# THE

# SENATE DEBATES

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

## SENATE

*Wednesday, May 30, 1990.*

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, May 30, 1990 at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN, (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office); (Leader of the Senate)
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 J. C. W. WICKHAM, M.B.E.
Senator the Reverend Canon I. McK. JONES
Senator L. A. WARD, G.C.M.
Senator C. A. BLACKMAN, Q.C.
Senator Mrs. P. Y. FORDE
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
Senator Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE
Senator Dr. Frank W. ALLEYNE.

*Prayers were led by Senator the Reverend Canon I. McK. Jones.*

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Representation of the People (Registration of Electors) Regulations, 1990;

The General Elections (Allocation of Broadcasting Time) Regulations, 1990;

The Representation of the People (Expenses) Regulations, 1990.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable us to proceed with the Items which are found on the Supplement to the Order Paper.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no objection, leave is granted.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to move the First Reading of a Bill to implement the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports. I also wish to move the First Reading of the Proceeds of Crime Bill, 1990 and also to move the First Reading of the Final Appropriation Bill, 1990.

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

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.*

11.30 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRMAN

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, before I begin Public Business, I should like to invite the Senate to agree that during consideration of Bills which require the Senate to go into Committee, that Senator John Wickham be appointed as acting Chairman for the occasion.

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.*

*Order No. 1 – was called.*

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I believe that I could save the Clerk reading that Order by indicating to the Honourable the Senate that we are not ready to continue with the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Bill, 1990. On the last occasion I indicated that there were certain communications to the Attorney General. Those communications although received have not yet been reacted to by the client Ministry nor by the AG, and therefore we do not propose to proceed today with Order No. 1, that is, the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Bill, nor with No. 4, the Proceeds of Crime Bill, 1990.

*Order No. 2 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land at Tweedside Road, Saint Michael for the construction of the new Carrington's Primary School.*

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the conditions under which pupils of the Carrington's Primary School are subjected to education are very well known in Barbados because of certain incidents which have taken place. Government proposes, and this is part of an over-all programme of Government, in this instance to acquire a parcel of land at Tweedside Road. Already action has commenced under the Land Acquisition Act in respect of some 4 728.6 square metres of land at Tweedside Road presently owned by Messrs. Blades and Williams Limited, lands formerly the property of the late Dr. Lionel Stuart, well known to many persons in Barbados. The acquisition is proceeding based on a thorough examination of the existing premises of the Carrington's Primary School at Railway Road, Carrington's Village.

The existing site is far too small to permit any expansion whatsoever of the school. It is altogether inadequate in 1990 for the provision of education. The facilities are cramped and substandard not only for the pupils of the school but also for the staff. The roll of the school at present is some 225 children and there are eleven members of staff; and in addition there are other members of ancillary support staff.

The Physical Development Plan for Greater Bridgetown had identified this school as one which should be relocated and the Chief Town Planner endorsed the use of the new site as being strategically located for the relocation of the school. The lands to be acquired provide somewhat more than is necessary for the school buildings. The new school will have a floor area of some 7 881 square feet, but the additional lands will be used for playground as well as a circulation area and parking facilities at the school.

The Ministry of Education hopes to be able to proceed fairly swiftly with this activity relating to the school. Hence Parliamentary approval is now sought for the acquisition of this land from Messrs. Blades and Williams Limited.

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

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.*

*Order No. 3 was called - to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of parcels of land at Two Mile Hill, St. Michael.*

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the Government proposes to acquire some four parcels of land at Two Mile Hill in the vicinity of Sherbourne in order to provide parking facilities for the centre at Sherbourne. As long ago as August, 1987 it was agreed that the site at Sherbourne should be developed as a multi-purpose centre catering to conferences, to be used as an examination centre, to be used for cultural activities and for general entertainment. It was agreed at that time that action should be taken to acquire these properties adjoining the Government-owned property at Sherbourne – some 729 square metres of land the property of Lisle Prescod, 7 216 square metres the property of Philmore Johnson, 535.1 square metres of land the property of the estate of Ina Banfield and 543.3 square metres of land the property of the estate of Martin Bayne.

We have already had much debate in this Senate Chamber about the wisdom or unwisdom of the Sherbourne Centre. I believe that the matter in hand which we present represents the action that is necessary in order to bring the Centre into full and proper usage when it is completed some time later this year or 1991. I have circulated the plan which shows the actual location. I am advised that it may be necessary to relocate one or two persons who are presently occupying some of these lands, and that a site has been already identified to relocate them not far away from the existing spot on which the houses are presently placed. One of the houses, a stone house may have to be demolished and reconstructed.

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

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, up to now we have not had any clear information from Government regarding the precise state of that project. We just heard from the Minister that it is expected to be finished perhaps this year or some time next year. But having regard to the estimated cost and having regard to the provision in the Estimates for this year *vis-a-vis* the expenditure which has already been incurred, it seems as though, if the project is to be finished this year, we will have to anticipate some major supplementary provision.
11.40 a.m.

On the basis of the Estimates to me it seemed as though Government had no expectation as of, say around the beginning of the financial year, that it would have been finished during this financial year. I would therefore like to suggest that the Minister, perhaps, can give us some more details as to the exact stage at which that project now is.

I think the Minister of Education some time ago indicated that there is already equipment already installed in the building and, perhaps, he can tell us why this has occurred, whether the installation of that equipment accorded with the proper programming of the various installations and activities related to the construction of that facility, or whether it is a result of things being out of phase that you had equipment on your hand, that instead of storing them in a warehouse you had to install them.

All in all it seems that Government itself is not particularly clear on the way in which that project has been progressing or will progress.

I would like to ask about the estimate of the cost of the acquisition of this land, the cost of constructing the car park and whether those costs were included in the figure of some $40 million that we were given some time ago as the expected cost of the building.

Again, also, it was indicated that part of the reason for providing the examination centre is so that we would not have to give up a day for secondary school children on the day on which that examination is taken. This would indicate to me that Government is contemplating that new arrangements will be put in place for the supervising of that examination and the marking of scripts. Because right now all of the staff of the secondary schools are occupied on that day supervising the examination and marking the scripts and, therefore the rationale for building the examination centre is so that the secondary schools can remain open and the teachers of the secondary schools can remain and teach the children on that day. I would like to know what arrangement Government has in mind for the supervision of the Common Entrance Examination, and the marking of scripts that would not entail the secondary school teachers and necessitate the students being absent from school on that day.

I would also like to know what is the estimated cost of furnishing that building – that aspect of it; the furniture in relation to the examinations as opposed to the other furnishings in the building.

We also have been hearing different stories as to what was the original estimated cost whether it is $13 million, or $20 million and so on. One would like some further clarification about that and, maybe, some idea as to the way in which the estimate was revised from time to time upwards to $40 million.

All in all we are still seeking assurances that Government has proceeded in a responsible way in relation to that building.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the last speaker repeated everything he said during the Estimates debate. I am not inclined to reply by saying everything I said during the Estimates debate. What I am inclined to reply and to say is that if after my reply in the Estimates debate in which I gave a very clear and concise description of my understanding of the project and other members on the Other Side indicated after the session that for the first time they felt a little more comfortable in hearing about the matter, I would suggest to the goodly Senator that he try and obtain the copies of that debate when it is printed, if it is not printed already and get the answer to his recital.

But let me also say that earlier when I was presenting the matter I specifically said that as long ago as 1987 the car park was contemplated. I believe it is true to say that when we discussed the matter at Estimates time that I gave numbers of what the structures would cost and the car parking facilities are predicated as part and parcel of the overall project.

The actual cost of the acquisition, I am not in a position to say at the moment; but I will certainly get that information and provide it. But that is the only area of the question that I consider that it is necessary to seriously reflect upon.

The landscaping has gone out to tender and it is intended that as soon as any one of the structures is completed and ready for usage that at that time the car parking facilities will be available.

It was also clearly indicated – I believe I said this in March, that the structures would be completed not all at the same time seriatim, one after the other, they would be brought on stream and it is therefore true that Government does not expect to bring them all on stream during this financial year. Some work will continue. Some will be

completed, I believe, either later this year as I said earlier or early next year, and the rest of it will be completed and appropriate provision will be made.

If provision is not found in the Estimates, if, indeed, the work speeds up and it is necessary to come to this Honourable Chamber for a supplement, it would not come here; it would go to the Other House. Government will, in fact, go to the other House with a supplement and the opportunity will be provided to reflect on the status of the project to determine whether it is going to be completed within the expanded cost that was given or whether there was need based on increases in rates, wages and salaries of people who work on the project. Because you cannot tell the unions you do not negotiate for increases in pay for employees and if that happens, the cost of the project will go up.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ORDER NO 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF 1.2 MILLION ECUs FROM THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO FINANCE THE EXPANSION OF STUDENT HOUSING FACILITIES AT THE CAVE HILL CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, at the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference held in Grenada between July 3 and 7, the Heads of Government at that point in time agreed that student housing facilities at the three campus territories of the University of the West Indies should be provided and that the cultural training centre should be expanded at a cost of about 16 million ECUs (European Currency Units). These $16 million were expected to be expended during the first phase of the programme.

This phase forms part of a project for regional tertiary level education to accommodate students at the related facilities in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica. The overall cost of the project is estimated to cost eventually 21.8 million ECUs, (European Currency Units). This first phase totalling 16 million ECUs will be funded partly by a loan of 6 million ECUs and partly by a grant of 10 million ECUs and the funds would be made available from the European Development Fund.
11:50 a.m.

The loan portion 6 million ECUs would cover the three territories of which Barbados' share would be 1.6 million ECUs. The terms of the loan are as follows:

The $6 million which would cover the three territories would have a maturity or a life of 30 years, including a grace period of 10 years and a concessional rate of interest of one per cent per annum.

The guarantee that we are offering here.... Barbados is being asked at this point at the request of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies to put the Letter of Guarantee in place so that the proceeds of the loan may be drawn down.

When a guarantee is placed or given for a loan, it means that the guarantor can become liable for the extent of the loan. We are aware that the erection or construction of the student accommodation would add to the capital stock of buildings in Barbados and would, over time, become a valuable asset. That is, the risk by offering this guarantee would be minimal.

