

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

SENATE

Monday, June 26, 1989.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Monday, June 26, 1989, at 9.50 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Frank L. WALCOTT, K.A., O.B.E., LL.D., (President);

Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS, (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office); (Leader of the Senate);

Senator the Honourable Sir James TUDOR, K.C.M.G.;

Senator A. MORRISON

Senator N. W. BOXILL

Senator D. A. COMMISSIONG

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 the Reverend 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 Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE, (Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator A. W. A. McCLEAN and

Senator Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE.

ABSENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN (Deputy President) and Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM, M.B.E.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. President, I understand that outside this Chamber there are a number of distinguished Members of Senate and other Presiding Officers who are the guests of this Parliament. I wonder if by indulgence Your Honour would permit them to join us for prayers.

The Sergeant at Arms escorted visiting Presiding Officers to their places.

Prayers were led by Rev. Dr. Lionel Crawford, S.C.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received from the Honourable the House of Assembly to the Honourable the Senate "that this House has great pleasure in proposing to the Honourable House that on Monday, 26th June, 1989 on the occasion of the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of our Parliament both Houses should convene at 10.45 in the morning in the House of Assembly for a joint Commemorative Session. If the Honourable Senate concurs in this proposal, our House will be honoured by the presence of the Honourable the Senate in the House of Assembly for the session."

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, in reply to that most gracious Message from the House, I beg to move that this Senate approve of the following Message:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House accept the invitation of the Honourable the House of Assembly to participate in a joint Commemorative Session of both Houses of Parliament in the Chamber of that House on this day Monday, 26th June, 1989 in celebration of the 350th Anniversary of Parliament."

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we are all aware that our meeting today is specifically convened for the purpose of permitting us to join the celebrations relating to the 350th Anniversary of Parliament. I wish, therefore, to move now that this sitting be suspended and that we resume at pleasure; that during the Suspension of this House we proceed to a joint Commemorative Session with the House of Assembly in their Chamber.

It is my understanding, Sir, that on the completion of that session we will proceed to a site at the corner of Roebuck and Spry Streets, where there will be a ceremony, and thereafter we will return to This Place to resume our sitting.

I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
10.00 a.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I have been informed that various Messages have been received from friendly Governments extending congratulations to this Senate, the Honourable the House of Assembly in respect of the 350th Anniversary of Parliament.

I wish therefore to move the motion that the proceedings of the Joint Commemorative Session of our Parliament which took place earlier today, Monday, 26th June, 1989 in the Chamber of the House, the various Messages which have been received from friendly Governments, as well as the proceedings at the Ceremony of the Unveiling of the Monument commemorating the site of our first Parliament be ordered to be printed and recorded as a document of this House and be published with the proceedings of this day's sitting of this House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is that motion seconded?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I beg to second the motion.

The question that the motion which is moved and is seconded that the proceedings of today be printed and be recorded as a part of today's Meeting was put to the Senate and was agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have had a very interesting morning going into the afternoon.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I believe that it is necessary, it is desirable that this day's sitting be now suspended until Wednesday, 28th June, 1989 at 11.00 o'clock in the morning. I so move.

The question that this sitting be suspended until Wednesday, 28th June, 1989 at 11.00 o'clock was put to the Senate and was agreed to and Mr. President suspended the sitting accordingly at 12.50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am commanded to give a reply to Question No. 8 enquired of the Leader of the Senate by Senator Blackman in connection with the Commissioners of Titles. The question was:—

- (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 effected 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?

My understanding, Mr. President, is that the Honourable Senator who asked the question sought leave to withdraw the question. In the meantime, a reply has been forthcoming from Cabinet and the reply is — which reply I wish to lay :

5 Commissioners of Titles have been appointed on a sessional basis with effect from December 1, 1988 and to date the Commissioners of Titles have adjudicated and declared about 1 000 titles.

I seek permission of the Senate to lay the reply, Sir.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, may I crave your indulgence to explain and apologize for my absence at the ceremonies on Monday. I had already, in fact, cleared the matter with the Leader of the Senate but in view of the Press reports which might give an entirely different cast to my absence, I should like to state that there were urgent private matters.

I had to take my wife into hospital on that very day at that very time and, therefore, I had to order my priorities rather more carefully than I otherwise would have done.

I regret my absence. I had wanted to be identified with that historical occasion but I imagine that another time will come.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate suspend Standing Order No. 45(2) for the rest of this sitting.

