of St. Joseph, and you get a lot of pockets of water running under the road that wash out the body of the road, so when you get a heavy rainfall that is where the roads break away. It is a commonsense thing. We have just had an expert, or some experts, who looked into the matter and they think they can rectify it, but you will still have to put in the gabions. We have not been doing this now; we have been doing this ever since, so this is nothing new and the Honourable Member knows this, but in order to play to the gallery he gets up here and accuses this Government of being the most wicked and indifferent Government, when this Government, which I have the honour to be a member of, is the Government that introduced the facility for tenants to own their own properties, not the Barbados Labour Party. It is this Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government that brought about this, and we have been going on with this.

Mr. Acting President, if I am not mistaken, I think we even brought down the Act similar to one you have in the United States, I have forgotten the name, where people own properties which they live in although they are attached, as in the housing areas. What is the name of the law?

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Yes, the Condominium Law. We did all this in order to facilitate the people who live in these houses, and it is not fair for the Honourable Member to get in here and try to misguide people that we on this side of the House were indifferent to the feelings of the masses. If he thinks so, why does he think they voted for us and not for them in the last election? The people did not think so, and I don't want him to go on with these kinds of statements and haranguing and carrying on.

I have said before and I will say again that it is the duty of the Opposition to make the Government in power uncomfortable, but it is not the duty of the Opposition to become obstreperous, and I am warning the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member is my friend; he knows that I like him and when he comes in here and makes these kinds of statements I will have to challenge him. I am sorry I had to go off the land bit, Mr. Acting President, and I thank you for giving me a little leeway, but he had a lot of rope. I just want to warn him before I sit down that the former Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, Sir Grantley Adams, once said that Barbadians have a short memory. That was a blanket statement. I think he should have said some Barbadians have short memories, because whenever the Honourable Member gets up here and tries to mislead us, it is my duty to get up and put him on the straight and narrow path. I know it is difficult for him to walk, but I will keep him in check. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I should just like to make a few remarks on this Resolution. First of all I should like to state that the Government of the Democratic Labour Party very early on in its term of office gave very high priority to our housing problems in Barbados. We were moving in a very rapid manner in order to alleviate some of the suffering which we knew had been experienced by people in the area of housing.

Housing is a very grave problem in this country, and not only in Barbados but throughout the whole Caribbean, and even in the big developed countries. Housing has become a very instant and urgent problem for most Governments in the world, and we in Barbados have been trying ever since we assumed office to start a series of housing projects. We have continued where the last Government left off and we have actually tried to move as fast as we can to provide the kind of housing for all kinds of people in this society. We have the mixed project at Husbands where we are building 496 new homes with the assistance of the Venezuelans. We have starter homes in all parts of the island. We have had various projects with private construction firms in an effort to provide the kind of housing which we know people are waiting to receive.

It is not an easy problem, Mr. Acting President, but I would not want anybody to believe that the Government of Barbados today is not very aware of these problems and is not doing anything about them. The Minister of Housing is very eagerly looking for house spots also, because there is a big land problem in this country. There are not many areas of land around in certain parishes, and for that reason St. Philip provides a very good area. There is a lot of land in St. Philip and in St. Lucy, two parishes I believe that have more land available for development than any other parish in this country; so if we move to St. Philip I believe this is a good step, because for instance, in Christ Church, apart from the agricultural land, there is not much land available which you can develop without attaching the agricultural land, which I hope will not be used for housing development.

We are quickly running out of land in various parishes where we have an amount of services available, which is near to services and which is near to the schools and other institutions. So the Minister of Housing has got a continuing problem. He has got to find spots for people who would like them. There are many people in Barbados today in the working class area who would like to build their own homes, who can get finance to build a home but who need a spot of land. In the developing areas where you have areas open for development, the middle class people go in and buy the lots and very few lots are made available to the poor working class people. These are the ones who, however you shift the coin and turn around in this country, always get left out of all these developments. Unless

somebody makes sure that you have a twin development where you have spots which are allocated to develop for bungalows and at the same time you provide a certain amount of spots also for wood houses, we always find that the people who need houses more are not going to be able to get house spots in this country.

1.35 p.m.

In Plumgrove in Christ Church, we have seen a real twin development – that is in my area – where the landlord was able to provide spots for bungalows and, also, at the same time, provide spots for the people who wanted to build their wood house and wall back as the case may be.

I believe that the Government should get to the point where we should insist on these land developers, where they are developing lands to also provide spots, not only for people who want to build bungalows, but, also, for people who would like to build their little wood house and who never had a chance to own a square foot of land in this country.

I would just like to read out a couple of the areas that we were working on in housing. We have provided houses at Walkers; Cane Garden in St. Thomas; Golden Mile; Maynards; Lammings in St. Joseph; Gemswick; Six Cross Roads; Orange Hill, St. James; Husbands; West Terrace Extension; Wotton, Christ Church; and there is a lot of housing being done.

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Well, we have been continuing the work you started, then.

I have mentioned those sites to show that we are still aware; and far from not doing anything about housing, we continue them.

We, also, are very aware of the drainage problem in this country and it would appear to me, from my own experience, that a lot of development has taken place in this country, very ill-advisedly so, without the knowledge or the kind of information about local conditions which it would be very well known to the people who live in the area, but seems to be ignored by the people who come to develop land in this country.

Developments have always run across all the water areas. People have gone and put houses right in the water courses. They have stopped the water from coming down, diverted the water somewhere else and then the water backs up into people's backyards. People that never had water before eventually get flooded out because developments have taken place right on the water courses.

There was a big development before we took over office where a particular contractor was given the contracts to dig a large number of wells in this country. I believe that contractor today may be called a millionaire, but the wells have not been sunk to any great depth. Not that money was not spent by the last Government to try to dig wells in order to help with this flooding, but people have been making money in well-digging in this country over the last five years and yet the waters keep flooding out people's homes. Wells were dug but not to the proper depth and, I believe, that they have been paid for.....

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That is for the lawyers to decide in the Attorney General's office.

We have now given out fresh contracts in this area to various contractors throughout the island in order to provide those kinds of suck wells, to dig suck wells and to clean the suck wells that, at least, we would have a better take-off of the water when there is flooding. We can only hope that we will get better service from these contractors on this occasion and that would go a long way in improving the drainage problem in this country.

I think that the Government is very much in the forefront of trying to provide the necessary housing for its people and, I think, given some help and some assistance from the Opposition, the Minister of Housing will be quite willing in his quest for better housing to try to provide the kind of land in the areas where land is available in order that houses could be built and, also, where people could get house spots in order to build their own homes.

Sir, I should like to just congratulate the Government on its housing policy so far and to let us continue in that vein in our effort to provide not only housing for our people; but the construction industry this year has been providing very much employment for our artisans and if it continues that way we should still have a slight reduction in our unemployment problems.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: I will not be long but there have been some remarks that have been made that I think I would, perhaps, like to give my opinion on.

In a private development, Sir, and I am connected with some, the Ministry of Transport and Works insists that adequate and proper drainage must be done in the development and every so often they come. And the regulations say that a suck well has to be 32 feet to make sure that private developments do not create any problems.

On the other hand, Sir, when you come to the public highways and existing road system as far as I know, the

Government has not provided any drainage at all for those public highways and the water is turned on to the sugar estate lands. Sugar estates are the whipping boys of everybody.

The estates in the past used to clean those suck wells. It became increasingly difficult to get anyone to clean them and then it got increasingly difficult to find the finance to clean them.

It is not a case of the sugar estate saying "we are finished cleaning the sucks that take the waters from public highways." It is that they are not being given any assistance to clean them. The well cleaners are not available to clean them, neither have the estates in these difficult times been able to finance them so it is quite easy for people to blame the sugar estates for something that has become practically impossible to get done for the two reasons: (i) that there are not the well cleaners to do the job that they used to do in the past, and (ii) even if you could find them they do not have the finances to do it.

I just wanted to put the record straight, Sir. It is in private – I do not know in the Government developments what is being done about drainage, but I can assure this Honourable Chamber that the Ministry of Transport and Works is very particular that drainage is provided.