I therefore move, Mr. Deputy President, that this Resolution do now pass.

*The question was put to the Senate and was agreed to.*

*Order No. 6 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of this Island for the Financial Year ended March 31, 1990.*

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, it is with a sense of great pride and extreme satisfaction that I rise to move the passing of the Final Appropriation Bill for the year ended March 31, 1990.

This sense of pride and satisfaction is derived from the accuracy in forecasting our current expenditures less than 3% and our capital expenditures, supplementaries, constituted less than 11%, 10.89% of the total capital provision.

Furthermore, the outflow of these funds were not all for expenses but for investment as well. As a matter of fact, $26 957 633 of these supplementaries were applied towards capital works. That is, they were not expenses; they were not consumed within the period but were actually invested.

This Honourable Senate, Mr. Deputy President, must now be fully cognisant that when it is debating the Appropriation Bill as presented by my Government, it is likely to be debating in advance of well over 95% of total expenditures for the country in any given year. This is in response to some concerns raised by some Honourable Senators that sufficient time or that they were more or less

denied the opportunity to debate money Resolutions. I think the Appropriation Bill affords them sufficient time to cover, well in advance, well over 95% of those allocations.

Mr. Deputy President, with your permission, I should like to examine the purposes for which these supplementary provisions were incurred and these suplementary provisions which now form the Schedule to the Final Appropriation Bill.

Some of the objectives of this Government which we sought to achieve during the Financial Year 1989–90 are as follows:

1. This Government has sought to honour all of our international obligations and commitments. Such an obligation consists of more than making payments to international institutions. These obligations require attendance at and, from time to time, hosting of meetings put on by these respective international organizations.

2. Another objective which my Government sought to achieve was development of our human capital. One of the worldly philosophers once said that of the then three factors of – production land, labour and capital – that the most attractive was capital because of its greater mobility. Today, if we rewrote the production function and include in it human capital and entrepreneurship then we would find that human capital and the entrepreneurship talents are far more mobile and more attractive. This has become so not only because of their mobility but because of their trainability, educability, adaptability and longevity. In order to develop this human capital, expenditures and investments must be made in housing, health and education.
12.00 noon.

3. Another objective sought by this Government in the period was the maintenance and the improvement of physical environment for we cannot hope to attract more tourists to our shores. We cannot hope to attract clean businesses such as offshore financial institutions or even retain our human capital and trained labour force if we allow our physical environment to deteriorate.

4. We have also sought in the period an improvement in the agricultural sector. As a nation, we cannot hope to develop our agricultural sector unless we find new ways to sow, care for, reap, and harvest some of our existing crops. We must also be constantly experimenting in order to find new cures and remedies to treat and combat the ever increasing and novel diseases and pests which attack our various crops. In agriculture, there must not only be a constant search for new varieties of old crops which will give better yields but there must be constant experimentation of new crop varieties to determine their economic feasibility.

Mr. Deputy President, these objectives are not intended to be exhaustive but were cited solely to establish a framework for some of the larger supplementary provisions which appear in the Schedule of the Draft Bill before us.

Let us turn to the question, if you will bear with me, of accuracy. I remember when I myself introduced the Appropriation Bill 1989–90 there were questions about under estimation of expenditures and that these expenditures will be inflated during the year with a plethora of supplementaries. I am happy to report to this Honourable Chamber that we had an improved estimate of Current Expenditure in the year 1989–90 of $985,134,292. Of the total supplementaries, the incurred portion is $30,405,219. That is of the total Approved Estimated Expenditures for the financial year 1989–90, we have a total of $1,015,539,511. The Supplementaries for the Current Expenditure formed no more than 2.99 per cent (less than 3 per cent). This is what I talk about as accuracy. We would have been in aggregate if we had 100 per cent. The error was less than 3 per cent.

Under Capital Expenditures, an area plagued by cost overruns, interference by the weather, and many other unforeseen factors, we had Approved Capital Expenditure of $220,665,267. The supplementary provision totalled $26,957,633 for total Approved Capital Expenditure programmes of $247,622,900. The Supplementaries as a percentage of total Approved Expenditure were 10.89 per cent.

As I pointed out in the presentation, we spoke about the development of our human capital. Health estimated expenditure of total on Current Expenditures was 14.5 per cent. The Education component was 19.5 per cent and Health and Education combined totalled $345, 504,846 or 34 per cent in terms of Approved Estimates on Current Expenditure which went towards the development of human capital. On the Capital side, Health accounted for 12.2 per cent and Education 16.8 per cent of the supplementary provisions.

Turning to the Schedule which accompanied the Draft Appropriation Bill, I will just go through a few of the major items. Under Head 12 Parliament, we have a provision of $863,398 for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Exchange Visits. Most of us here are aware of these and these expenditures are indeed necessary such as those incurred also under Head 15 Cabinet Conferences and Delegations if we are indeed to meet our international commitments.

Education, Head 34 – Subhead 18, School Meals Programme – there was a supplementary of $3,015,000. These funds were necessary to provide for and to ensure that school meals feeding programme be retained at the high level which it has reached under this Government.

Under Head 36 Health – Subhead 3, Central Maintenance Services, there is a sum of $723,671 expended and these expenditures became necessary because of unanticipated repairs to the roof of the Black Rock Polyclinic in addition to the maintenance and refurbishing of a number of other buildings. Under Subhead 16 still under Head 36 Health, the Drug Service, there was a supplementary provision of $3,694,205. These supplementary provisions became necessary when the drug programme was enlarged to include asthmatics and epileptics to the list of eligibles in addition to meeting the increase cost of expenditure on drug related products. Under Subhead 17, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, a sum of $2,600,446 was made available for Object 10 – Supplies and Materials. This provision became necessary to meet the increased cost of providing disposable items for the care and management of high risk patients and to meet the cost of food.

Head 37 – Housing and Loans – A necessary condition for a healthy population is that it be well housed and the provision of $1 million under Subhead 2 is made available to the National Housing Corporation so that it can continue to meet its operating expenses.

Under Head 39 – Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development – Child Care Board, the sum of $717,008 was provided to meet the increased cost of wages and travelling allowances.
12.10 p.m.

There were also revised fees for Members of the Board and additional car loans.

Under Subhead 15 – National Conservation Commission, the sum of $1 542 535 was provided to meet the increased salaries and wages for staff. These became necessary to ensure that we continue to improve our physical environment and to make Barbados a more attractive place for its residents and visitors alike, so that we can enjoy more of our country.

Under Head 42 – Transport and Works, the sum of $3 509 800 was provided for the maintenance of roads, car parks and bus stands. In my presentation I was at pains to point out that it makes no sense whatsoever to continue to build more and more roads while we allow the older roads to go literally to pot holes, and it is to avoid the deterioration of these roads that it was necessary to augment the original vote.

Under Head 43 – Tourism and Sports, Subhead 3, the sum of $1 331 944 was provided to the Barbados Board of Tourism. Of this sum $1 million was spent for tourism promotion and marketing in the USA and the balance of $331 944 went for the salary revision.

Under the Capital programme, which we view more as investments rather than as expenditure or consumption, under Head 70 – International Transport, we expended $1 500 000 and the purpose of this was to provide and instal a microwave transmission link for the Air Traffic Control Division. I think that before this was install there was an overhead connecting link between the Radar Centre on one side of the road and the Control Tower, and it was that at any time with the movement of these large vehicles on the road the line could have been severed and would have more or less destroyed the whole radar ability.

Under Head 74 – Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Subhead 4 – Crop Research and Extension, supplementary provision of $2 154 875 was provided. This subsidy was to meet the difference between the guaranteed price offered by Government of $950 per ton of sugar produced and the basic price of $917.48 paid by the industry in respect of the 1989 sugar crop.

Under Head 79 – Housing and Lands, the sum of $2 700 000 was provided and this sum was for the General Workers Loan Scheme programme.

Head 84 – Transport and Works, Subhead 6 – Airport to West Coast Road, an additional provision of $11 136 647 was provided. Of this, a sum of $7 246 309.36 was set aside for settlement of compensation to Sintra Incorporated. The sum of $1 674 517.73 was set aside for late claims from utility companies and the remainder for consultancies and other contractual services.

Under Subhead 5 – Renovation of Government Buildings, provision of $1 150 000 was set aside to meet expenditure in respect of the execution of Government's policy relating to renovation of Government buildings. This Government is firmly committed to arresting the deterioration in Government's assets and to restore them to some of their former glory.

Subhead 15 – Highway Rehabilitation, a sum of $2 million was provided to meet expenditure in respect of the execution of Government's policy relating to the reconstruction, rehabilitation and repaving of road infrastructure, highway improvement and safety and the provision of footpaths and street lighting.

Subhead 17 – Highway Improvement, an additional sum of $2 750 000 was provided to meet the cost of the reconstruction and improvement of the highways.

With these comments, Mr. Deputy President, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, the Honourable Minister indicated that it was with pleasure that he rose to present this Bill because it

indicated about a 3% variance in terms of supplementals over the original estimates of Current Revenue, and a slightly higher one, or somewhat higher one in relation to Capital.

I think, however, that in some sense Senator Clarke is not indicating to us the appropriate comparisons which should be made. It is not appropriate to compare supplementaries in relation to non-statutory expenditure with overall expenditure including statutory and non-statutory. There could have been, indeed there would have been, variances in the statutory expenditure which would not have come here for subsequent approval, so if you want to make comparisons you have to compare the non-statutory component of the Current Estimates with the supplementaries here and you obtain a figure considerably in excess of 3% alluded to by Senator Clarke.

Going beyond that, however, it is also necessary to look at individual Items to get an understanding as to whether or not the budgeting was as it ought to have been and the level of responsibility which is exercised in terms of the expenditure of approved sums was as it ought to have been. In this regard, I should like to direct attention to Head 15 – Cabinet, the third Item, Conferences and Delegations. We see here an amount of $800 000. Senator Clarke did not give us any details in relation to this, except to say that it related to Government honouring its obligations to attend international conferences and such like.
12.20 p.m.