The question that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the rest of the sitting was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President I beg to make the first reading of the two Bills on the Order Paper, the first one a Bill which seeks to amend the Police Act Cap. 167 in order to provide for the appointment of Traffic Wardens and the second Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295.

I beg to move that these Bills be read a first time.

The question that the Bills be read a first time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, before moving the second reading of this Bill, I would like to ask the permission of Senators to invite Senator Wickham to serve as Deputy President for the rest of today's sitting in the absence of the Deputy President, Senator Jordan.

The question that Senator Wickham be appointed Deputy President for the balance of the day's sitting was put to the Senate and agreed to.

POLICE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1989

Order No. 1 was called – To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Police Act.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Bill entitled the Police (Amendment) Act, 1989, seeks to ensure that the transfer of responsibility for management of public car parks is smoothly done from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police.

The Bill makes provision for the establishment of the Traffic Warden Division under the control and direction of the Commissioner of Police who will have power to appoint persons as Traffic Wardens subject to the approval of the Minister.

The Bill makes non-compliance with lawful directions of a Traffic Warden an offence.

The new Traffic Warden Division will have a complement of 4 Senior Traffic Wardens and 25 Traffic Wardens who will be generally responsible for the functions of control of parking of cars in car parks including the issuing of receipts for parking fees.

They will also be responsible for the supervision of street parking including parking through parking meters or other devices.

They will be responsible for the regulation of traffic generally at pedestrian crossings and on other occasions when there is a heavy concentration of traffic.

They will assist school children at school crossings and they will perform such other duties connected with the enforcement of traffic laws as may be determined from time to time by the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. President, there are, at present, in the City of Bridgetown, 6 public car parks which are located at Independence Square, Princess Alice Highway, Palmetto Square, Hincks Street, the Lower Wharf and Coleridge Street.

The operation hours of the car parks will be from 7:00 in the morning to 8:00 in the evening during weekdays, that is, Monday to Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

With effect from April of 1988, the Police took over the operation of car parks utilising the staff that existed at that time which staff had been hired by the Ministry of Transport and Works. That staff was under the supervision of an Assistant Supervisor and a Supervisor of Traffic Wardens.

Quite recently it was recognized that during the transfer from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police there was something of a hiatus and the Ministry of Transport was forced to undertake the duties a second time until such time as the Police are to take over and this arrangement for the Transport and Works Department to be responsible for operating the School Warden Service will continue until September and then from September 11 when the new school term begins, the Police will assume responsibility for the Traffic Warden Scheme.

I beg to move, Mr. President, that this 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. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into a Committee on the Bill, SENATOR WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 – 3 inclusive were called and passed.
11.20 a.m.

Clauses 2 and 3 inclusive were called and were passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Senate was resumed, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress on the Bill and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Bill was read a third time and was passed.

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1989.

Order No. 2 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Bill which seeks to amend Section 2 of the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295 gives effect to the transfer of responsibility for the Traffic Warden Division from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Police Department.

The Bill itself provides for the existing definition of Traffic Warden to be deleted and to be replaced by a new definition which says that the word "traffic warden" has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Police Act" which is really a Bill which is parallel to the one which we earlier passed.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive were called and were passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Senate was resumed. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Bill was read a third time and was passed.
11.30 a.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE CROWN AT HOYTE'S VILLAGE, ST. JAMES FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land at Hoyte's Village, St. James for the provision of recreational facilities and housing development.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution pertains to the acquisition of some 39,314 square metres of land at Hoyte's Village in St. James in the vicinity of the St. John The Baptist Church – 8.5 acres, 3.43 hectares. This land is owned by Mr. Charles Audley Ellis and it is being proposed that the land be acquired for recreational facilities and housing development. Up to the present time, there has been no firm decision as to the specific area that will be used for the recreational facilities as distinct from that which will be used for housing development. The intention is that it will be used for both purposes.

As Members are probably aware, Hoyte's Village is a densely populated area. The two nearest recreational facilities are located at Holder's Hill and at an area South of the Haynesville Housing Estate. It is our understanding that these facilities are already fully utilised by residents of the area as well as by clubs that play games in the two areas.

Over the past 4 years, indeed since 1985, different moves have been made to acquire this parcel of land. The acquisition is seen as a direct response to the needs of the residents for recreational facilities. The National Sports Council, when asked advice on the matter, has confirmed that the land is suitable for a playing field for either cricket, football, or both.