They will not allow water to travel in existing drains, as has happened in the past, to wells that used to take this water. They are saying now that the developer must put in some wells to take the water from all of the development areas; so Sir, I just wanted to put the record straight when Senator Boxill stated that the estate people refused to clean the suck wells anymore.

1.45 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Acting President, much has been said on both sides about the need for adequate provisions to be made when housing developments are being constructed. I do not propose to go into that, except to say that in addition to the properties which Senator Morrison mentioned, this development at Rices is one of six areas selected for this low income housing development, and also to respond and say – I believe I said this earlier – that two of the lots on the plan are presently occupied by tenants and the Government's intention is to provide sites and services and to permit those tenants to remain on the lots.

With that explanation, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and was resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour, that is, until 2.50 p.m., Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I do not.....

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Until 3.00 o'clock, Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: The proposal is that this sitting be suspended until 3.00 o'clock.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: May I speak on that, Sir? I wonder if the Leader would be disposed of coming back at 2.45 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. Some of us have to do things in the afternoon.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I am inclined, I myself would be.....

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Well quarrel with me and see what difference that is going to make. Why can we not just go ahead and – Do we have enough to vote against them? – or finish the business now, Sir? But some of us have to work this afternoon. There is no point shouting at me, because I have a big voice, I can shout too. But to take an hour and ten minutes for lunch when we are just going here, you would think that we are driving to the Crane.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: My own feeling is that we usually break for suspension for about forty-five minutes and it does not seem to me any reason why we should not do so now. We are already late and that means we ought to eat a little faster than we normally do.

If Senator Lewis does not object, I would propose that we suspend until.....

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I have absolutely no problem. If we broke for ten minutes, it would suit me.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Until a quarter.....

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: There are other persons who feel otherwise. I have....

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: to three.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: no objection to us commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: The Senate stands suspended until 2.45 p.m.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly at 1.50 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed. Order No. 5.

BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY (WATER
AND SEWERAGE RATES) VALIDATION
ACT, 1988

Order No. 5 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to validate certain changes relating to water and sewerage rates levied under the Barbados Water Authority Act.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Boxill.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Acting President, Sir, the Addendum to this is quite short. I can give a little background for the benefit of the Members on the opposite side.

This goes back to 1982. In 1982 the Budget Speech presented by the Minister of Finance and Planning announced water increases for three years, 50% in April 1982, 25% in April 1983 and 25% in April 1984. These increases were to enable the Barbados Water Authority to become financially viable in accordance with the provisions of the loan agreement for the partial financing of the construction of the Bridgetown Sewerage System.

However, by April 1984 since the price of crude oil did not move up as much as was anticipated early in 1982, the Water Authority had begun to make a small profit. In this regard, the Government at the time did not enforce the legislated 25% increase for April 1984. The Water and Sewerage Rates Regulations were not amended to give effect to this decision.

In 1985, the Hotel Association was successful in having Government agree that their higher special water rate now applicable only to ships was discriminatory to their sector. The net effect of this change made way for a \$1.2 million reduction in the revenue of the Authority. This change has not yet been provided for in the legislation. This was a kind of an oversight on the part of the then Government and I would say probably on us too, because we came in and we reduced the water rates since. As you know, this was in our Manifesto.

I am now asking Members on the other side to agree. The "OBJECTS AND REASONS", and as you see there are only about two Clauses.....If there is anything further that the Members would like to know – there is a lot that I could talk on but I do not want to hold up the thing – I would be willing to give all the information that is within my purview that you want to know about the thing.

With those few remarks, Mr. Acting President, Sir, I beg that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

On the motion of SENATOR N. W. BOXILL, Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Senator L. A. WARD in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive were called and were passed.

On the motion of SENATOR N. W. BOXILL, Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the ACTING PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
2.50 p.m.

On the separate motions of SENATOR N. W. BOXILL, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT COLLETON GARDENS, ST. JOHN

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Colleton Gardens, St. John for housing purposes.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, Sir, this Resolution is to vest certain area of land at Colleton Gardens to the National Housing Corporation. The land is approximately 17,724.28 square metres and this land was bought for the Crown sometime in 1957. There are certain units there at present. There is a day nursery and a day-care centre also as part of that development. There are some house spots and the purpose of this vesting is to allow the National Housing Corporation to be able to sell off some of

those house spots as well as to provide rental of house spots to tenants in that area.

With those remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT THE IVY, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at the Ivy, St. Michael for housing purposes.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, Sir, this is a similar kind of Resolution whereby we are trying to vest in the National Housing Corporation an area of land at the Ivy in the parish of St. Michael. This land comprises of 8,887.4 square metres of land which is approximately 2.190 acres. It was acquired from the estate of Carlisle Atwell for housing development sometime ago. There has been a very great demand for house spots in the area of the Ivy and this land is needed now in order to extend the existing housing development in that area. It is proposed to subdivide that area of land into approximately 18 corner lots for the building of houses by the National Housing Corporation.

Again Sir, it is necessary to vest this land in the National Housing Corporation in order for them to carry out these developments. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. President, one or two short observations. This land in the Ivy – the Ivy is adjacent to Bay Land. I have seen certain indications that the Government still has not got its act together. They cannot tell us really what are their plans almost in any area and this is no different. As I understand it, the Bay Land is in Zone 1, the water area, and I saw in Another Place that there were some comments made about the development of housing in the area of the Belle and some harsh words were said by a Minister of Government about the people in the Town Planning Office who turned down permission for the building of houses in the water zone, for the simple reason that if houses go into the water zone and there is not construction of the septic tanks the water system can be and most certainly will be polluted. This is not new. This is something that is of long antiquity.

I was surprised to hear the Minister of the Government taking the position that building should be allowed in the water zone and in the absence of a counter-statement from somebody else in Government, is this not the policy of the Government? I believe that I should express the alarm of myself and many people in this community who must of necessity be concerned about the possible pollution of the water supply.

I agree that people should be given the maximum chance to have housing in the districts in which they live and so on, but where we have the problem in relation to the water zone it is the Government's responsibility if they want to keep the people in their neighbourhood, so to speak, to find land immediately next to the water zone to put these people, rather than go into construction of houses in this area with the kind of unwholesome result that one can expect. I, therefore, rise simply to ask the Minister or one of the Ministers of Government to give an indication of what is the Government's policy in relation to construction of houses in the water zone to find if there has been a change and whether the Government is bold enough to take decisions to pollute the water if that is the new policy.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to give an assurance that Government has no intention of building houses in that special water zone *carte blanche*. The occasion when a Minister of Government made comment about building in Zone 1, my clear understanding was that he was referring to the fact that before Zone 1 was delineated there had been houses in this particular area and that the Town Planner had refused permission for persons who had been in the area before to return to that specific area and that would have to be treated therefore as a general exception to the rule of permitting housing development in Zone 1 areas. This particular one of the Resolution is not as far as I am aware in the Zone 1 although it is quite close to the Zone 1 area.

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

Order No. 8 – Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Valery, Collymore Rock, St. Michael for housing purposes

SENATOR A. MORRISON: This again is a related Resolution whereby we are seeking to vest certain lands at Valery Tenantry in St. Michael in the National Housing Corporation.

This tenantry, Sir, has been delineated as 67 558 square metres of land. It has been approved by Cabinet for

inclusion in the World Bank National Urban Low Income Housing Development Project.

There are certain plans which have been outlined for the area, which include –

- (a) the reduction of existing lot sizes to enable purchase by low income earners;
- (b) creation of new lots;
- (c) improvement and provision of road access;
- (d) upgrading of the existing playing field; and
- (e) sale of land to existing tenants under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act.

Sir, in order for the National Housing Corporation to develop the abovementioned parcels of land and to be in a position to issue conveyances with respect to the sale of land as individual lots, it has become necessary for the Corporation to have clear title to these lands, and so we are asking in this Resolution to vest that area of land in the National Housing Corporation.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: This Resolution before this Honourable Senate is the fourth Resolution for the day dealing with the provision of lands for working class people. I believe that it would be recalcitrant of me not to congratulate the Government in an area that is deeply needed in this country. Indeed, Sir, during the debate earlier today some effort was made to throw cold water on a promise made by the Honourable Minister of Housing in respect of the provision of 35 lots in 27 constituencies for the working class people. A quick calculation puts this in the vicinity of 1 000 house lots. Indeed, Sir, there is no way that the people of Barbados would not recognise an effort like this has been for the benefit of working class people. Any effort to throw cold water on that will only have a reverse effect on those who seek to gain political mileage in their effort to throw cold water on the Government's very laudable effort.