I am saying that Governments all along in Barbados have honoured their obligations, but at the same time one has to proceed with discretion and with responsibility. If we compare this figure of $800 000 with the original provision, we will notice that in the Estimates of that year $1.4 million was provided for this purpose, Conferences and Delegations, under Head 3 under the Cabinet Office. And if you check the record you will notice that that provision was almost entirely exhausted within six months. This supplementary came to Parliament around the middle of the financial year, and at the time when it came for the supplementary, the provision of $1.4 million was almost entirely exhausted. That meant they spent the full amount that they had budgeted for in six months, and the amount that they had budgeted for was an increase on the previous budgeted figure – not the actual expenditure for the previous year, but on the previously budgeted figure which was $1.25 million in the previous year – and it was considerably higher than what other Governments have been able to use under their obligations. And even if you make allowances for inflation and so on, you will notice that there is an escalation in the way that we honour our obligations.

Other Governments perhaps found it not so necessary to take as large delegations perhaps or to attend as many conferences or to visit China and things like that. So I am saying that there is a lot of scope for indicating to Government that it must be more careful in the future in relation to adhering to its estimates of expenditure. If you have budgeted $1.4 million for a discretionary exercise such as overseas conferences and delegations and so on, and maybe some element of local conferences (not the Parliamentary Association one, that is under Parliament) you should seek to plan within those limits. You don't proceed willy-nilly to do what you want to do without reference to the provision then to discover that within six months you have used up the provision and come back to Parliament for another ·57 per cent increase on that provision. You are boasting about 3 per cent, and that is of the order of what it should be. But that does not at the same time excuse the 57 per cent increase in relation to the conferences and delegations.

This Government has been a bit too free with the public purse in relation to attendance expenditure in such areas. I rather think that if the record is checked you would probably find that our present Prime Minister is the most travelled Prime Minister we have ever had. Most Prime Ministers stay close to home not only in Barbados but everywhere, and leave the country only on the most important occasions. We have seen our Prime Minister returning to Barbados on the most important occasions. Again one must recognise that if the estimates originally were high, 3 per cent or 5 per cent or whatever it is of a high estimate is still a high in absolute terms. $57 million is $57 million which cannot be sneezed at in the context of the present circumstances in Barbados.

Now another matter which I would have hoped Senator Clarke would have addressed is to indicate to us the way in which these provisions led to a modification in Government's financial plan for the year. If Government is going to have a certain level of expenditure, project certain levels of deficit and so on, presumably Government ought to formulate a financial plan. There was a time when Parliament would normally be given some fairly detailed insight into Government's financial plan, some insight into how they would finance deficit. I have had reason to lament or to indicate that that was not the case on this occasion. And I do not think it was the case on the previous occasion either. So we cannot gauge, on the basis of what we are told in advance and what happened eventually, the way in which Government modifies its financial plan to meet these additional expenditures.

What I want to suggest, however, is that it is quite evident that Government's financial plan, despite its modification within the last year to meet these additional expenditures, was at the end of the day inappropriate (that is if the plan accorded with what Government eventually did by way of financing the deficit); it was inappropriate and it has created embarrassment for this country as far as the foreign reserves are concerned and the position of the Central Bank is concerned.

I have said on many occasions in this Chamber and elsewhere that the particular reason why we have had a foreign exchange crisis (and we are still having it) is because of the way in which the Government deficit was financed during the course of this particular year, and in particular during the first six months of the financial year. I have been criticised in this Chamber for slurring Government when I made that statement. It has been suggested that that statement is not accurate, but the Honourable Senator who so accused me did not go on to explain in any detail what was accurate beyond suggesting that it had to do with consumer expenditure and presumably with the importation of consumption goods. Nonetheless I want to reiterate that the reason why we had a fiscal problem during last year was because of the manner in which the fiscal deficit was financed. And unless Government should put in place a financing plan for its deficit which does not require it to lean on the Central Bank for accommodation, we would have a repetition of last year (except that this year we will start from a much lower foreign exchange base) and the country would be totally embarrassed. I want to suggest further that we have seen no indication as yet that Government has any intentions to operate other than they did last year in relation to financing the deficit. Indeed since about October last year when the Central Bank admitted for the first time that we did have a foreign exchange problem and put in place certain measures to deal with that, including the restriction of credit to the personal sector and the distributive sector, we have seen that Government seems not at all to have taken the view that it had certain responsibilities in this particular matter in terms of the way in which it finances its deficit.

If we look at the Economic and Financial Statistics for the month of April 1990 published by the Central Bank of Barbados, and we look at Table C.2 on page 37, we will notice that domestic credit to Government increased from the month of October (this is the year when the Central Bank imposed the credit restriction) from $239.6 million to $321.9 million as compared – this is net credit to Government – as compared with total credit – not net because the private sector is also increasing deposits to offset the loans. But we are not worrying with the increased deposits; just look at the accretion of loans to the private sector, an increase from $1 276.7 million to $1 281.2 million. That is a mere matter of less than $5 million to the private sector over-all as compared with $82.3 million to Government. And if you look within the private sector and you look at the personal sector, of course you know that there was a decline, because the Central Bank instructed that the Commercial Banks would have to reduce their lending to the personal sector from what it was in October to an amount which was 5 per cent of what it was in August, which by interpretation means to reduce it almost back to what it was at the beginning of the year.

12.30 p.m.

For the last year there has been no increase in lending. The commercial banks are not permitted to increase lending to the personal sector over and above what it was about a year ago. I was thinking in terms of February based on the figures here but we are all now into May and that situation still obtains – well over a year ago.

I am saying that if there is a perception that domestic credit ordered by the banking system is a problem of balance of payments, Government must recognise that they are part of that problem and, indeed, the most critical part of the problem because domestic credit raised by Government from the commercial banks is no problem for the balance of payments because what they would be doing would be competing away credit that would otherwise have gone to the private sector but when the Government borrows from the Central Bank, what happens is that the Central Bank is able to expand credit merely on the basis of exchanging one IOU for another one, not on the basis of earning any income; and they lend it to someone else.

The commercial banks, however, can only expand credit by virtue of people bringing deposits and placing with them to provide the necessary deposit base to support the credits. And the people can only put deposits in the commercial bank if they earn something, have some kind of income which they save at that stage and deposit it in the banks.

As far as the generation of credit in the commercial banking system is concerned, if it is sustained entirely on the basis of the savings of the private sector, there is no problem. It is only when the Central Bank in connection with financing of Government or otherwise gets engaged in acquiring additional local assets, that is, by lending to Government, or lending to whoever else they choose to lend to, or by building buildings at Roebuck Street and so on, that you get an expansion in the credit base and the expansion of credit which would bear no particular relationship to income and saving.

That is what provides a basis for current account deficit, because a current account deficit is nothing more than a situation in which, during the particular period that you are talking about, the total incomes of the people in Barbados happen to be less than the total expenditures of the people in Barbados and we include Government in that as sharing in the income through taxes and other ways, and sharing in the expenditure through current and capital expenditures.

It is when the income is less than the expenditures to the extent of that difference that you are going to get a current account deficit. And it is Government's borrowing from the Central Bank in particular or the Central Bank otherwise financing the sugar industry or what have you that would make it possible for expenditures to occur which

are unrelated to income earning during that period. That is a principle problem related to the current account deficit.

Everyone knows at the end of the day a current account deficit has to do with payments for the imports of visible goods and the visible services and receipts thereto. So to say that we have a current account deficit because we import more than we export overall in visibles and invisibles is but a tautology. That gets us nowhere. We have to understand what is behind that, what led to that situation.

I am saying that is not because of any prophecy on the part of the private sector, on the part of households consuming too much and importing too much consumer durables.

The records show that last year the importation of consumer goods grew about 10% and in relation to that the non-durables grew about 6% and the durables about 17%. Those figures are given in various places including the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals by the Prime Minister. They are also given in the Economic Report and there are other different places you can find it. That 10% growth is just marginally above the nominal rate of growth of incomes in the country. But what is more, the importation of consumer goods in any given period need not correspond precisely to the consumption of consumer goods during that period.

The intermediate thing there is inventories. And there is little doubt that during last year the level of inventories of consumer goods in Barbados increased in relation to the previous year. Why? Because we had many more malls and so on around the place which had to be stocked out. So the inventory level increased because of that activity. So when you make that adjustment you will find that last year as in previous years, the actual consumption of imported goods by the consumer as distinct from the importation of those goods would have remained flat.

The problem was never really with the consumer, and, therefore, any effort which focusses on the consumer (that you are going to try to get him to behave differently) and allows everything else to continue as before – allows Government expenditure to continue as before, allow Government financing strategy to remain as before – is quite clearly doomed to failure.

All you are doing is inflicting unnecessary hardship on consumer plans (such as plans for home ownership, home improvement and so on) and in the process dislocating the economy and setting in train a recession which will lead to reduced expenditure by consumers... Yes, but to a matching reduction in incomes too, which isn't going to get you anywhere in terms of what I explained a while ago in terms of the current account position.

What is worse about the particular strategy of imposing credit restrictions on the consumer is that it is not who gets the credit. It is how much credit overall that is created within the system that has implications for overall expenditure in the balance of payments. And imposing restrictions on the consumer and the distributive sector did not in any way indicate that a low level of credit would be created within the banking system. The commercial banks are still essentially loaned up. They lent as much as they could have lent anyhow. It just means that the credit has gone in a different way.

Before, where the distributive sector might have been able to borrow a little more they could hold higher inventories of the goods of local manufacturing firms and so on. Now they might have to tell the manufacturing firms, "you have to send these goods to me on consignment" or they might order one, or one tomorrow if they have to do that. And therefore the demand for credit is deflected away from the distributive sector towards the manufacturing sector. And if you see that manufacturing then has relatively more (not absolutely) relatively more credit than before, it does not mean that the manufacturing sector is any better off; because its need for credit has also increased.

Basically, the types of measures which have been introduced only disrupt the economy and make no particular contribution and if Government does not ensure that its foreign borrowing is adequate in relation to its usage of foreign funds, you will find that over and above what I said about the current account position you would probably end up with negative capital inflows and an even bigger overall deficit than is indicated by the current account because of that situation.