Government also sees the acquisition of this land as part and parcel of its continuing efforts and its ongoing commitment to meet housing demands of the people of Barbados. The plan which I have circulated, as I said earlier, does not reflect any specific division between the two possibilities. This matter will be rectified as soon as the acquisition is completed.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that this Resolution do now pass.....

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, the purposes for which the Resolution is before this Chamber cannot be controverted. I wish, however, to deal with the matter in a slightly wider context, in that it is about a series of measures brought before this Chamber over the past years. Indeed, this one before us today is the first of 25 parcels of land which are being compulsorily acquired, a number which almost rivals the 29 parcels which were acquired in 1988. My concern, Sir, goes today to what I perceive to be somewhat lack of courtesy and respect for this Chamber in the delay in responding to a Question put down 16 months ago in respect of the pattern of acquisitions and payment for compensation. I am about to close in my professional capacity a matter of compensation for land used by the Crown 3 years ago. In fact, they are going to pay interest for 3 years and 3 months for land. Whereas, we acquired land under Section 5 and has brought the matter to this Chamber, the Government has the right to enter under Section 4 and in many cases has been using the land under Section 4 for many periods before they have come to Parliament for compulsory acquisition. The house owner is deprived of compensation for his or her property until the bureaucrats get around to doing what they have to do to put it before us. I think, Sir, that it is scandalous conduct in respect of a refusal to answer a Parliamentary Question as long as 16 months. I will ask my colleagues in the Senate, if they share that view, to defer, not reject, approval of these measures for compulsory acquisition until an appropriate reply can be laid in this Chamber. It is only compounding the situation where we have passed these Resolutions and then they remain outstanding in terms of being given information that is sought.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, were it not for the last intervention by Senator Blackman, it was my intention to rise to support the Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. It still is, Sir.

Of course, I share very much the concerns of Senator Blackman and I would wish very much to add my voice to the demand by him for speedy answering of Questions which are laid by Members of this Honourable Chamber.

If I could speak specifically, Sir, to the Resolution before this Chamber, I would wish first of all to express my dismay once more for the lateness in circulation of the relevant details. I speak specifically, Sir, of the plan which relates to the parcel of land which Government proposes to acquire. I think, Sir, that Senators are at a "slight" disadvantage and I use that word, Sir, in a hyperbolic sense when we are asked more or less at the 11th hour to debate a matter, the details of which we hardly can appreciate. Nevertheless, Sir, I recognise that the ideals of the proposal are noble. It is my understanding that Government proposes to use the land for housing development and for recreational facilities.

Sir, it would have been of some help if Senator Lewis had apprised us of the type of housing development which Government proposes of what area of the market are we targeting – low income housing, middle income housing, or upper middle income housing. Sir, we would have been very appreciative of some help in that area.
11.40 a.m.

The matter of the recreational facilities, Sir, I note with a little bit of concern that Senator Lewis stated that the Ministry of Sports proposes to use these facilities for either cricket or football, or possibly both. I wish, and I am sure the youth of this country will agree with me, that he had mentioned they would have been for either football or cricket or both. I say that, Sir, because I perceive a growing need in the society on the part of the youth, a burning desire to be equipped with proper football facilities.

You will remember, Sir, that a few weeks ago the footballers of our island had to travel far away to another West Indian island in order to train for the upcoming football season. The National Stadium, as I understand it, was being put in proper condition for the championships and therefore the youth were unable to train there.

Asides

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Sir, if there were a football field at the Garrison, I am sure they would have made use of that too. I just wish the Government to be a bit more responsive, lend a keener ear to the needs and desires of the youth. They want to see football uplifted. They recognise that there has been over the years, to their mind, much greater emphasis on cricket and they think it is time now that we provide them with some proper facilities where football is concerned.

Aside

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Sir, I know that Senator Lewis will remember very well that when he was on his feet I sat very patiently and listened and I am sure that he will accord me the same privilege now.