Indeed, Sir, for working class people the greatest need as far as the ability to provide themselves with housing is concerned, is the question of land. At the moment the commercial banks are quite liquid, the mortgage companies are in the mood for lending, and money for construction is readily available to persons right now, and this intervention by the Government is indeed very timely, because it comes at a time when money is available – this is what makes it very, very palatable, because it is not now only that you can get the land, but also money is being made available to be

borrowed for the construction of houses. However, Sir, I believe that there are some areas that the Government will obviously have to take heed of and to consider as far as the housing programme is concerned.

This need, besides the provision of the normal services should engulf certain provisions like the location of the land in relation to the other needs of the society, like the religious needs, the health needs, transport needs and that sort of situation, so we still must not act hastily and provide land in situations which do not really benefit the lower class people, because unfortunately for them they are not in a position to provide themselves with transportation to and from the cities and to the supermarkets. It means that they have to use the public transport, and the lands bought for this sort of development must be located in reasonable proximity to bus services and so on.

The other area that concerns me is that after the land is provided, how will construction be carried on? Indeed, Sir, Barbados is at the moment engulfed in a building boom to the point where artisans are in short supply. It is without doubt, and I say this unquestionably, that there is a shortage of artisans in Barbados. There is no carpenter or mason now that is worth his salt who is not now working seven days per week. Unfortunately, however, he gives five days, Monday to Friday, to the construction firms or large builders, or even National Housing Corporation, and then the two days he has left, Saturday and Sunday, he assists working class people and so on with their construction; but the peculiar or unfortunate thing is that on Saturdays and Sundays an artisan works for twice or more what he would work for on ordinary days, so what is happening here now is that the cost of construction to the low income earner is in excess of what it should be because of this peculiar situation.

What has happened, Sir, is that there was not enough planning in the educational process in the provision of artisans for the building boom which Barbados is now carrying on. In the institutions that provide the technical skills, the sort of education which they give, it seems as though that is geared towards the building of tables and desks and that sort of thing, but what is really needed is large scale construction education where the Polytechnic and any other institutions of that nature should have in their final year a situation whereby students should be involved in a large scale construction project. This could act as an arm of the National Housing Corporation or of Barbados Mortgage Finance or any such enterprise of Government, so that the house which would be constructed by the students could then be sold after the students have completed it, but actually they would have been able to participate in construction which would act to their benefit and the general benefit of the country after they have left the institutions of learning.

Planning for that is now late, but I think that Government should take note of that and should try to institute a scheme whereby this sort of exercise is carried out to the benefit not only of the artisan but to the country in general.

3.10 p.m.

Another thing, Sir, that one must address one's mind to is the question of the quality of materials being used in construction. I declare an interest here, Sir, but actually I am speaking in the national good, and I believe that I would be correct in saying that I feel, Sir, that Government should make it mandatory that wood used in constructing wooden houses should be treated lumber. I do not think that we should leave it to the whims and fancies of people because it is my experience that people tend to buy untreated lumber which, Sir, has a short life span in exchange for the treated lumber which has a long life span. It is a cost saving measure which is really fool-hardy. It really does not make sense.

Another thing, Sir, is that at the moment there is a Guyanese delegation here on the Island and as is well known the Government of Guyana owes large sums of money to the Government of Barbados, and some effort should be made by the Government of Barbados to repatriate some of our funds by way of building materials from Guyana, but a problem we have in this Island as far as the usage of Guyana wood is concerned is that our artisans complain about the hardness of the wood and of its density and so on, and though there is not total objection, there is partial objection to the use of the wood.

I see no harm, Sir, in the Government of Barbados having a look at a scheme where we could recruit some artisans from Guyana to work hand in hand with Barbadian artisans in the construction of greenheart houses. I am saying that that scheme would be of such that we would have a situation where the Guyanese artisans would be working with Guyanese wood, but the end result of that would be that we would be able to offset some of the money which Guyana now owes to Barbados and we would be able to accentuate our housing programme.

I would like to make reference, Sir, to some other comments made during the course of the day with your permission. One of them relates to a reference that was made to the parish of St. Andrew and also reference that was made to the question of flooding. Two things I would like to say, Sir, is that from about the beginning of October until, I believe, as early as this morning, rain has fallen constantly in Barbados. I believe, Sir, that Senator Ward over there probably could vouch that last October was the wettest October in this country's history for a long time, and that November has begun on the same trend. In other words, it is an unusual situation, and whether the wells were

cleared or were not cleared, drainage in Barbados is not geared to handle an unusual situation.

We can reflect, Sir, on the flooding in St. Peter that took place years ago when the then Government even had to appoint a Minister to oversee the funds for resiting and what not of persons in that St. Peter area. But these are unusual situations. In the same way, the parish of St. Andrew is an unusual parish. The situation there, Sir, is not a simple situation. It is a situation of great magnitude where none of the technocrats whether they come from the World Bank or wherever can give any clear indication as to what it would cost to create a situation in St. Andrew that would save the land, where the roads would remain and where your services would be in order. It is indeed an impossible task, Sir, and I believe such an exercise of putting St. Andrew in the sort of state it should be in being one of the parishes of Barbados would run into probably \$100 million or more.

Sir, I just merely wanted to make passing reference to these things because I would not want them to have a reflection of any sort of poor performance or a Government not understanding the problems of the people of St. Andrew, which is really not true. The Government is aware, but as I said before, these situations are unusual and really do need probably a lot more money than this country can afford at the moment. I thank you very much, Sir.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, I was not minded to participate in the debate on this, but having heard Senator Phillips who has managed to wrap up such sound practical commonsense with a wrapping of foolishness that I feel moved to get up and speak. When Senator Phillips talks about the practical problems of Barbadians and solutions, there is perhaps nobody in this Chamber who speaks better than he does; but when he wanders into political comment, he talks so much foolishness as to make me a little disappointed with him.

Now he said a lot of things today that make sense, but where he started and where he finished I must take issue with. The business about artisans. Now he knows a lot about artisans, but I hear about them. It is true that there is a shortage of artisans at some times and for two reasons. One is, as I have pointed out earlier today, that the Government through its unimaginative practice has allowed large numbers of artisans to go to Canada and the United States to work in the farm labour programme. They have not picked unemployed farm labourers from the country who want to get into the programme; they pick artisans and send them off, in terms of hundreds, not dozens.

The second thing I want to point out is that the Government, this Government, has cut back on the grant of money for the skills training programme. The result is that

there are fewer artisans being trained, and I challenge any of them to get up and deny it. So don't get involved in things you know nothing about when you are saying in here today that the institutions that should be training people are not training them in large enough numbers. They cannot, because the Government has cut back on the funds for training.

Now when I talk about a lack of vision by this Government, they talk about a building boom and about the problems of unemployment, but at the same time they cut back in training in areas that are required for the development of the building industry in Barbados.

Senator Phillips also mentioned the point about the 35 lots per constituency. I know that he has more sense than that. It is not the provision of 1 000 lots and whether a thousand houses should be built. You have to do a plan to determine where you are going to put the lots and then build a thousand houses. It would mean that one constituency may have 500 and another has none; so we are not arguing about the provision of lots for building; we are talking about the arrant political nonsense endorsed by Senator Phillips that your planning for housing should be distributed over political constituencies, but he puts it in the context of political gain. It is the worse way in which a Government can run a country where its decisions are motivated by nothing other than narrow political gain. Those are the words of Senator Phillips.