It seems as though Government is bent on reducing the external debt. I have good reasons for saying this. It is bent on reducing the external debt at all costs which by interpretation means that they will have to borrow less overseas than the amortisation payments which they have to make. Over the last fiscal year 1989/90 that is what happened to a fairly significant degree.
12:40 p.m.

That means that Government is dipping into the foreign reserves directly to pay off those foreign loans. In other words, Government has become a net foreign lender during the particular period and is dipping into the reserves to accommodate that position.

What they have done is to shift the borrowing requirement from Government on to the Central Bank. The Central Government did not borrow so the bank had to borrow. So we have had the foreign indebtedness of the Central Bank escalating now up to about $200 million from about February this year. That is not right because it emasculates the portfolio of the Central Bank. Indeed we

know last year that it contributed towards the Central Bank making a loss of $4.5 million.

When foreign investors look at these things, they are going to draw the appropriate conclusion, namely, that the Barbadian economy is being financially mismanaged and that their loan may be in jeopardy, and they would hesitate.

So all the talk about credit worthiness, if Government does not move very quickly to address the points which I have been making – and it may even be a bit on the late side now – because these financial statements are there and the people would insist on seeing what the Central Bank's condition is, not only in relation to the end of last year, but even more recently, because the Central Bank publishes its financial conditions, on a monthly basis, in the Gazette. The most recent that I have seen relates, I think, to February. They are going to ask about these things. And if they tell a story of woe...

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order, Sir. We are dealing with the Final Appropriation Bill and I believe that Senator McClean has given us an interesting discourse on monetary policy. I think we are a long way from home. I think that we have all been very patient.

Sir, with your permission, I hope he would address the Final Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I have been addressing the Final Appropriation Bill which relates to Government's expenditure and I have been talking specifically about financing Government expenditures.

What I am saying is that in terms of the present situation, if Government does not take immediate action to correct this situation, if Government does not take immediate action to make sure that its foreign borrowing requirement.... that it puts in place loans matching its true foreign borrowing requirement and not that it hopes to borrow in order to reduce the debt, we could find ourselves in a very difficult situation.

I would say that if we find ourselves there, the only reasonable way that we could then persuade, as a country, foreign lenders to change their minds is if a new Government could come and say, "That is the way they did it, but this is the way we would do it, and this is how we will fix the problem." That basically is what would be required because no one who creates a problem is well positioned to go and convince people that they are capable of dealing with that problem. That is where we are at this particular juncture.

So that, Mr. Deputy President, this Appropriation Bill here clearly indicates in certain areas very large variances in relation to the original provision. The outstanding one relates to Conferences. It also quite clearly leads us to believe that the same thing would happen again this year and that the original Estimates, the Estimates as approved by us, may be some $50 million, $60 million, $80 million off target. I am not here referring to any adjustment in statutory emoluments such as would come from the settlement of the wage negotiations with the civil servants and so on.

And so, it is of the utmost importance that Government should engage in some very serious financial planning and it is also a matter of urgency that Government should acquaint Parliament with such plans because it is properly the business of Parliament.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Brathwaite.

SENATOR MISS VERE BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy President, for approximately the last year, all right thinking persons in this country have been asking the rhetorical question, "How is it that Government persists in its bad management and maladministration of this country." I think, Sir, this morning we have received a possible explanation. The Government engages itself in self congratulation and then falls asleep when persons are attempting to educate them. From the cradle to the grave, Sir, persons who sleep in class would never learn. Not only, Sir, is it rude to be snoring in your ears but you miss a golden opportunity to acquaint oneself with measures and ideas which would lead to the proper management of this country.

I wish, Sir, to speak in particular reference to the Ministry of Health and to call again on the Government to pay especial concern to the area of rehabilitation therapy in this country. This is one area in which we have been woefully inadequate. There are persons who need help in resocialization after critical illnesses, illnesses such as major accidents, major surgery, amputations. They need to readjust to the simple tasks that they had been accustomed to before they underwent such a traumatic experience.

We have a situation, Sir, where a swimming pool for use in rehabilitation therapy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has not been used for approximately the last ten years. That situation, Sir, is inexcusable.

I have already called on the Minister responsible for Health to explain why, in spite of the fact that there is a dire need in this area for rehabilitation therapy, the needs of those persons remain unaddressed and the facilities which are presently in existence go unused.

12.50 p.m.

Now I am repeating that call today, Sir, for the Minister to recognize the growing need in this area and to do all in his power to get on with addressing the whole question of rehabilitation therapy. I go further, Sir. Operating Theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital: The reason why many persons in this country find themselves in the shameful position where for a simple operation like a cataract removal on a waiting list stretching down to the middle of next year. Persons requiring surgery find themselves in similar positions. Not only do they sleep while persons are trying to bring the needs of this country to their attention, they also speak.

Out of a possible six Operating Theatres only two are in use. Of the four that are presently not in use, three of those are under renovation. Bad planning, Sir. You should never remove facilities out of a critical area like an Operating Theatre where you have not made adequate arrangements for substitutes. One other Operating Theatre, Sir, the fourth one, is being used as a recovery room. Now this has two serious consequences. Firstly, the recovery of patients is a very critical area. Persons who are going through recovery experience a period of exultation and special recovery beds are needed. There are no such beds in the Operating Theatre in which persons are being recovered. The second reason for this is that no adequate provision has been made for the intensive care of surgical patients. That is why the Operating Theatre has to be used in that area.

There is a dire need for an Intensive Care Unit for surgical patients. Sometime ago such a unit was constructed on the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and up to this day it remains not in use and the equipment which has been purchased for use in that area remains at the mercy of the elements outside of the building. When we speak of squandermania in Government, Sir, we speak of these things. The neglect and the disrespect for vital areas which need urgent attention.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, with the greatest of respect, I rise on a point of order to try to discover under what Head is the item "squandermania" found. I also wonder if Honourable Senators do not understand that this is not an occasion to debate any Head of Expenditure in any detail and to respond specifically in terms of the provision of funds made through Supplementaries in the Other Place if there is a matter specifically relating to that. But I have heard the Honourable Senator speak of all sorts of calls made to do this on matters relating to health which has absolutely nothing to do with anything in the Estimates. In addition, Mr. Deputy President, I do not know how long the Senator is going to go on. We are at 1 o'clock the time when we usually break. If I have an assurance that we are not going more than 15 minutes, I will allow. Otherwise, I will take the adjournment.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy President, if I may continue. These expensive pieces of equipment left outside to the mercy of the elements are examples of Government's expenditure that we have before us. While these Estimates call our attention to areas where Government has seen fit to expend sums of money, we must also direct our attention to areas where they have been woefully inadequate in making provision for other areas in their management. As I said earlier, Sir, they sleep and now they get hungry.

Sir, this situation has led to the serious backlog of cases in surgery which I alluded to earlier. Not only that, Sir, but I will give the Honourable Leader of Government Business a further example of squandermania where for example you have massive pieces of equipment lying outside at the mercy of the element like the power generating plant at the St. Philip District Hospital and the new flatwork pressing machine at the St. Michael Geriatric Hospital. We have situations where simple needs in the Operating Theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital such as a small battery for a laryngoscope or a blood pressure apparatus are not available. Situations exist where surgeons preparing to do surgery have got to get somebody to run down to a drugstore in Bridgetown and buy some small pen-light batteries for a laryngoscope. Sir, this is one area in which Government when it is speaking about expending sums of money must seek to do so where the best needs of the country will be served and so far we have not seen such a situation arising.

The autoclave machine, Sir, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – In his presentation, Senator Dr. Clarke referred to some expenditure in relation to disposable items. I wondered, Sir, if that included disposable gloves. I say that to say this, Sir. The items which are required to go through the autoclave machine are required to do so for the reason of sterility.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Brathwaite, under what Head are you speaking when you are addressing the matter of the gloves and things of that sort? Would you like to draw that to my attention?

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Head 36, Mr. Deputy President, under the Ministry of Health.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All right, this is supposed to be Head 36.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Subhead 1, Sir, General Administration in relation to policy, Subhead 17 Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may proceed, Senator Brathwaite.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Thank you, Sir. The autoclave machine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which we find under Subhead 17 is in dire need of repair. There is a time lag at the moment between the testing of the autoclave machine, the scheduling of surgery, and as a result some surgery cases go ahead. The equipment is used without the results of the autoclave for sterility having been received. Thankfully, Sir, it is my understanding that the HIV virus does not form the spores which test the autoclave machines but tetanus and gangrene are of critical concern in that area. If you have a situation where you have got to use instruments which were tested but which you have not yet received the results of those tests, you operate in the dark as far as the sterility of those instruments is concerned.

I have already, Sir, alluded to the fact that there is expensive laundry equipment which was purchased approximately 5 months ago lying at the mercy of the elements at the St. Michael Geriatric Hospital.
1.00 p.m.

The taxpayers of this country can ill afford such luxuries. Not only that, but in relation to this new laundry for which the Minister of Health is in the process of inviting tenders, that also is a questionable exercise, because new equipment still lies there unused and certainly nowhere near a position where they should be depreciated. One must also question the wisdom of trying to build a new laundry, bringing in a foreign advisor to advise in relation to that laundry when there are local firms and individuals who can do, and who have done in the past, an adequate and sufficient job in advising large commercial laundries in this country.

Sir, in relation to Head 25 – Agriculture, Subhead 1 – General Administration, if it were not such a sad affair it would almost have been amusing to hear Senator Dr. Clarke congratulating the Government in this area. One wonders from where can they get the assurance that all is well in the agricultural sector and that their piecemeal efforts, as we have heard today, in terms of research are the answers to the agricultural question that this country has been facing. Not only that, Sir, coming on the heels of the CARSICOT affair, one must wonder further the wisdom and the thinking of Government in relation to the agricultural sector. I wish to say no more about that, Sir, just to express my deep dismay that in the light of such overwhelming evidence to the contrary the Government continues to delude itself that all is well not only in that sector, but generally in the country.

I shall at this point accommodate the Leader of Government Business in the Senate and allow him to have his lunch with haste.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, since I think the Suspension will be at 1.15, I will take advantage of your indulgence and just take five minutes to make my contribution.