I wish to support the Resolution. I hope that Government will very soon determine the exact area which they wish to use for the housing development as opposed to the recreational facilities. I wish too, Sir, that Government would place greater emphasis on football, not only at Hoyte's Village but across the whole of the island, and while I am at it, that they also place great care in the siting of the pavilions at the playing fields and making sure that they are adequate. The youth of this country are of the opinion that the pavilions are there where they are, but sometimes they are a bit too small, they are badly sited and I wish on their behalf to ask Government to exercise greater care not just in putting down a recreational facility, but a good one, one that can properly be used.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I wish at this point merely to speak briefly in support of Senator Blackman's expressed concern about what to me is an inordinate delay in reply to questions posed in this Honourable Chamber to Ministers. I believe that the clarity with which Members of the Senate debate matters brought before them could be considerably enhanced were relevant information provided more expeditiously, and I therefore urge Government to seek to cope more expeditiously with this matter.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. President, I have risen to address one or two aspects of the issue raised by Senator Blackman. I think perhaps he may have generated a little more indignation than was warranted, although with some justification.

The procedures for answering questions asked in Parliament have always been a bit obscure to me, and I have had some experience of Government. When a question is asked, I believe that the Clerks at the Table make a note of it, and as soon as is practical thereafter, perhaps in two or three days, as the case may be, they send it on to the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary, I know from my experience, immediately farms it out to the appropriate Ministries. It is just there that the bogging down starts.

If the question is a simple one, very often Ministers – and I make no breach of secrecy here – will ask why a draft answer is not forthcoming, and will usually, in the case of simple ones, uncomplicated ones, by that question hurry the draft reply along. Unfortunately, however, there are some questions which require voluminous research.

I remember, when I was leading the House, giving assurances about replies forthcoming and then discovered

that the number of acquisitions referred to in the question was several hundred and that the Ministry was in the act of compiling information in respect of each. I say this to give the Honourable Member the assurance that from my recollection the reply should soon be available to him, but it has genuinely taken a considerable time in the interest of accuracy to get it ready. So if he would just withhold his indignation probably for a little longer, he will reap the rewards of his persistence. I think I can safely say that.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the comments of the last Senator are quite accurate and I will say no more on that matter, but I will make a comment on another matter which was raised by Senator Brathwaite, and it was the question of making the drawings available.

I do not know of any means of making the drawings available to Members before the actual day of the sitting, and if Members so wish I am quite prepared to make the drawings available before the sitting begins in this Chamber so that they may be perused, if that will be of assistance. I do not know to what extent that will assist, but certainly I do not know of any way in which we can make the drawings available before the time or day of the debate.

I beg to move that the Resolution be now passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.
11.50 a.m.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BAKERS, ST. PETER

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of land at Bakers, St. Peter, for the construction of a primary school, housing relocation and highway improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I seek permission of the Senate for Senator Morrison to take charge of this Resolution.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, this Resolution is a tripartite one, and it deals with the compulsory acquisition of land for the construction of (a) a new Black Bess primary school, (b) housing relocation, and (c) highway improvement.

Now the descriptions are, in respect of the primary school at Black Bess, all that land the property of Bakers Plantation situate at Bakers in the parish of Saint Peter in this Island containing by admeasurement 14 593 square metres or thereabouts abutting and bounding on other lands of Bakers Plantation on five sides and on a public road

(Rock Dundo Road) leading to Rock Dundo or however else the same may abut and bound.

In respect of housing relocation, it is all that land the property of Bakers Plantation situate at Bakers in the parish of Saint Peter in this Island containing by admeasurement 2 121.6 square metres or thereabouts Abutting and bounding on other lands of Bakers Plantation on three sides and on a public road (Rock Dundo Road) leading to Rock Dundo or however else the same may abut and bound.

And in respect of highway improvement, the new Highway 2A, it is all that land the property of Bakers Plantation situate at Bakers in the parish of Saint Peter in this Island containing by admeasurement 12 017 square metres or thereabout Abutting and bounding on other lands of Bakers Plantation on two sides on a public road (Highway 2A) leading to Black Bess and on another public road (Rock Dundo Road) leading to Rock Dundo or however else the same may abut and bound.

Sir, it may be noted that 1.2 hectares identified in the plan for construction of the new primary school included an area previously identified for use by the Ministry of Transport and Works in the Highway 2A improvement, and the World Bank Education Project which is supposed to be funding all these new primary schools has confirmed that they have no objection to the sharing of the site between the proposed small housing development and the new primary school. These lands will be used for relocation of houses which will be disturbed by the new Highway 2A which is being built now in the north, and these lands are being used for, as I said in the beginning, a three way development, the new primary school for Black Bess, housing relocation and the improvement of Highway 2A.