Talking about lots, Sir, there are over 10 000 vacant lots in Barbados. He asks where; he would not know. In addition to that, the Government already owns thousands of lots. I do not know the figure, but since there are in excess of 2 000, there are thousands of lots. They have them all over Barbados. We keep hearing the Government talking about a land bank. Why don't you work your land bank and set out in the National Housing Corporation the locations of every lot and piece of land owned by National Housing Corporation across Barbados and tell us how many house spots that represents. So don't get up with a lot of emotive talk about house spots and poor people. That is not the issue. You already have the house spots for poor people. There are over 400 lots in Parish Land in Christ Church that the Government refuses to go in and put in services for the people; so don't talk as if these are no lots. And buying more and increasing the land bank is not making them available to the people of Barbados; so let us get this absolutely straight.

When we talk about vacant lots, for the benefit of my friend Senator Boxill, the bulk of lots are in developed areas where people buy spots, leave them vacant for ten, 15 and 20 years, and a lot of bush grows on them and make a lot of rats go into the houses of their neighbours. The Government has as much right to acquire those lots as it has

to acquire all the five and six pieces we hear about today. So don't let them get on as if they are talking to a bunch of fools. The lots are there and if the Government had the political will they would go ahead and do something about them instead of coming in here week after week acquiring more and more lots and doing nothing about them.

3.20 p.m.

I am willing to wager, Sir, that of the five pieces of land that have been acquired in here today, that three years from now 80% of it will not be available to the tenants and I know what I speak of.

The easiest thing in the world is to put the notices under the Land Acquisition Act, own the land, and that it is. It is harder to pay the people for the land because many of them wait years before they get their money, and it is equally as hard to get the land provided with sites and services, run out in lots and papers ready and sold to people and to be able to put in occupation so do not talk to us as if we do not know what is going on. Because I have kept quiet you should not press me into these things.

I heard my good friend Senator Phillips talking about lumber and it should be mandatory to make people buy treated lumber instead of untreated lumber. It should be mandatory that people should build wall instead of wood, whatever it does to the Barbados Lumber Company; but my friend is an astute and able entrepreneur and if that happens, I am sure that without batting an eyelid you would be in something else that is making money and when I say that, Sir, it is not to be fractious. The difference in cost of building wood and building wall is very, very slight, as Senator Phillips would agree.

You have a cement plant in Barbados that is underproducing and you have the situation where the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is saying that they are going to pull out of the cement plant because of the economic situation obtaining in Trinidad. We have to look at the cement plant because it is a lot of money that we are losing on. Therefore, we should be thinking in terms, not of treated wood, but of cement because to put up a house with concrete blocks, in some cases, is cheaper than building with treated wood so do not let Senator Phillips get up here and talk. He talks sense but when he talks about the politics of it, he is at sea. He is not a politician. He is a businessman who backs a political party.

Now, I want to tell him something else. He said that the students are being trained to build tables, chairs, but they are not being given experience in building construction. Well, that is too bad. That is because of the Government of Barbados today, because under the previous administration, those students who were trained in the

Polytechnic in these programmes were given construction jobs to do.

Senator Prescod could tell you, for instance, that students from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic built the old people's facility there is St. Barnabas' Churchyard. That is a building that was put up by the students and students have put up a number of buildings for Government all across Barbados so Senator Phillips knows not of what he speaks. The students were doing that.

You are building on a lot of nutrition rooms and a lot of extra classrooms and little things in schools all across Barbados. Those students, if the Government had its act together, would be doing that kind of work much as they used to do in the days when they had an enlightened Government in this country.

Let me deal with the rest because he cannot get up – he talks about Guyanese artisans. How could anybody on that side get up and say that they are bringing Guyanese artisans in here to work alongside Barbadians. When this party said that we did not want the Venezuelan Government through the FIV to come in here and build any houses because what it meant, even though they were lending us some money was that they were bringing, first of all, prefab units into Barbados which meant that the bulk of the labour was being done in Venezuela and thereby depriving Barbadian workers out of work and, secondly, that it would bring Venezuelan workers into Barbados to work alongside Barbadians and we, the Barbados Labour Party Government, turned down the loan for that reason. And look at the other side – bringing in Guyanese?

The Government of Barbados before elections went into Guyana and negotiated with the Government of Guyana for the construction of a number of prefab houses in Barbados, doing exactly what Senator Phillips is suggesting today. They do not know what is going on. Three years in Government and they are ignorant of everything, Sir.

We wanted them to come in and build the welfare houses out of greenheart (to last forever) and the very point made by Senator Phillips that the Barbadians did not like, on the one hand, and were not skilled in, on the other hand, the building of hardwood, greenheart and purpleheart and we suggested that they bring in these people from Guyana who would do the work alongside Barbadians and to train them and accustom them to the use of work in hardwoods. All of that is old hat and that was decided by the Government of Barbados before the change in 1986 and now my friend is getting in here today as if he is talking something entirely new, replete with wisdom. It is because it is a policy of the Barbados Labour Party Government. Talk to them.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: St. Andrew – now this is the second speaker for the day, on that side, who has got up and made comments about St. Andrew that were bordering on despair.

The Government has literally thrown up its hands in despair and said that the problem down in St. Andrew is too big. We cannot handle it. Senator Boxill treated it in those terms. Senator Phillips backs him up. This is a big problem. Not all the experts from Jerusalem can come in and do anything and it costs too much money so the answer is "Abandon St. Andrew". That is it.

Well, there are those of use on this side, Mr. Acting President.....

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I never said anything about abandoning anything neither did Senator Phillips. What I said was that in 1965 I predicted that it would take about \$100 million to rectify the problem and I went on to say why we were having the problem. Nobody talked about abandoning St. Andrew. Abandon to whom? It is not fair for the Honourable Member to get up and make these misstatements in this Chamber.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. Acting President, I know it is a little difficult for Senator Boxill to understand. I am not suggesting that he said that. That is an inference that can be drawn from what he said. That is all I am doing. It is implicit in what Senator Boxill said and what Senator Phillips said that the problem is too big so throw up your hands in despair.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I do not think you understand language. If I cannot draw inference from your saying in 1965 that it costs \$100 million and this is a big lot of money and where it is going to come from. If I cannot draw the inference from that that it is too big for us to manage, it is too costly, well, I am not bothering with that. Get up and talk when I am finished. Let me keep talking.

The Government comes through as a Government of hopelessness that as soon as it is a big problem in the country, you just throw your hands up in despair and say that is the end of that. Now, we do not believe that.

The Barbados Labour Party started a Scotland District Development Plan and had attracted a large amount of finance, the figures which I do not now recall, but a lot of money, and a lot of technical assistance and moved into the Scotland District and started the work for the rehabilitation

of the Scotland District that would minimize many of the problems that we are having in that area today.

It is not sensible to get up and try to portray that I am saying that there is not a problem down there and that when we have a lot of rains that the problem will not be magnified. Of course, it is a problem down there and, of course, every time there are lots of rain that the problem will be exacerbated. I accept that. That is the basis on which I am speaking and it is for that very reason that any enlightened Government has to grapple with that problem and come up with solutions to ameliorate the situation. Do not tell me that it costs \$100 million and you cannot find it. You can find \$25 million to build a box up at Sherbourne to hold a conference next year that you will not use again. If you can find \$25 million to do that, you are going to tell me you cannot find \$100 million over a period of a decade for five years or something to come to serious grips with the problems in St. Andrew? Man, Senator Phillips let me down, Sir. He let me down. He should stick to what he is good at and not wander off to these areas of political comment that does not do credit to his intelligence.
3.30 p.m.

Now I just want to make one final point, Sir. Senator Phillips said this is the fourth matter for the day for land acquisitions. This is a real land acquisition administration.

Laughter.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: When they are not in here with Resolutions to borrow money, they are in here with Resolutions for land acquisition. When we are waiting for this Government to bring matters of substantive legislation in this Parliament so we can stick our teeth in it and work on it and see how we could develop a new physical and social Barbados, we do not see any of that at all. All they are doing is acquiring people's land and not paying for it, because the people are not getting their money. And all they are doing is acquiring land and then not using it for the purpose for which they acquired it because the land has remained, well if it is agricultural land, I would have to say it is lying fallow, but it is not agricultural land, it is lying full of grass, and the purpose for which they are acquiring it is taking many moons to come to realization.