I would like to speak first to Head 19 – Ministry of Finance, Subhead 1 – General Administration and reflect that about two years ago around this time of the year this country had a saga unfolding at Dover Convention Centre called the Trade Confirmers Enquiry. I rise to enquire under the Head of Ministry of Finance, which was the Ministry responsible for establishing that Enquiry, what is the status of the Report so far as that is concerned. It seems to have gone to sleep. No one has raised the issue in recent times and I do not know if it is a question of hoping that if no one raises it it will all go away.

I would also raise the question, if the Minister would research and give an answer, as to what was the cost of that Enquiry. If he cannot give us today I will accept his assurance that he will bring the answer another time, if not I will bring a formal Parliamentary Question.

I would also raise, Mr. Deputy President, with respect to that issue, what consideration is being given to the processing of legislation to nullify persons raising somewhat questionable claims that they are not entitled to pay back the money that they had from the company because the Rate of Interest Act (Order) did not apply to that particular company. I think there is a serious issue at stake where there are a number of persons in this community who are seeking to benefit unjustly because of a legal technicality in terms of that. A Bill was submitted to this Parliament for consideration and as far as I know it has not been processed.

My final point, Mr. Deputy President, on that issue is this. Is Government giving any consideration to compensating the depositors in that company? I will draw the analogy of what happened in the United Kingdom a couple of years ago on a similar incident where the investors in a company called Barlow Close – I have no interest, I am not a depositor, I am not representing any depositor, so I am not working for fees in this matter – but I have a concern that a number of people have been hurt and I also say that in England when the Department of Trade and Industry was found to have been somewhat responsible by either an active act of negligence or an act of omission in allowing the company to continue to operate and take deposits from people, they compensated the investors in the United Kingdom. I ask what is being done in this respect by the Government of Barbados.

My second point under this Bill is in respect of Head 37 – Ministry of Housing and Lands, and I come to my hardy perennial, that at the 31st meeting of this Honourable Senate, on 16th November, 1988, 560 days ago, well over a year and a half, I asked a Question, Question 9, which

remains unanswered in relation to the matter of the Land Development Duty Order on the highway. I promise you, Mr. Deputy President, I will come back to that one like a tick until the answer is given. During last year's Estimates the Minister gave me the assurance an answer would be forthcoming shortly. This year he said the same thing. I want to assure you that I have not forgotten and I will keep on asking until I get an answer.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L.V.H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 2.15 p.m.

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.*
1.10 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is now resumed.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I have noted the comments made by Senator McClean. Most of them I will admit bore no relevance to the issue at hand. In his attempt to discredit the efficiency of our forecast in terms of expenditures, he missed the forest for the trees since he attempted to seek changes in respective items rather than looking at the aggregate. Nevertheless there is no gainsaying that with a margin of error of less than 5 per cent, credit is due to the Government especially for one who was saying at the time of the initial presentation that expenditures were under-estimated and that the said expenditures would have been inflated as the year went on.

Senator Brathwaite got on her pet hobby horse and rode it one more time around the track. Just a short two months ago we heard Senator Brathwaite discussing the same issues with respect to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the health services; but perhaps if she says it often enough, it might sound true to her and she herself might come to believe it.

Senator Blackman raised some questions in connection with Trade Confirmers, and there are certain specific answers. Yes, the Government appointed the Commission of Enquiry. Yes, a report has been prepared. Yes, the report has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions before any further action is taken at this point in time. It is now resting with the DPP and since you recognise, Senator Blackman, more than we do here as an attorney, that he is independent, then of course we shall await the outcome. I agree with Senator Morrison that the report is now engaging the attention of the DPP and not resting.

In summing up I really want to reiterate the statements I made. Government should be complimented on the accuracy of its forecasting and the giving of this Honourable Chamber an opportunity to debate most of its expenditures long before they have been passed.

On those few notes, Mr. Deputy President, I move 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 the separate motions of Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke, the Bill was read a third time and passed.*

*Order No. 7 was called – to move the second reading of a Bill to implement the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports.*

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports was the subject of consideration at the United Nations and the Committee responsible for it was chaired by a Barbadian public officer who was in the foreign service at the time, and that convention was adopted by Cabinet in 1986 and Barbados signed the convention.

The present Bill before us seeks to ratify the signing of that convention of which Barbados became the first signatory on May 16, 1986. Subsequently on 2nd October, 1986, Barbados deposited with the United Nations its instrument of ratification of the convention, and this Bill which is before us when enacted will ensure that the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports is enforcible in accordance with the laws of Barbados. More specifically the Bill will ensure the non-enforceability in a court in Barbados of any contract which is entered into by any person to take part in sports activity in a country which is practising apartheid, or with or against any team or any individual sportsman selected on the basis of apartheid.

The Bill then seeks to legalise, formalise the spirit of what Barbados has entered into, and what many countries around the world have supported, this principle that persons involved in apartheid sports matters should not be encouraged to continue with such activities.

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

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy President, in rising to support the Bill before this Honourable Senate, I just wish to make a few passing comments. Firstly that Barbados as a nation should never hesitate to send a clear and unambiguous message to South Africa that the system of apartheid is abhorred. It is a very serious matter, Sir. It is not just a crime against black people; it is a crime against humanity. Apartheid is a crime against the human race. We must make every effort to

ensure that the Government of South Africa understands that Barbados does not view the release of Nelson Mandela as any significant step towards the dismantling of apartheid. The system of apartheid still remains intact, and we shall not be satisfied with any token gestures, welcome though the release of Nelson Mandela has been, and I join with all persons around the world in welcoming him back to the freedom "outside of prison walls", but he and the people of South Africa still remain firmly imprisoned in the system of apartheid, and we must not make any bones about it. The release of Mr. Mandela alone will not satisfy us. We require the total dismantling of the system of apartheid and no less.

As far as sports are concerned, Sir, I wish also to say that I would welcome the day when we very seriously address the issue of isolation of businesses that have contact with South Africa, and we must police our shores to make sure that business persons in this country do not import goods made in South Africa or where any significant component of those goods is being manufactured in South Africa. We must police our shores because we must send a very clear message to that system.

Also, Sir, not only must we not support sports teams who have any contact with South Africa, but teams in Barbados and individuals must be given the fullest support at governmental level to encourage them to engage in sporting activities.
2.25 p.m.

I wish, Sir, to lend my voice to the removal of taxes on some equipment for use in sporting activities in this country. It is very sad that sometimes a game has to be held up because simple equipment like a football cannot be made available to the young people of this country. And at a time when we must be careful to marshal all the creative energies of our youth in productive and meaningful social interaction, we must make every effort to ensure that we help them as much as we possibly can.

I also wish to urge the Government to seriously consider at the institutional level considerable support for teams and individuals who go abroad to represent this country in sports. We hear frequent cries from those individuals that they have been selected on the basis of merit and ability to represent Barbados overseas but they are unable to go because of the expenses involved either at the level of paying for the plane fare, or for hotel accommodation, equipment, clothing and so on. And I would wish to see a system set up whereby some means of assistance is available to those persons. Not only would we be encouraging them to engage themselves in meaningful behaviour, but we shall also be sending abroad ambassadors of this country.

With those few comments, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, in rising to support this Bill I guess I will take no more than two minutes to articulate the point which I wish to make.

I am particularly happy that the Government is committing the people of Barbados to the signing of this Convention into law but I also hope that the discussion which took place in the Lower House yesterday and this discussion today will help to bring home to Barbadians right here the fact that at least the South Africans are more open and flagrant with the practice of racism.

I say that to say that right here in Barbados there is evidence of some kind of racism. But perhaps what is even worse than that is discrimination against people on the basis of class and in Barbados we have to avoid this very hypocritical stance.

It is very easy to wax warm on things which are not in our back yard. So as much as I welcome the introduction of this Bill, I would like to see us right here in Barbados start to re-examine ourselves and recognise that right here we have a lot of class discrimination and we also have a situation in which basically two races do not talk to one another. It is time that we start to recognise these as facts of life which afflict us here in this country and do something about them.

Mr. Deputy President, I have pleasure in supporting this Bill.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy President, I have not completed reading this Bill before us but since it is dealing with South Africa and racism I do not think I need to complete reading it.

I would like to start off by saying what a pity it is that most of the people in Barbados, those who are in office, and those who are in high offices, who set up themselves as authorities on most subjects, did not get a chance to read a book which I just completed reading called "Inside Boss". I think it was by a man by the name of Gordon Winter. And they would have seen and they would have understood the viciousness that has been perpetrated against black people in their own homeland for quite some time now.

I am a member of the Barbados Cricket Association, a life member and you could not start a cricket match at Kensington without my being there to see the first ball. You would think I was the umpire or the groundsman. I have stopped going to cricket for quite some time. I state that to say this. I stopped going to cricket from the time that people from Barbados were allowed to go to South Africa to play cricket on the pretence that they were going to work for a piece of change. Nothing could be more farcical than that statement; and it was done in such a way that some of my own colleagues were involved in this dastardly action.

Now, when people are going to tell me that the cricketers who left here and went to South Africa to play cricket who were as black as the ace of spades or a little blacker (as black as tar, I had better say) who became honorary whites (which is a big farcical joke) and people can try to convince me (because they never succeeded) that these people were working for a piece of change, my argument was this: if you are going to tell me that because they are going to work for a piece of change you are going to allow them to go, we should not arrest, or lock up people for selling dope because they are working for a piece of change.

We should not arrest or lock up men and women for living on immoral earnings because they are working for a piece of change. Nothing could be more farcical on the point. There is such a thing as a moral standard. A piece of change is not all that we want, Mr. Deputy President, because if you have all the money in the world and you have cancer, it is cancer. All the money in the world cannot stop it. Do not tell me anything about a piece of change.

It is immoral for these people to leave here with the connivance of some people who were in high offices sending them out to South Africa talking about they are going to knock down barriers. What barriers they are going to knock down? There are no barriers to knock down. They cannot even knock down wickets much less barriers.