As far as the old Black Bess school is concerned, adequate means will be taken to keep that in use for whatever service it might be deemed desirable, but as part of the consolidation of primary schools, this is another aspect of the World Bank school project and we had to acquire lands, and this is a further project in the on-going development of primary schools.

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

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments in this connection. The acquisition of land for the purpose of improvement or increasing, extending, what-have-you accommodation in terms of education facilities is one of which I do not think any Member of this Honourable Chamber would disagree, and therefore one wishes to offer appropriate commendation to Government for taking the necessary steps on a continuing basis to seek to improve the physical provisions. However, I am concerned that we bear in mind that the physical provisions themselves do not constitute

satisfactory and adequate *desiderata* so far as the requirements of primary education or education at any level for that matter is concerned.

I wish to refer once again to a matter which has more than once come before this Honourable Chamber, that is, the question of reading problems. I want to approach it, Sir, from perhaps a slightly different angle this time. My question is whether or not the reading resources in primary schools are indeed adequate. I seem to remember that during the not too distant past, perhaps within the last two or three weeks or so, my attention was drawn to a statement which seemed to indicate that there was less than adequate reading material in our primary schools. I know for a fact that this was certainly so sometime in the order of four years ago, because I was at the time myself involved in a curriculum development project, and the funding agency did at that time make available some additional funds for the purchase of basal readers.

I am trying to emphasise this, Mr. President, because I think most of us would recognise that in Barbados there are numbers of homes which are known to be, let us say, deficient, inadequately provided with reading material suited to the needs of children. I don't think I can emphasise this too strongly because while it would be unreasonable to expect the school to undertake the full responsibilities of the home as well as its own, I think we are duty bound to recognise that in our present condition the school has to try to compensate in so far as it can for certain deficiencies which are known to exist within the home context, and I am suggesting that the lack of appropriate reading material for youngsters is one of those matters where the school must seek to fill the gap, so to speak. This is not to ignore the development of libraries in the various parishes, and commendation must also go to that provision, but it is to recognise that if reading is to become a thing of joy and a part and parcel of the youngster's life, then he or she must be provided with suitable material, material that is suitable in quantity, that is therefore varied and suitable therefore in terms of range, and that is also suitable in terms of quality, and I am urging that specific attention be given to this matter because I believe that this is one of the ways in which we can consciously seek to tackle and lessen the very severe reading problem which is known to exist in our country.

12.00 noon.

The second point, and on this I will be very much briefer, Sir, it is to urge the Government and particularly the Ministry of Education and Culture once again to use more effectively the Government Information Service.

I have argued before and I want to argue now that there are a lot of parents in our country who simply do not understand the full scope of the contribution which they can make to the development of their children including the child's educational development and there is no reason why

we should expect this to be common knowledge anymore than we would expect parents to know how to wire this Honourable Chamber. It is technical information which needs to be given.

If we look at the media or listen to it, people are constantly bombarded with information about and the importance of buying toothpaste, perfume, you name it. I am not knocking that, Sir. I am merely arguing something that I really believe that the importance of the role of the parent is at least as great as any of these other things and we are somehow not adequately emphasizing this for the parents in our country.

We need to help parents accept, for example, the view that when they give their children presents on birthdays or at Christmas or what have you, that a book is a suitable present. Parents often do not recognize this and I am suggesting that part of the time available to Government through its Government Information Service could very usefully be devoted to giving parents concrete information and precise suggestions as to the kinds of things that they can themselves do to help improve the reading competence of their youngsters.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. President, before the question is put, I just want to draw this matter to the attention of the Chamber. I have seen it happen too often in here. Honourable Members when they want to speak they stand up, look across at you all the time hoping for you to call on them.

It is the duty of the Member if he wants to speak when he stands up to address the Chair, Mr. President, and then he goes on to speak. Do not stand up and wait or expect the President to tell a member to go ahead to speak.

It happened just now. It happened twice today and I think that members should understand that when they want to speak, just stand up. If two people are standing the President will call on whom his eye has caught first. Those are the rules of this Senate.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Senator Boxill's comment is probably useful but my serious opinion is that it should properly come from the Chair.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think the Chair is here to inform members how they are to behave in the Senate unless they misbehave themselves.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, I would just like to say my experience here is that whenever anyone got up to speak, the President would call the name of the person who is speaking.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you are standing you are the person to speak. There is only one person standing so you are the person to speak.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: That has not been my experience.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a matter of commonsense. I do not want any experience in that.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, Sir, I think that Rule 31 of the Standing Orders of the Senate of Barbados might be useful in enlightening Senators in this regard in the matter before this Honourable Chamber at present and I read, Sir:

"RULES OF DEBATE"

31. *Time and Manner of Speaking*

(1) A Senator desiring to speak shall rise in his place (or her place, Sir, I dare to add) and if called upon shall address the Chair. No Senator shall speak unless called by the President or Chairman.