This Government, Sir, has to understand that they cannot continue to trivialize the business of the people of Barbados. They cannot continue to do that. And that is all they are doing. They are doing it by the nature of the legislation, the little trifling bits of matters they are bringing before Parliament. And they are doing it by their inability to grapple with the serious problems of this country and come up with imaginative programmes to redress some of the evils and the wrongs in this society. Housing remains one of them. And to get up and say, as many Members on that

side including Senator Morrison said, well, we have bought some land this place and the next place to provide a few house spots, that is not a housing programme. If you wrote that in a third form essay, you would get a C-, that all you have to do is buy some land and get some house spots and that is a housing programme.

The problem of housing in Barbados transcends the intellect, the intelligence or the imagination of anybody on that side. I hear for instance that they acquired land and they built sites and services at Walkers. Sites and services at Walkers and houses were built at Walkers before the Government changed. Every single house at Walkers was put up before 1986. Every last one. And you are talking to me because I live up there.

They have got the nerve to talk about Apes Hill, Lammings in St. Joseph, Golden Mile in St. Peter, Bonnett's, the Ivy, you name them, Sir, Husbands, Oxnards. All of these were developments that were done during the period of the Barbados Labour Party. Do not claim credit for something that you do not know anything about.

The truth of the matter, Sir, is that nothing worthwhile has happened in housing in the last two-and-a-half years in Barbados. The loans that are available to people of low income groups was money negotiated and borrowed by the previous Administration, some from the World Bank and some from the Inter-American Development Bank to provide money for housing loans to low income groups so that they can build houses, repair and maintain existing houses. And we make the money available and they can get it through the Mortgage Finance Company and through financial banks in Bridgetown. All of that was done before.

What new has happened? I am anxious to find out what new has happened. And it is not a problem that would easily go away. And a lot of specious statements by the people on the other side. It is a matter of fundamental importance to all the people of this country.

One final thing, Sir, although.....

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: You get me angry when you talk the kind of One final thing, Sir. The building of housing – I raised the question when I was speaking earlier and the Minister treated me with the utmost contempt and did not give me any answer. But I ask the question again because it is an important question. Is the Government devising policies to make Barbados a land owning community or is it devising policies to perpetuate the position of landlord and tenant?

I heard Senator Fraser for instance subsequent to my speech talking about – or before, I do not remember which one – people who have to rent and have certain conditions to live in and so on and she talked about it as if she were not happy about it, and I applaud her for that. That was at the heart of the Freehold Purchase Act so that people would not have to continue renting from landlords who exploited them, who did not allow them any security of tenure, and who could at their whim and fancy ask them to pick up their bundle and go. People were asked to pick up their chattel houses and leave. Serve two blue papers and say, "leave". And they had to walk all over Barbados looking for some place to put down their house. It means disrupting their lives and pulling their children out of school, moving away from their roots and their associations, and walking all around Barbados begging people for a scotch. and the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act was designed, as Senator Phillips was talking about – I do not know, the words do not fit well in his mouth as a Member of that side to talk about the poor people. That Party objected to the legislation that would put tens of thousands of poor people living in plantation tenancies who were living in mud and filth and total deprivation, they opposed it, Sir, and walked around the length and breadth of Barbados telling people that it was wrong to give tens of thousands of people, cane cutters, women who worked in the fields, maids, artisans, give them the right to own a piece of land for the first time in their lives, and their family, and say "this is mine". And they opposed it. And now have the nerve to come in here today and play they are taking issue with me over matters to deal with housing for poor people. They should be ashamed to talk about it. It was wrong.

I am challenging them, finally, Sir, another finally, I am challenging the Members of the Government since they had so much to say about the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act to bring an amendment in Parliament touching one single Clause in it. I am challenging them. They had 2½ years. they put it in their Manifesto that they were going to disturb the legislation. I am challenging them to come, if they think they are bad, to come and change the legislation in respect of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act and tell the people, the tens of thousands of people who live in the plantation tenancies and indeed the urban tenancies in Barbados who for the first time in the history of this country have got some security of tenure, come and tell them that you are changing that. I am challenging them, Sir, to change the legislation and come in here and let me have a field day.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Acting President, there are a few statements made by Senator Tull which I would like to address. You are going to read about it Senator Tull.

Senator Tull has belaboured the question of this Government acquiring land and I would like to point out to this Honourable Chamber that a necessary first step for the provision of housing is the acquisition of land. You must have land somewhere. So the first step, if you must provide housing, you must provide land.

In response to Senator Tull's statement that we have land all over the place and therefore it is not necessary to acquire additional land, Senator Tull is presupposing that all land that is in the possession of Government is homogeneous. There are certain statements made by Senator Tull and I would like to refresh the Chamber's memory on this. It was pointed out that such land should be near to schools in order to avoid in the supplying of new housing any additional burdens on the infrastructure of Barbados. Senator Tull did not take the time or did not point out to this Chamber that the new lands, the lands here, Valery and the one in the Ivy are already near to housing areas, near to buses and schools, St. Giles is just around the corner. So the infrastructure is already in place.

Therefore for Senator Tull to lead this Chamber to believe that we are just acquiring land for its own sake is erroneous. We are acquiring land in areas where we do not have to put additional burdens on existing infrastructure to give minimum services to the people that we are putting in these housing areas. And we must have additional land if we must provide the housing. It is a necessary first step to do this.

I thank you.
3.40 p.m.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to correct a few statements that were made by Senator Tull in his debate. First, he was talking about the Skills Training Programme that he claimed they started and we stopped.

Mr. President, Sir, it took me quite a number of years to learn a trade properly. I guess it would take anybody. You cannot learn a trade to be a carpenter, mason, or mechanic in any 3 months. It is an impossibility. And when Senator Tull mentioned that we stopped it, this is not really true. The next thing that he said here that was not true, Sir, but he said it for the benefit of the gallery, that they started this scheme about the timber houses with the hard wood from Guyana. As far as I can remember and I have been around fairly long, the first time that we had these hard wood houses here was during the time when I was Minister of Housing. We had, I think, 3 or 4 model houses built of the hard wood. But for some reason or other the people of Barbados did not go for them. There is no point building the houses if the people are not going to like them. So when he makes this statement that they brought in people and wants to give you the impression the origin started with them, this

is not quite true. He tells me to give him the licks now. I cannot do this. I am sorry that he has gone but he would learn a few truths if he wants to. To make these kinds of irresponsible statements and carry on in the way in which he is carrying on is not fair to the Members of this side or the country on the whole.

What Senator Tull and other people have to understand is that this is their country and whether they are running the country as the party in power, or are in the opposition, it is their country and when they bring the country down, they are not bringing it down only on the Democratic Labour Party. They are bringing it down on themselves.

I heard only yesterday and I saw in the papers quite a few irresponsible statements coming from people who are supposed to be responsible. Now, mind you, hear the English I have used – who are supposed to be responsible. I am not saying that they are. But when you are making these kinds of statements it does not do the country any good. It hurts all of us. As I said earlier, it is the duty of the Opposition to make the Government in power uncomfortable. But it is not the duty of the Opposition to bring the country down, because when you bring the Government down you bring the country on the whole into disrepute.

Now Senator Tull tried to give the impression that we were buying land for the sake of buying land and, therefore, that we have not been paying a lot of the people whom they acquire the land from. But what Senator Tull fails to understand is that they are the people. We are now paying debts from land that they acquired willy-nilly in order to make themselves look good, but it did not work out. It is not fair for a supposed to be responsible Senator/Parliamentarian of long standing to make these sorts of irresponsible statements against us on this side. As long, as I said before, and as long as I am here with the memory which I have, thank God for this, and I can remember that they did not do as well as the things they did, I will continue to reply to Senator Tull when he makes these sorts of statements.

Now I did not jot down everything that he said, but I got to go back on this training programme. He said that the people at the Polytechnic put up the place at St. Barnabas Church. This might be true. But at the same time nobody including you, myself, nor nobody in this Chamber or outside of this Chamber were going to ask these people to put up a building the size or capacity of the Chamber in which we are because when you are learning you are learning. As I said earlier, you cannot learn a trade, not even to shoplift, in 3 months.

(Laughs.)