That is one of the reasons why I stopped going to cricket because I knew I would have got into an argument with somebody and being small somebody might attempt to hit me and then you would hear that I am a vagabond, because I always like to represent myself. So if you are going to accept that these fellows are going out there to work for their living; you should also accept that a fellow selling dope is working for his living.

I feel that a man who is selling dope should not get locked up. He should get hanged. I said it and I am waiting until this Bill come up here because I have some things to raise when the two Bills come before us. The two enabling Bills will come before us shortly.

If you are going to accept that these people were working for a piece of change, then you should also accept that when a woman with the connivance of her son or her husband goes into Nelson Street and starts to prostitute her body, she is working for a piece of change and if the fellow is receiving it, he is working for piece of change. How immoral can we be? How blind can we be to these facts.

We are going to talk about stopping somebody from making their living. So then my argument for these people who are arguing this, (and I always put this to the lawyers – one is on the opposite side and one is on my side) – if somebody committed murder, they killed their mother or their children, would they take the case? They are lawyers. They are not going to take the case for that person who killed their mother. Do you think they have more feelings than anybody else?

The point is we must not have a moral feeling when it does not affect us or when it affects us. We should have morals. Morals is not anything that you can turn on and turn off when it suits the purpose. I say here openly and I am saying this. I am not looking for anybody to agree with me. I am not looking for any friends. I do not care who agree.

They have over one billion people in China, as I have said before and nobody in China speaks to me. They have over 600 million in India and I am not worried about them. So who does not want to speak to me can stop speaking right now. I do not care either and I am not saying this because I am running for any office. I am not saying this to be popular. I have been popular ever since.

I am saying how immoral can we be when we are trying to justify people blacker than tar going up into South Africa and be declared as one honorary white because they are working for a piece of change? Are we to sell our birthright for piece of change? We do not have any moral standards? I am not a cricketer but if they are good, they will get a play.

I have never agreed to removing the sanctions. I do not go to cricket and I do not even listen now. I like to know the West Indians have won because I am a West Indian but I do not waste my time up under the radio like I used to before when they are playing because they are playing cricketers who went to South Africa and I will never ever support them. I do not care if they are vex. They could be vexed, pleased or not. That is their business. I live at me. They could speak or not speak. As I said before, I could not care less but I did not go and I do not agree.

Let me tell you this, Mr. Deputy President. I know the English people sent groups (and some of those people who went to South Africa) down here deliberately because they wanted us to be stupid enough to say we are not playing with them in order to get us out of the Federation because we are world champions and because we are world champions and black, they want to get rid of us at all cost.
2.35 p.m.

So if we were stupid enough to say, well we are not playing because Gooch and these fellows went to South Africa – they say they forgive them; they could afford to forgive; they are white. But I am sure if the boot were on the other foot, if the black people in South Africa were taking advantage to the tune that the white people in South Africa are taking of the blacks out there, it would have been a different story. They would have gone in because it would be kith and kin. They would be using their hydrogen bombs, all kinds of bombs to solve the problem.

But when it comes to us, we are always to be not second class or third class, we are fourth class citizens. You know they have a new thing on us about we are Third World. What Third World? We have been civilized long before a lot of these people. Because we are small we are Third World? Third World, what? We do not have anything to develop.

You look at Barbados and you would see that the whole of Barbados is developed. You go to the other big countries and you would see how much forest they have. They want developing. We had a Parliament here – whether you could call it a democratic Parliament or not – 350 years ago. Some of them only had a Parliament for one hundred and something years. Some of them 200 years at the most.

So how could we be undeveloped and be Third World. What is this Third World? If we are the Third World, who is the first world? Who made the many first world anyhow? Let us get back to the issue.

I have said before and I maintain and I keep saying and I would continue to say, as far as cricket is concerned, I am a sportsman, I have always been a sportsman. I played for one of the leading clubs here in Barbados when I was a young man. I left here and went to Trinidad and played for the Navy.

*Aside.*

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: We had those a long time ago. That is not my fault. That is yours.

The point I am making is that I would never, ever succumb to the theory that because a man has to work for a piece of change that he must sell his soul. This is tantamount to telling me that you should be a spy against your country because you are working for a piece of change.

When these fellows go out into South Africa, if you were to read what I am talking about, how happy the South Africans were when these West Indians went up into South Africa to play cricket. This was a big splash. This was a big thing. These honorary whites. But the way the honorary whites can go, they were still black people.

As the former speaker has said – I have to agree with her for once – do not let us fool ourselves that because of the release of Mandela that apartheid has ceased automatically. Apartheid is still there and it is as vicious today as it was whilst Mandela was in prison. Whether you like to accept it or not, whether anybody likes to accept it or not, I am saying I am a negro and a proud one at that.

Yes, I am a West Indian born but my origins did not come from the West Indies. My origins come from Africa. They brought me here against my will. All right. I am here. So what? I am not going to start saying that I am going back to Africa because I would be a stranger up there, after I have been here for a period of years.

But I see Reagan and a lot of the Americans boast about their Irish ancestry. Ireland is nothing for anybody to boast about. Ireland has not made any big contribution to this society. Africa has made a contribution to this society. A lot of people do not even know that Africa, Asia and Europe was one piece of land until somewhere in eighteen ninety something. You could walk from Africa up to Siberia. But do you know what divided it? The Suez Canal. A lot of people do not seem to know this.

*Aside.*

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: No, no, no. No Strait of Gibraltar. The Suez Canal. I am talking about what I know. I went there. You do not tell me. I am a historian. Even in your own Bible, when you read the Bible, you know the only time the Bible mentioned anything about Africa is when they talk about Ethiopia by chance. You would not believe that Ethiopia and Africa was around in this time.

You hear them talking about Israel and Jerusalem, Egypt, Rome and those kinds of places. You would not believe that Africa was there. The same piece of land you know. If the man from France did not cut the Suez Canal, Duplessis – If you wanted a piece of land, you could have walked, and now that we have motor cars, you could have driven from down in West Africa up to the Eastern part of the Continent.

Here it is that these people go into our country, take advantage of our country with the connivance of the British, the Americans. Because when you look back, Mr. Deputy President, you hear French West Africa, German Africa, even Portugal. Portugal is the poorest European country.

Do you know that Portugal has a piece of Africa too. The Congo has a big piece. In Belgium they are always talking about the Congo. Even the Belgians own a piece of our land. So there is no wonder – And I saw an article here in the papers I think by Sir James Tudor talking about these things, and about Africa and why do you not get a solid language in Africa. You do not have a solid language in Europe either.

But you do not hear them talk about Europe about the tribes in Europe. But all the time when they talk about Africa, they talk about tribes. We are tribes. We are always tribes. Do you understand what I mean? The Belgians are not tribes nor the Germans and the Danes and those other people. They are not tribes. They are nations. But when it comes to the African people, they are always a tribe. They are always trying to belittle us.

I think that this piece of legislation is something like thirteen years late. The nonsense about the countries have a right to impose whatever kind of sanctions they like on the people. The United Nations does not have in all mad people. This is a United Nations suggestion. And if they are suggesting that we .... I mean, it is really late, there are no maybes about it.

I would like to send a clear message, not only to the people in South Africa but to the people in Europe and the people in the United States who condoned that sort of behaviour under the former regime, the one that has just gone out, that we blacks have a right here as much as anybody else.

Before I sit down, let me mention something to you, Mr. Deputy President. When I was a young man – because I got interested in public life long before a lot of the people I hear shouting now – I got interested in public life from in 1932 when Ethiopia talked about being invaded by the Italians. I remember a night – I tell you that to tell you this, Sir – Joe Louis came up.... We started our career there. He started at Bockford. I started cutting canes in 1932. I remember a night Joe Louis was going to fight, I think it was one of the Baers, not Max Baer. I believe it was Buddy Baer. One of these big fellows. Sorry, it was the Light Heavyweight Champion. Not Cannon. Cannon was in 1935. It was the Light Heavyweight Champion, Billy Conn.
2.45 p.m.

The announcer was a man by the name of Harry Bellow and he said,"Ladies and gentlemen in this corner wearing black trunks, scaling 200 and something pounds, six feet something tall, and a credit to his race and the profession which he chooses." Joe Louis was no credit to any race. Joe Louis was a credit to the human race. He was no credit to any black people. He was a credit to humanity. That just goes to show how they think. He was a man who did everything for America including fighting to give them money to help them with the war. But now he is a credit to the black race if you understand what I mean and then from that I turned off. I got turned off right there and then. I have said before and continue to say that black people are no credit to no race. If a man who is black does something outstanding, he is a credit to the race. But if he does something against the society, he is a disgrace to black people. He is no disgrace to the human race you know. When that black man does something that they think is bad or when he is accused rather of doing something that is bad, not that he has done it, there is a big splash in the newspaper – "Nigger does so and so". When the same man's brother commits a heroic feat, you know it is on the back page that you can put a pen stamp to cover it over. You do not hear anything about race included. How many of us today know people like Toussaint L'Ouverture and Hannibal were black and a lot of other black people who contributed to this society? Do you know anything about that? This is one of the things that I would like to get the Minister of Education to understand too whilst we are talking about this. The time has come when we have got to start teaching black history so that black children will understand. I am no racist. Let me get that straight. I am no racist at least no more than anybody else. Let us understand that we contributed to this society as much as anybody else. We have made our hallmark in the name of fame. We have some outstanding people among us.

As Senator Brathwaite has said, I do not only want to send a clear message to South Africa. Do not ask me if I ever went to South Africa as a seaman or if I would go to South Africa. If I were on a ship and it was going to South Africa, I would have to go. Do not bring up that argument with me at all because I am not going to jump off into the ocean like an idiot because the ship is going there. I would have to go, but I would not deliberately join a ship that I know was going to South Africa. I have always had those strong convictions and I maintain those strong convictions.