(2) If two or more Senators rise at the same time, the President or Chairman shall call upon the Senator who first catches his eye."

I think, Sir, that may be useful at present.

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, in closing this debate I should like to note the remarks made by Senator Shorey and I should like to assure Honourable Members because I believe there is some concern among Honourable Senators about seeing these plans well in advance of the debate and I should like to recommend to the Executive that we could try in future to circulate the plans for these acquisitions at the time of the Resolution, so that, Sir, they will have a more concrete idea of what we are trying to acquire, as far as plans are concerned.
12.10 p.m.

In respect, Sir, of the primary school, the new primary school – primary school education – I should like to congratulate my Christ Church Boys' School for producing the best male student in this year's eleven plus examination. It is not often that I talk about the achievements of Christ Church Boys' Elementary School which has produced the Henry Fordes, the Ronald Bonnetts, the Auditor-General of Barbados and Dr. Thomas, the Thomases and

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: No. I am just a small fry. You have had serious names, Sir.

I am happy to state, Sir, that he won the top student not only because he went to the Water Street Boys' School but he originates from my own district where I was born, Lodge Road in Christ Church, my own familiar ground. He is from humble parentage and in line with what Senator Shorey was trying to say, that is a very humble home and he seemed to have had plenty of reading material in that house, even though poor and he has been able to emerge, Sir, as the top male student in the last examination.

I think that people should be more dedicated in the primary schools as exhibited at this particular primary school in Christ Church where teachers still work very feverishly in order to help the people who come to that school. It is not only at the Boys' School but also the Girls' School has been getting very outstanding successes from year to year in the Common Entrance Examination.

One thinks that if teachers were more dedicated as in the past where lessons were given free to that boy or girl who showed some kind of promise at a very early age that our education would not be what it is today with people who go into secondary schools not being able to read, as you hear the report that many people in secondary schools cannot read properly or write for that matter. It has happened at St. George Secondary School where there is a problem with people who only achieve minimum marks in the Common Entrance Examination and then you ask those same secondary schools to produce results, out of nothing comes something more or less, and it is very unfortunate.

But I rely on the primary school, if it is very well manned and people are dedicated to still continue to produce results which would be worthy of this nation, Sir.

With those remarks, Sir, 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.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHANCERY
LANE, ST. MICHAEL FOR THE
PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND ROAD
IMPROVEMENT**

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Chancery Lane, St. Michael for the purpose of housing development and road improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution deals with the acquisition of twenty-one parcels of land in the area bounded by Bay Street, Wellington Street, Chancery Lane, Waterloo Alley in the City of Bridgetown. If I know the area well enough to

call it out, Mr. President, it is because in my earliest youth when I travelled from the area of Bayville to Bridgetown, like many other persons I had to be skipping about when going around the bend by the Sealy garage, by the area that is now an open window, by the area where the Innisses live on the seaside, Sir. But if you were travelling on the other side, away from the sea, it was a perpetual hazard to go around that bend, and in spite of road improvements, it is still a very hazardous area.

That this move has come many, many years after it should have cannot be gainsaid. The land is being acquired by Government for two purposes. These lands beginning at the property at the corner of Wellington Street known as the Exchange and going right up to the corner – You do not know what the Exchange is? It is where Huskisson used to live. The big redish building on the corner of Wellington Street, where when you are going up the road, you have to step up high in order to keep on the sidewalk. This area is going to be utilized by Government for two purposes, one for road improvements which are long overdue and secondly for the purposes of housing development, a continuation of the development known as the Pondside where the former Government and this Government continued a housing development as part of a project relating to urban renewal.

It is proposed that this area will continue to be used for low income housing. But some persons believe, and I do not necessarily disagree with them, that in these low income housing areas they should be interspersed with housing of a different calibre, if for no other reason but to seek to raise the general standard and levels of interaction between persons in the society.