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: You have to be in this thing because it takes experience as well as it takes practice. It is a kind of thing – after you have learned the trade you go on doing things, then you find out that at one stage you discover that you would not have done it that way if you had the experience. So you get experience and you go on with experience. But you cannot get all this experience in 3 months. If you could, well then you realize that we will start having Barbados Scholars when they start wearing diapers. So they would only be 3 months old.

So do not let Senator Tull get in here for the sake of haranguing. I am not going to deal with Senator Tull particularly now. But I just want to get a few facts straight for the record that it is not true to say that we stopped the Skills Training Programme as he claims. You see the problem with Senators Tull and Miller is that they seem to think that when they hold onto something that they are to enlarge on it all the time to make it look as though they did this and they did the next. Let him go back and check the records and he will see that we had, as I said earlier, houses from Guyana wood which are the two hard woods that we got in Guyana of greenheart and purpleheart. We had houses built here of this material that the people did not want.

Now Senator Tull was saying that we should start building houses out of concrete. This is all well and good. But how can these people who have not acquired the land who are only renters put up this thing? They scarcely find the little rent to pay for the places that they are in. Where are they going to get the money from to put up these wall edifices? I will be happy to see these places going up. But whether you put them up in wall or not you still have to use timber. You have to use timber in your roofs. What Senator Phillips had said about treated lumber was a valid point because whenever you are putting up the roof, and no matter how you put up the thing, nobody in Barbados – when I say nobody I mean that I am dealing with the poor people of Barbados, have that money to put on a steel roof. The only steel you can put up on the roof is galvanize. But you still would have to use lumber in order to put up the rafters and so forth. So you still have to use it. I mean I would be happy to see the houses going up in Barbados in wall. But how many people own their land? Even they brought in the Freehold Tenantry Act where you had to buy the tenantry land at 10 cents a square foot.

Look around, Mr. President, and see how many people have been able although it is only 10 cents a square foot to purchase these lots, despite the cheapness of it. The 10 cents a square foot is only – Mr. President, let me make it quite clear here now – it is only for estate tenancies. It is nothing at all to do with the tenancies like out in Eagle Hall and Whitehall and those kinds of places. That is a completely different thing altogether. So the 10 cents a

square foot is strictly for people who are living on estate tenancies. Do not let people be misled or misguided into believing that you can go and buy people land irrespective of where it is at any 10 cents a square foot.

So the point I am trying to make is that it is laudible to talk about people putting up wall houses. Yes, it is very laudible. But the question must be asked, where are these people – some of these people are working in the estate all of their life – going to get the money from to put up these wall edifices? This thing takes money and I mean it sounds laudible. I will be happy if we can see all these houses going up in wall because we won't have the problem of houses burning.....

(Laughs.)

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: The Honourable Member starts laughing burning as often as they do. But the Senator is supposed to be a responsible person and I hope that he acts responsibly. I am not going to deal as I said before with him in the way I would like to deal with him now. But I will deal with him at another time. I only got up to make the position quite clear for the records that the first hard wood timber houses were not built here by the Barbados Labour Party not as far as I can recollect and I remember that they started when I was the Minister of Housing. We had some of these houses as what you would call trial houses to see if they would suit the populace and the people did not go for them as we thought they would have and as a result of that we had to abandon that and go back to what we are doing now.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, speaking on the overall Resolutions that were brought in here today, I, as a very nationalistic Barbadian, really resent the fact of people looking at others and declaring that they are idiots and declaring that they are foolish and do not understand what they are doing.

3.50 p.m.

There is a time and place for people to make statements, and in this Honourable Chamber we should be very cautious as to how we make statements about people's intelligence, for I have always perceived everyone in here as an intelligent, well organised Barbadian and I will continue to give everyone that honour and that treatment and that respect. However, I do not appreciate the fact that people should just be making careless statements because people do not agree with them, because we are here in a Chamber to disagree. We disagree, we agree, but it is the manner in which you make your statements, it is also the

words that you use, and I have always learnt that the spoken word cannot be taken back. If we are here to educate other Barbadians and we are here to tell the media what we would like seen in the paper by speaking in this Parliament when they are taking notes, I think we ought to exercise some caution about what we are saying

We say that we are nationalistic, but some people one day they say that they are nationalistic, the other day they are not. One day they want to see Barbados go forward, they have done all the things to make it go forward, the other day when we come here with legislation to help the poor people, the low income group, we are severely criticised, we are called idiots, we don't know where we are going, we don't understand what we are doing, and we are a whole bunch of foolish people.

Now that does not really affect me, because I do not take those things seriously from people who are not serious, but I regard that everybody in here should be serious because they are representing people in this country, and if we want to put a proper image to Barbados, all of us have to do it, and therefore it does not behove any one of us to keep on with this attitude. The thing is, let us look together at the needs of the country.

We realise that housing is a dire need in this country. That is a fact and we all recognise it. The next thing is, how do we go about doing something about it? We look at all the technical things, we get the technical people to look at those. We know there are problems, but our objective is to get as many people housed in this country as possible, and especially the low income worker, because all the low income worker has to bequeath to his children is either a piece of land, which he might die and not even pay for, or a house which he has not paid for, but at least he feels he has offered his children a shelter and an education. These are the two things that Barbadians are justly proud to work at and say well at least I have a shelter over my head before I pass off.

If we as a responsible Government have this in our plans and we are doing it now, we have only been in power over two years, and it seems to me as though somebody believes that they have been the great Christopher Columbus and they have invented the new world. We do not make this kind of claim, because when Christopher Columbus came, in order to invent a new world, there had to be something there, and therefore the Democratic Labour Party Government does not claim that in any way; and where we see improvements to be made we are trying to make improvements.

Mention was made in here of the Lammings. I don't think the people who mention Lammings are serious, because in Lammings there exists so many problems,

problems of leaking houses, the same houses that they say were superb, the people cannot close their windows, they need to put rubbers under the windows. That land is vested in Soil Conservation, which means it has a problem, houses are about to slip down, some man is collecting rent, he is trying to do all kinds of foolishness, and that is the sort of thing they are talking about that they did. That is something that they are putting to their credit. I don't think that it is very creditable. If you pay a visit to Lammings and you see the state of Lammings, you would realise that against technical advice people put houses out there and that, as I said, may very well be slipping away too. As a matter of fact, some of the houses down to the end are slipping away, so you will soon hear that those people need resiting as well.

These are the sort of continuing problems. None of us is perfect, none of us is Jesus Christ, and we must be very careful that if something is good that we must look at it. I am not saying that an Opposition is not there to oppose, but if something is good I don't see you calling people idiots, they are not in tune with this, they are not in tune with that, they are not in tune with the other.

What I would like to see in some of these housing estates - and I agree with Senator Phillips - I see some here already, like Colleton, is further to have day care facilities. I know there are many women living in these areas and many are going to be living in the other areas, and what I would like to see is that in all the new areas for low income people we have day care facilities, we have community centres, we have, as he mentioned, the transportation near. I am not talking about the ones that exist that have transportation and schools already in the area. I am not telling you to go and build another school, that would be nonsense, but what I am saying is that I want to see any pieces of land that Government acquires for the building of a new community, that this concept is borne in mind, because it is very hard on a woman to have two little children to take to a day care facility and she has to travel miles on a bus to take those two children to the day care facility.

That is why I have been saying that the industrialists should build day care facilities at the industries. They can get together and do that, and also play areas, because the children would be able to accompany their parents there, and also there should be transportation facilities - some of them do it now - provided for them generally to assist them in getting home and collecting those children right near the place where they are working.

Mr. Acting President, the question of the whole Scotland District. I do not think some people are mindful that you are not only talking about St. Andrew, you are talking about St. Joseph and parts of St. John, and there have been many studies. You can go into the Ministry of

Agriculture and find the many studies that have been done in that particular area, and I am glad that the Government has moved with speed to try to get those people from the hills, because I know that I have been travelling from Bridgetown already by the bus at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and when we got to Sturges we were told to turn back, the bridges had collapsed, and in town it was sunny and bright, but I was going down to teach at the Alleyne School.