Let us get this in its true perspective. I am supporting the Bill 100 per cent although I know it is a bit late. I would like for us to go further. Before I close just let me say this. I just saw in the newspaper (I am not reading it and I am not making it a document because everybody should get a paper) where one professor is talking about we should remove sanctions from South Africa. It is all right for him. He is down here in the West Indies. I would like to remove sanctions and send him up to South Africa. Let him go up there and he cannot get back down here. All this professor he is – he is a "nigger" and he will have to take the place of a nigger. Do not come telling me any nonsense. But you see something is wrong with us. As soon as we seem to get out of the woods, we think that we are out so we do not care about our fellow man who is down. So we are lognecking with the big professors. I do not care. He can talk what he likes about me. I do not even worry to read the paper. So when he talks, he will have to tell me. I am not wasting my time to read nonsense that they talk about.

Well, can you imagine a man who is supposed to have – listen to the English that I am using, Sir – a man that is supposed to have intelligence – I did not say that he has – talking that kind of trite in this day and age? This is a shocking thing to see that the people in Australia, New Zealand, and thousands of people in England support the move against apartheid. Australia refused to let the South African come to play the game. I mean there are all white people down there. If these people can make sacrifices for us, why can we not as blacks make some sacrifices for ourselves? This is the question that I have asked. That was the pertinent question. Here it is people who do not even know us and only have heard about us can make sacrifices. Mr. Deputy President, to tell you about apartheid is one thing, but if you were to read the atrocities that are being committed against black people in their own homeland and to hear that black people down here are trying to support them is another thing. They are saying we should remove

sanctions. Remove sanctions for what reason? Well, we have been going on all the time with the sanctions on. But we have imposed sanctions and I do not intend that the sanctions will be removed.

If we remove the sanctions or if we agree to send people to play with these people, we are making Mandela's 27 years in prison useless. Do not let us forget that this man could have been out of prison ever since if he were stupid enough or dishonest enough to say that he is going to renounce violence. Why should he renounce violence against people who are violent? Do not give me this nonsense about turning the cheek to the other side. That was all right for Christ. Christ knew where he was going. But I am not agreeing to turning the other cheek now.

Before I sit down, let me tell you this. Before the war if a ship had on a hundred passengers and two of these passengers were Chinese, they would not say the ship had on 100 passengers. They would say the ship had on 98 passengers and 2 Chinese. I do not know why. Today they have got to reckon with the Chinese as a nation. They have got one-quarter of the world's population and they have all the other things too that go with it. The only way that we are going to get respect is when we start to show these people that we are going to hit tit for tat. It is no point that you are hitting us all of the time and we are turning the other cheek because we will eventually break our jaw. It is time that we start breaking your jaw too. Do not let us forget Zimbabwe. If the people in Zimbabwe who started reading the Bible all the time did not start to use some violence, they would not be a nation today. Violence although I do not support it 100 per cent, I support it at least 99 per cent. You have got to make people understand. They have been talking and talking. After they brought down the plane with those people on them, they realized these people are serious and that is what we have got to do with South Africa. We have got to hit them for them to understand that we are serious. A lot of our people have been getting killed. I have not heard anybody crying out. One little white child got killed and you hear how barbarian we are. Do not mind they are going to talk, but you have got to hit them. That is the only way they will understand. I am not advocating violence. I am as peaceful a man as anybody.

Mr. Deputy President, Sir, with those few remarks, I would like to support this Resolution 100 per cent and I would like us to go further. I would like a clear message to be sent to Dr. Reid that people like him who happened to have reached that sort of position that if they do not know what to say ask the Lord for this prayer: "Oh Lord, if I do not know what to say, keep my big mouth shut". Mr. Deputy President, I thank you.

SENATOR D. A. COMISSIONG: Mr. Deputy President, Senator Boxill has really said it all. I wish to begin by saying that I endorse 99.9 per cent of what he has said. I will tell you the .1 per cent afterwards. But I too support this Bill. I support this International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports. As Senator Boxill intimated, it is perhaps the least we can do to make amends for the fact that so many of our cricketers went to South Africa against the international sporting boycott of South Africa.
2.55 p.m.

I too, like Senator Boxill, believe that there is a moral minimum below which you should not sink. And certainly going to South Africa to participate in sport at a time when the whole progressive world is clamouring for the isolation of South Africa, and at a time when we knew that the visit of those black West Indians would be used for propaganda purposes by the regime in South Africa, that going to South Africa under those circumstances was simply sinking below the moral minimum standard. What we are doing really is making amends for that.

Like Senator Boxill as well, I could not help noticing the fact that countries like Australia and New Zealand have agonised over this issue. They have even come close to "civil war" in those countries; they have even perpetrated violence against each other because they felt so strongly about this issue, and here we are, transplanted Africans, black people, African people... Let us not fool ourselves, we are fundamentally an African people; our physical makeup identifies us as an African people. Much of our culture, even though the European culture has been superimposed upon it, is still fundamentally African and we as a transplanted African people have a duty over and above the duty of other races and other peoples in this world to take a firm stand against apartheid.

Therefore, I hope that now that some of our cricketers have tendered an apology, I hope that they really mean that, but like Senator Boxill I would not have been as forgiving as our cricket authorities were in Barbados. I too did not support the inclusion of those cricketers who went to South Africa in the Barbados team or in the West Indies team. I was opposed to it as well and I make bold to say that. I hope that they are genuine when they claim that they recant and they ask for forgiveness. The most that can be said for them, I suppose, is that perhaps at the time when they went they were not fully apprised of all the circumstances. That is perhaps the greatest excuse we can make for them.

I support this Bill. On the other question of the Professor who made this statement about the time being ripe for the removal of sanctions, the mouthings of this particular Professor have caused me some concern for a period of time now. He seems to me to represent something sinister and backward in our Barbadian body politic and something that has come to the surface in the last two years or so and I am watching it very carefully. There is a time to be active and there is a time not to be active. There is a time to allow people to show their hands and I think what we are seeing in Barbados now is people showing their hands. I am

watching it very carefully. More and more people are coming out of the woodwork and are showing their hands.

Basically he has taken on the Margaret Thatcher position. Margaret Thatcher has said that sanctions should be lifted against South Africa because by imposing them poor black people are suffering in South Africa. In her own words, poor black babies are starving and she has so much concern for poor black babies that she is opposed to the imposition of sanctions against South Africa. That line of thinking smacks of utter contempt for black people, because black South Africans have been saying to us "We find the system of apartheid so abhorent that we are prepared to make sacrifices, we are prepared to put even our lives on the line, not just our livelihoods, to bring down this wicked system." They are the ones who have said to the world "Impose sanctions; we know it will cause us some dislocation and some discomfort, but in the interest of securing our human dignity we are prepared to undergo those sacrifices in order to achieve this ultimate goal of dismantling apartheid." Who is Margaret Thatcher? Who is Professor Reid or whoever else, Ronald Reagan, to say to these black South Africans that we know better than they what is in their best interest?

I think it smacks of contempt. Indeed a similar argument was used in relation to our cricketers going to South Africa. The matter was discussed extensively throughout the Caribbean and all sorts of reasons were given why they should or should not have gone, and to me the matter was very clear. If the leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, the people who are actually in the trenches say to their black brothers and sisters overseas, "The least you can do for us to help us in this struggle is not to come," then why do we have to look further than that?

If Nelson Mandela says to us over here, his transplanted African brothers and sisters, "Assist us in this struggle by not coming, by not sending your world famous cricketers to South Africa," we need to question that no further. They are the people in the trenches. Who are we to be offering them advice? Therefore, Professor Reid is really to my mind selling out his race when he can side with the Margaret Thatchers of this world, people who have exhibited a clear contempt for black people, people who have shown that they do not have the best interests of black people at heart. When you find yourself in that camp and you are a black man, and one who has been educated, I would imagine due to the labours and sacrifices of his own people, a man who should be using the education he has acquired to defend his people and to protect their interests, and when you can find yourself on that side of the divide, then something is radically wrong.

I make bold to say that it does not stop at this one individual; but I think that far too many of our so called intellectuals and academics, professionals, people who have been educated due to the sacrifices and the labours of poor black Barbadians, too often when they achieve these positions of prominence they forget where their duty lies and they forget what their duty is. This is something that we desperately need to correct in Barbados. We need leaders who understand what their duty is to their people.

I hope that the international isolation of South Africa goes on. There can be no doubt in any intelligent person's mind that the international isolation has been largely responsible, along with the militant efforts of groups like the ANC, for much of the progress made in dismantling apartheid in South Africa.
3.05 p.m.

Anybody who has an intimate knowledge of what is happening in South Africa knows that the South African economy is in a state of crisis, and the big business leaders in South Africa recognise and are coming to the realisation that they need to develop the intellectual capacities and the skills of that massive black population. They need to bring them along as a consuming market; they need to bring them along as a skilled work force; otherwise their economy is facing disaster, and this has caused some crevices, some splits to appear in what formerly was a fairly solid white structure in South Africa. You now actually have the business leaders and the people who represent business interests sharing a fundamentally different view of the future of South Africa as compared with a large section of the less skilled white population in South Africa. And it is these dissensions within the white camp in South Africa that are allowing much of the progress that we see happening today. And these dissensions are fundamentally rooted in economics. If the economy of South Africa had maintained its fairly buoyant state, then the sort of give and take we are seeing today would not have occurred. So we have to understand that the economic pressure needs to be maintained, and the economic pressure must be maintained by the maintenance of economic sanctions. Although we in Barbados can't do much about maintaining economic sanctions, we can at least make sure that our world class cricketers assist in this noble campaign.