This development is coming alongside an area which is notorious, the Nelson Street area, for various things. In times past, Nelson Street used to be I am told in the time of my parents, a very residential area. Over the years, it slipped from being a residential area to be one of entertainment for the visiting....

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Yes, a commercial area. And in more recent times, the scourge of drugs has caused it to be the subject of many raids by the Police.

In more recent times somebody even attempted a church I understand in the area, without recognizing that there are three important churches in the area, an Anglican Church, a Roman Catholic Church a stone's throw away and a Methodist Church. So that there is no need for the gospel – although there is always a need for the gospel – to be taken.

To get back immediately to the subject though, Mr. President, this development will change the face of Lower Bay Street, and I am certain that all Members in the Senate will rise to support this very worthy acquisition.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, there are two matters which are not on the Order Paper as Government Business but which I think we should before the proposed adjournment of today's session deal with.

12.20 p.m.

There are 2 reports of Select Committees which have been laid in this Senate at the last meeting and I think the meeting before. The first report relates to the Committee of Selection in which certain recommendations were made with regard to the appointment of persons to serve on Select Committees.

It is believed, Sir, that the report of that Committee of Selection should be formally adopted. It is also proposed that the report of the Select Committee on the Tenancies Freehold Purchase (Amendment) Bill 1988, which has been laid and circulated, should be in accordance with Standing Order 66(5) which was dated June 7, 1989, and that I make a Motion, Sir, or rather give notice of the Motion that that report be adopted.

Rule 66(5) requires that the Motion be moved by any Senator after one day's notice and I wish to give notice of an intention to proceed with those 2 reports at the next sitting of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: One clear day.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: One clear day, Sir, but I am using this opportunity to give more than one clear day's notice – several days' notice, Sir.

The Clerk has informed me, Mr. President, that the facilities here are not yet adequate to permit us to have lunch on the premises. But lunch has been arranged for 12.30 p.m. at Pelican Village.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I wish to move that the Senate be now adjourned until Wednesday, July 12, 1989 at 11.00 a.m.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, speaking on the Motion of Adjournment, I would like to make reference to the luncheon held at Sam Lord's Castle

in honour of our 350th Anniversary and to express my regret that no courtesy of welcome was extended officially to our visiting Members and Guest of Honour. It would appear to me that this was a regrettable and I would think myself an unpardonable omission. In my view, it has done discredit to Barbados and has caused embarrassment to those of us who expected that the appropriate and common courtesies would have been extended to our guests.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR JAMES TUDOR: Mr. President, it would have perhaps been much more helpful to a discussion on this matter, if we needed one, for Senator Shorey to have perhaps asked the Leader of the Senate, or one of the Presiding Officers, or any of us who could help him and whether the charge which he has made has any substance. I wish to say, Sir, that with all respect that it does not have any substance.

The Presiding Officers, I believe, entertained their counterparts to a dinner on Saturday evening. The Prime Minister entertained, and I was one of the guests, Prime Ministers and Ministers, and other senior visitors including the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and others at that level at a dinner himself. It is a pity really that the Senator did not ask one of us who would be in a position to guide him before he made such a reckless statement. I am very sorry about it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, I do not know why a matter like that is being raised here because it is nothing on our agenda. I was out of the Island and the first time I returned to the Island was on Saturday all the way from Geneva. I was not even aware of what was taking place. Hearing this outburst now is to accuse the Senate of something, as if the Senate was engaged in something.

I think some Members of the Senate had better acquaint themselves with their standing first before they speak, because the Government of Barbados is quite different from what you are talking about the Senate is doing. As President of the Senate, I did not have to entertain any person on behalf of the Senate. Now this putting yourself up on a pedestal has taken on a role which is quite unbecoming. I do not know who has given that authority to any of the Senators. Nobody has given it to me and I am not going to assert any authority that I do not have. I am not thirsty for authority.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I hope that you will permit me to make one comment. It appears that it seems to be unfortunate that some Members of this Senate have set themselves up to be the paragons of all virtue and the correctors of all that is right and wrong. This matter mentioned by Senator Shorey is the subject of a whispering campaign by at least 2 Senators. I have heard it before. It is totally out of place. If either of the persons who have said it had the courtesy to ask a question, they would have got an appropriate answer.

But they prefer to whisper it or treat it like how this was treated.

I move, Mr. President, that the Senate do now adjourn until July 12, 1989 at 11.00 a.m.

The question that the Senate do adjourn until July 12, 1989 at 11.00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
12.30 p.m.

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