I know all about that. My family is from St. Andrew. Nobody has to educate me about St. Andrew. The Shoreys, the Worrells and the Bests belong to me and I belong to them, so I know about St. Andrew well, and I am very happy to see this Government take quick action as far as my people are concerned to resite them, because I know the dangers in White Hill, Spa and all those places. Nobody can tell me about them. These are the things that have been happening for many years, but some of these people were misled and they were told at a time that they should not move from those places, if they want to stay, stay, instead of telling the people of the dangers that exist for them. Now you get the same people coming and shouting loudly and saying that we do not care about the people of St. Andrew. 4.00 p.m.

I know that this Government cares about the people in St. Andrew because whenever a request came to do something they have moved with extreme speed, but as Senator Boxill has mentioned, they are big problems in St. Andrew and all sorts of technocrats have been looking at St. Andrew. I remember somebody saying one day that you may get it split off from Barbados and get another Island.

I think what the Government has moved to do is what we should be looking at. They did not sit back. They immediately said they were going to move the people and put them somewhere. That is creditable. They said they would bring in the Tenancies Bill. They have done that. Many of you will realise that many poor people suffered because you did not have that. Now people are buying their land and then people want to claim this, that and the other. I personally am not interested in claims. What I am interested in is that the best is done for Barbados and for Barbadians. That is my concern as a loyal Barbadian, and if we are independent people and if we are true thinking Barbadians, and if we are serious about our Anthem, then we will be serious about the concerns of our sisters and brothers who have problems right here in this little island called Barbados, and stop criticising destructively. I am not talking about constructive criticism because if we need to be criticised constructively, we ought to be criticised, and it would make us sit down as a Government and do better; but when we are doing something to make the little man a better man and a real man, and the little woman, then there should not be such criticism. Don't forget there are a number of women that are heads of households in this

country who have to look for a house for their children. There are a lot of women out there scrambling, and I mention already this morning that some of them are renting houses that cost them a fortune. If they work for just over \$100 a week, they pay \$60 a week for a house that has the toilet way out in the yard, and with a child going to secondary school, you know how it would be. Some of these children are ashamed to let people see where they are living. A right thinking Government has come along and said it is going to assist them. They can pay from their company and pay for the house or the piece of land. Some of them already would have houses from the various companies, Lumber Company and Mannings and so on, and therefore they would be able to put that house now on the land that they can get from the Government.

Sir, however you look at it, people feel safer renting or buying something from Government. You go through any housing area and people feel much safer renting from Government. They feel much safer doing things with Government, because they know that they are some unscrupulous landlords, who, if they want a house for somebody in America, they will tell them that they have to get out by this time or the next time, and you cannot find a house or anything.

Mr. Acting President, I am making a serious call again for nationalism, for us to be serious as Barbadians, for us not to look at the frivolities that we may have in our minds and express them because we have the ear of the press or the media. That is a very unfortunate situation. People read papers, people listen to the radio and when irresponsible statements are passed on instead of giving people evidence, as we were talking in relation to archives in here today, much damage can be done. You should give people historical evidence; tell them the truth, tell them about some of the problems you had in order to get what they are sitting in there. If you had problems to get the wood, tell them that. If something will not work, tell the people.

Sir, if you are in any way a true Barbadian and you love this country, remember that to hurt somebody else you have to hurt yourself first, and we will be hurting Barbados' image if we keep on talking and criticising and pulling down and dragging down. Do not misquote me. I said criticism is good and it is healthy when it is constructive, but not when it is destructive. When it is destructive it does not help anybody. So I am appealing for us to hold that Anthem very high:

"We loyal sons and daughters all
Do hereby make it known
These fields and hills beyond recall
Are now our very own."

Anything that is ours we must treat with care. This country is ours; let us not tear it down. Thank you, Mr. Acting President.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. Acting President, I have listened to quite a lot of statements from both sides of the House and I am glad to hear the remarks that we should be thinking in terms of Barbados and not in terms of the political party of either one side or the other. I believe we would be much happier if we did do this, but it seems to me that politicians find it almost impossible to give credit where credit is due. If it is the Barbados Labour Party, they seem to find it difficult to congratulate the Democratic Labour Party for anything they have done; and if it is the Democratic Labour Party side, they find it equally difficult to congratulate the Barbados Labour Party for anything they have done.

Let us realise that both parties have made tremendous concessions and tremendous strides for the betterment of this country, and I feel that if Members on both sides would give Jack his jacket and give credit where credit is due instead of using these adjectives all the time and saying "my Government did this, my Government did that," things would be better. It does not matter which Government did what so long as it is something for the benefit of the country, and I would like that to be in the minds of the people on both sides.

I know, as Senator Boxill said, that it is the duty of the Opposition to oppose, and it is the duty of the Government to look down upon the other side and feel that they do not know what they are talking about too, that we are the governing body and we are the Government side, so therefore what we said must go. We know that is going to happen, but as I say, if there was this kind of consideration where you give Jack his jacket, and where if you have done well we praise you for it and if you have not done well, we tell you so too, no matter which side it was, there would be a better understanding.

There is one little thing I want to say on behalf of Senator Boxill. I know he always says he likes things to be fair, done fairly and so on, and I want to tell him that he made a statement which I am convinced is not correct. He said that Senator Tull said that the Democratic Labour Party Government, that is his side, stopped the skills training programme. Senator Tull never said that. What Senator Tull said was that his party or his administration started the skills training programme and the other administration reduced the amount that they were giving to the skills training programme. He never said that the administration on the other side, the Democratic Labour Party who is now the Government in office stopped the programme, and I want that to be very clear. He said that they reduced the amount of money that was given to it.

I know Senator Boxill will not question me on that because he always said he likes to hear things done fairly and that is a fair statement of what was actually said. Again I say that if we can only get politicians on both sides to give credit where credit is due, I am sure this country will go from strength to strength. Thank you, Mr. Acting President.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Acting President, I should just like to say a few remarks in closing. This debate has gone far and wide touching numerous subjects, starting at Valerie in Brittons Hill and ending up in St. Andrew. 4.10 p.m

Sir, I would just like to restate the Barbados Government's policy and it is very simple. We have said that we would provide homes for the homeless, we would make more homes available, we would work with the private sector in building new homes for our people and so far for the past two years and a half, we have been continuing on that road.

If you would look, Sir, at the figures, in 1985 \$21.3 million was spent by the various private institutions as loans to the new householders. It was increased to \$46.6 million in 1986, the most of that money coming in the lower part of the year after we got into power. In 1987 we spent \$50.9 million on our housing development.

We have given, by our budgetary methods, a lot of concessions to cooperatives in the form of credit unions and they, too, have been doing a very valuable job in providing financing for their members, also to help push the housing thrust which the DLP Government has initiated ever since coming into power in 1986.

These Resolutions today, Sir, are a continuing effort by this Government to make land available. It is stupid to speak about a party based on land and houses. How are you going to build a house unless you have land? You need money, financing which we have made available through the various institutions ever since we came into power, and we need land to put the houses on whether they are going to be built permanently or whether they are going to be rented houses. You need land so we must have some sort of land to play with in order that we make house spots available and, at the same time, sell lots to people who can buy their own lots and build their own houses.

There was a reference by Senator Tull, too, about the vacant lots in development areas. That is true, Sir, but I take issue with Senator Tull when he says that he figures that Government should do something about those lots, either seize them or something because they have been left unused for all the years with bush growing on them.

What he does not remember is that these lots are owned by people who have worked very hard to acquire a lot in a development area, probably, some people have had to borrow money in order to pay for it and still are paying back their mortgage, and who, also, would like to build a wall house in years to come so you have to respect the persons' rights even though they have the lot there that has been run over by bush for years. That same lady or that gentleman is still waiting on some kind of financing to build a wall house that Senator Tull so much cherishes.

I would not be a Member of this Government to encourage them to do something about people's lots, who have worked for their lots so hard and bought them in development areas and because of financial constraints they cannot build yet, nevertheless, it is their lot and they should be given a chance to develop their lot in their own time and at their own pace. Never mind how unsightly it might be, you can give them orders to clean up their lots when the time comes but I would not be one who would advocate trying to force a person who has acquired a lot after a lot of diligent work to get rid of that same lot because they cannot build at the same time. I do not believe in that.

Also, he made reference to wooden houses. Sir, as long as Barbados continues there will be wooden houses around here for a long time. People would have to get a wooden house. People who never had a house yet, they only want a house spot and they have to start with a wooden building. I am also the occupant of the wooden house. I do not see anything wrong with wooden houses.

He made the point that they might be more expensive in some cases but the point is this: that a foot of lumber might cost more or the same thing as a concrete block but that is where the comparison ends. When you can get some lumber and get a carpenter to put up a house for you in a couple of weeks with a wooden house, you cannot do it with a wall house. You have to have money to build that wall house so the cost of the lumber and the cost of the concrete blocks might be the same but there is a question now of the cost of construction and that is where the poor man cannot talk about building a wall house.

It will be a long time before we give everybody in Barbados wall houses although it should be the policy of Government to encourage people wherever they could, or assist them to help get a wall building, because being in the hurricane zone I feel this is the most sensible thing that we should have houses of a more permanent structure to withstand hurricanes that come along every year. I would support it from that angle but still we have to deal with the reality of the situation.

We cannot afford that kind of thing and we have to give help and push the ones who are helping themselves by

way of getting a house for the first time, it would have to be a wooden house.

The St. Andrew problem has been talked about here. I will just mention it for a few moments. That is a very big problem in Barbados and it would take a multidisciplinary approach to solve the problems of St. Andrew. You need to go in with your road engineers. You need to have your agricultural engineers working at the same time. You need your land use people in order to provide some stability in that area.

All of these people must be in there at the same time working constantly from year to year. They should never stop working down there. A lot of work has been done in St. Andrew already by way of stabilizing certain areas. They have been able to drain certain areas where there has been water.

They have produced two fish ponds in that area where they have been able to produce some fish down there and they are continuing to reclaim land, but the work we do particularly – and then you have to stop because of money constraints and when you start back you have to go back to the same area again and keep that stable and, in the meantime, it is a vast area that needs to be attacked all at the same time.

It is an ongoing problem but it has to be tackled because it consists of a very large area of Barbados. One seventh of the land area of Barbados is the Scotland District.

Again, the people who are in the worst areas in St. Andrew, in the most unstable areas are the ones who are very hard to move. They only move when the house gets moved eventually and has gone somewhere else but if you ask those people to move when things are not happening, when you are trying to stabilize the area even better they do not move at all. They say "we are all right here. We have been here all of these years" and they only respond to you when the worst happens and the house has gone somewhere else but when you have time to do some remedial work on those areas out there the people say, "we cannot afford to move. We like down here," and then the next two years something happens and the land moves.

Government is very much aware of the problems in St. Andrew and we will continue to do what little we can do with the available resources until we can get some kind of funding from multinational agencies in order to help solve the problems in that area.

He made reference to the Freehold Purchase Act. That Act is all right in one sense again but that Act has also worked hardship on the small landlord. People who have

bought land for themselves and their families and who at the time were not going to use the land, rented out the land to some small person and to find that because you have rented out your land to two people, according to that Act, you lost your land. You have to sell it to the occupants.

Now, that is a very hard thing too, because we are a Government for everybody and these people do not own plantations. They are small landowners and it, also, has worked hardship on that kind of landowner and he like anyone else in the society should be protected and we have taken issue with that on this side. We do not believe that people who have acquired land for their own uses, and who may be generous in renting a spot or two to some persons end up by having to lose the very land that they bought for their own purposes.

We have always commented that that part of the Act which causes hardship to those kinds of people should be revoked in order to help ease the burden on those persons who would have gained land for the first time and who never owned piece of the soil but find themselves cheated out of that same land because of an iniquitous policy as outlined in that particular piece of legislation.
4.20 p.m.

Sir, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

QUESTION TIME

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: I said earlier that Senator Blackman proposed to offer a question and I would choose a time when he will do so. Senator Blackman.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Acting President, the first Question, Sir:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that with effect from September 8, 1988 no conveyancing, including sales and mortgages of property, has been or can be validly executed in the Land Registration District of Saint James, which district includes Wanstead, Oxnards, Husbands and Paradise Heights, because a Commissioner of Titles has not been appointed under the Land (Adjudication of Rights and Interests) Act, Cap. 228A?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate when an appointment is proposed and take steps to ensure that it is made at a very early date so as to minimize the hardship and distress of those whose property transactions are presently held in suspense on that account?

Mr. Acting President, my other Question is this:

- (1) Will the Minister state whether and, if so, when Government proposes to declare land in the area of the Airport to the West Coast Highway a Special Development Area under the Land Development Duty Act, Cap. 78?
- (2) If Government does not propose to declare the area in (1) above a Special Development Area, will the Minister indicate why vendors of real property in that area will receive the full benefit of capital gains on sales of their property while vendors in other similar areas have been made liable for land development duty?
- (3) Will the Minister also indicate whether the principles or policy normally applied in determining whether an area should be declared a Special Development Area have been changed?

My final Question, Mr. Acting President:

Will the Minister please state whether the construction of the Examination/Convention Centre at Sherbourne, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael is being undertaken by the Ministry of Transport and Works?

If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister inform the Senate by whom will the work be undertaken?

I am indebted to you, Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I can only presume that since I am hearing these for the first time that the intention is to give notice of these Questions. I do not believe that the Senator would expect to have a reply and we can take note of the Questions.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move, Sir, that this Senate be now adjourned sine die.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Acting President, before the question is put, may I say, Sir, that the arrangements for this sitting of the Senate today have been characterized with what I can describe, some confusion.

Senator Tull said earlier in the session that he did not receive his Order Paper. I received my Order Paper on Monday but prior to that by virtue of constant pestering of the Clerks, I was able to extract from them the indication, an intimation that we were likely to meet today. So the fact

that the Papers only came on Monday did not totally surprise me.

I would like, Sir, with respect to the motion to ask if the Honourable Leader of the Senate will consider an amendment, and that is an Adjournment to the 7th of December, Sir. I say this for this reason. There are matters, Sir, of which I certainly have given notice on this Order Paper since March on "PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS". And I indicated to Senator Lewis early last month, just at the time the House came out of Recess that I would like the opportunity of disposing of these matters before the end of this year.

In fact, Sir, I go further, in that I wrote the substantive Leader of the Senate, Sir James Tudor way back in June on these matters.

And I really think, Sir, the business of the Senate is treated a little cavalierly, that we should really have a more structured approach to when we can expect to meet and not just leave Wednesdays in abeyance in our diaries on the off chance that there will be a meeting. And I should like to suggest that the Adjournment be to a fixed date, rather than *sine die*.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: The only difficulty with that is, I do not know if the Senator has a divination or something like that that he can presume that there will be business to be dealt with on the 7th? I am not aware of any matter which is likely to be dealt with in the House next week which could require us to be here on the 7th.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: The Senator is suggesting that there is "Private Members' Business".

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Well the "Private Members' Business", the letter which was ad-

ressed to the Leader of Government Business in the Senate, is receiving attention. I have given the Senator assurances that I will do everything in my power to try and have the matter dealt with before the session ends. I do not know that an Adjournment to the 7th, I have really no objection, but I do not know that an Adjournment to the 7th will even facilitate that. But if doing it will make him happy and cause him to sleep, then we will probably have this and if there is no other business then we still would not meet. So I do not see the usefulness of it.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: Senator Goddard, do you want to comment? Senator Goddard.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. Acting President, I support Senator Blackman. It is very, very difficult to plan your work programme. As the Senator said, I too try to keep Wednesdays free. But you know this is our first meeting, if my appointment book is correct since August 10. Today is November 16.

It seems to me that if we do not have any business before December 7, we surely could meet on that occasion to deal with "Private Members' Business," matters raised by Senator Blackman and Senator Jones, and before you know, it will be time for the Christmas Recess.

So if the Acting Leader of Government Business could agree I would appreciate fixing a date and I concur that December 7 seems to be a very reasonable date to fix.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: No objection, Sir.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT: It has been agreed that the Senate will stand adjourned until December 7.

Mr. ACTING PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly at 4.30 p.m.