Once again I should like to state that I support the Bill and incidentally, I would like to mention that a very renowned anti-apartheid activist from South Africa will be visiting Barbados this week, Mrs. Fatimer Meer, well known in South Africa as a leading intellectual, as a linchpin between the Indian and African communities in South Africa, and indeed the official biographer of Nelson Mandela. I understand she will be coming to Barbados this week, and will be delivering a lecture at the Black Rock Cultural Centre on Sunday, and I hope that the powers that be in Barbados take the opportunity of the presence of this worthy woman in our country to show her the type of appreciation that we have for the efforts that she and her colleagues have waged on behalf of black people in South

Africa. Without any further ado, Mr. Deputy President, I support this Bill.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Bill and to say that we must congratulate Barbados to be, if not the first, one of the first signatories to this convention. All Barbadians who are in their right mind and are right thinking and who have travelled, indeed Senator Boxill has mentioned his various travels to the African countries, would be familiar with the horrors of apartheid. The people who talk the most about these things have never even travelled to Africa and that is a little bit hurtful sometimes. I myself have had the opportunity of travelling to Africa, and some of the things that I see there in the name of protecting human beings, I would not like to be a human being there at all. Because black human beings have no meaning, no anything, and this is one of the things that hurts me – when some of our own people here in Barbados, knowing what Barbados has approved and Barbados has signed to at the United Nations can still be moving around this place making statements about sanctions against South Africa. I would like these people to take a trip; I would like them to realise that the Committee of Eminent Persons did not have a very easy time in South Africa, and one of our beloved Barbadians, Dame Nita Barrow, was on that particular group of Eminent Persons. I think sometimes we should talk to people who have gone to these countries and have seen apartheid at work, and then we would understand what apartheid is. It is all right for somebody to say that somebody is unfaired. But when it is written into law, because of the colour of your skin (and you did not ask anybody to bring you here black; it happens that you are the child of black parents) you have it written into a constitution unequivocally clear that everything that is good is to be kept away from you, you are not to live in a proper house, you are not to get food, your children are to die starving, they are to have a high infant mortality rate, there is to be no proper education for these children, and when you look right through the system of apartheid, anybody with any God in their spirit or in their mind, would you think or call that a system that you feel any human being should go through? Wouldn't you want to do something to try to remove this system from the face of the earth in whatever way you can as another human being?

It is said that we in this part of the world might not be able to do much. But indeed we had a person on that Committee of Eminent Persons and the same person to whom I have referred was very vocal and not only vocal but was able to go and speak to the South African Government to get women to leave that country to come to Kenya to that Conference. And it would seem to me as though we never highlight these things about our Barbadians or black people. We never want to tell anybody that they have done anything good. Because a lot of people here did not know that; because it was not highlighted in the British press; it was not highlighted in the American press; it was not highlighted in various parts of the world. If we had done something negative, that would have been highlighted. But remember that Dame Nita Barrow was in charge of that Conference of Women in Kenya, and she was able by her influence to go in and talk to the powers that be in South Africa. And I said when you can do that, that is something that we Barbadians should be justly proud about. Because as Mrs. Boesak said while she was here, very few people in South Africa have or have ever seen a passport. They do not know what a passport looks like. I understand that even for Bishop Tutu there is nothing called a passport for him because he is black. Some people that have to travel don't know where they are a citizen of. It is as serious as that. I remember Mrs. Boesak saying very clearly there was going to be a world conference for women and when she went back she would be fighting tooth and nail to see if she could get some women out of Africa. Because the trick they use is that they always wait until the last minute and say you cannot get a passport; you cannot get a travel document, so you cannot leave because when you get to other airports in other parts of the world, they want to know where you have come from. Even that part of your freedom is taken away completely, even although you are invited to an official conference. And the people may even send you the money to look after you while you are there; they may even send you the clothing to wear, and the big shots who have written it into the constitution say that you are black and you cannot go. Yet you get people saying that we should not support not lifting sanctions and all kinds of foolishness.

Apartheid is a wicked, vicious system, and anybody can see that it is a system that is aimed at keeping black people where they are. In other words, there was a saying before: stay in your place, know your place, stay there. You don't belong anywhere else and I fail to see how any West Indian or any black person from any part of the world could be so stupid and naive as to think that the people love them so much that whatever they say they are going to agree with. They don't love them; they only want to use them. So we have got to realise that all that Nelson Mandela has done, all his wife has done, all that the Boesaks have done, when we talk these foolish things we are trying to undo what these people have been fighting for all this time. There is a white woman from the YWCA who has been fighting apartheid and she has been put in gaol.

3.15 p.m.

There are many of these people, many women who have been out there fighting and they have just been thrown in jail for no reason. The reason is clear to us but they do not have any real reason written down. They just take them up and put them in jail because they heard that you were a person supporting that other people should go on their beaches. Recently, Mrs. Boesak said they were bold enough to decide to go on the beaches and they said that if it had to bring a fight it would bring a fight but they were going to go on those beaches and if a fight took place, it would take place because they had to make a breakthrough somewhere.

They were able to make that breakthrough by being brave enough to go there and stand up.

All of these people are doing all of these things and they are not only black people. I want you to know that there are a lot of white people, the Indians and all sorts of people that are fighting against apartheid.

When we come to the question of some of our cricketers going there and you are talking about working for money, I agree with Senator Boxill and the other Senators. How immoral can we get? Are we going to sell our birthright? The question is, do we know where we came from? Where are we going? This is the big question.

I do not believe that some people know where they came from and I also believe that there are some people who do not want anybody to know where they came from. That is the whole trouble. They are afraid to let anybody know that their mother was an agricultural labourer. They are also afraid to let people know that their father was a labourer and they are also afraid to let people know that they were educated by poor Barbadian people through a scholarship. And I thought this was something that you would be extremely proud of, but it is the reverse because when these people reach a certain stage in their lives where they feel that they have gotten various degrees and so on that they can own a nice house, as they would call it, up in the Heights, they are finished with their own kind and, therefore, you get them talking all sorts of garbled nonsense.

We in this Senate are debating this Bill today and the main reason we are debating it is to give it a little more weight. As we said, Barbados has already wholeheartedly supported this and has been a signatory to it. But the thing we have to watch and we can monitor as small Island States, as they say, is the leakage of any South African goods into this country.

These are things that we as Barbadians need to do and when we find things like this we need to expose them and we need to investigate and find out how they got here, how they got into the Caribbean region, and who are the people involved, who are the people assisting in building them up to destroy our own black people. Who are the people helping them with ammunition to destroy our own black people?

Even if we do not have the economic ability, we have the moral responsibility to expose these situations and highlight them, not only at a Barbadian level but at a UN level so that they are voiced and those people who sympathise and who empathise against apartheid are able to carry them a little further in a big forum and this is the thing that we can do and we must continue to let our voices be heard.

One of the problems that we have... As soon as people begin to talk about black, I have noticed in this society that people begin to say they are racists which is a very stupid thing. Because you are talking about black people suffering in South Africa (and there are white people there who are assisting in the fight) but you are down here saying that as soon as a black man talks about people in South Africa suffering, or about doing something about it, or to support something, you become a racist person. Now, how could you be a racist person when you are black yourself?

This is something that always puzzles me. You are black. You have always lived in a society with black and white people. We have always lived well together. We do not have those problems like a lot of countries where you have to go this side and I go that side, and I use this public toilet and you use the other public toilet and all that foolishness.

We have been able in Barbados, thank God, to have a lot of freedom. Sometimes we even think that some people abuse it because of some of the things that they say, they do, and they carry on with which will hurt other people; that is what I am talking about. Because when you abuse freedom to an extent where you are trying to say things on the media because you know you could call in and say them to hurt other people, then you are abusing really the freedom that you have, and this is something I would like to see our people stop doing.

Mr. Deputy President, I categorically want to state that I have seen apartheid at work. I have attended many international conferences and, as I have said, I have visited Africa and I know what it is like to be black in those places. And I hope those among us as West Indians and Barbadians who have not visited Africa... I would like to encourage them (those who have the money and all these big professions and so), to go and see for themselves and stop talking foolishness.

I think if they go and see for themselves they would stop talking foolishness because they would meet the same treatment that Mrs. Boesak and people like them met. Because she was stating a particular situation where one of her children came out sort of Indian. She makes us laugh about that. She says that her children are the colour of the rainbow. Her husband is supposed to be black. She is supposed to be coloured and one of the children come out looking like Indian so that child must go to a different school from the ones that are black, the same brothers and sisters.

Do you not see how this wicked and vicious system divides families; one child going to one university because he is coloured and he is a little more privileged, and the other one going to the other university that is not supposed to be rated (if they get there at all) because that child is black.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Fraser, you have two minutes.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. Deputy President, I thank you for that.

I want to say that I support this Bill and I would like to see that many more people in Barbados come out and speak in favour of the sanctions against South Africa and also make their voices heard in the international fora.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Deputy President, you have not heard from me for quite a while but I have been inspired by the voices I heard yesterday strongly supporting what I describe Pan Africanist lines – Barbadians speaking very loudly about the problems in South Africa; some of them walking from their seats totally insensitive of what is happening around the world in relation to apartheid; people opposing sportsmen for the action they have taken in going to South Africa in search of great riches with no consideration for the humanities whatsoever.

I believe that the situation is more profound than criticising their sportsmen. I believe it is deep in the psyche of Barbadians. We do not have any clear position on race nor do we respect that the world is divided in that form; so we will continue to be confused.

There must be an ideological rationalisation in order for you to feel that you are a human being. And when people have suffered throughout the centuries from the harm and the sinister action by racists stripping them of their persona through finding their ideological base for making them believe that they are property, well, then, it is difficult to tell them – one by one shot – that you should not do something. It is deep.
3.25 p.m.

Now the European people – this can be considered as racism, if they want to – within societies throughout the world perceive themselves as superior. Any people who consider themselves to be superior to others are racists.

In this country when we raise our voice on behalf of black people and we speak about Mandela and any organization such as Government or a private group, they are denounced as racists. When we call for the renaming of a park in this country after Mandela there are voices from all sectors of the community, unfortunately sometimes from the working class sector of the community, denouncing the action while other men of caucasian background would get up and speak on the importance of preserving this historic park for the sake of perpetuating a symbol on behalf of their race. They would offer five acres of land in this country in order to preserve a name. Black people in this country have not reached the stage to understand what is the importance of it. That is what I am talking about.

So when we speak about South Africa and we talk about what is happening in the United States of America and all over Europe, I find it very strange that when we come home, we see people retreating on the race question. These people preached from the Sixteenth Century, and you can read Winthrop Jordan on the White Man's Burden, you can read Gordon Lewis on this, you can read many West Indian black historians from an Afrocentric black perspective speaking on the black perspective. All of them identify the root of the problem in ideology. Until we dig at that root and recognize that they advocated the hametic theory, they classified us as brutish and they also talked about heathenism because we were not supportive of the Christian religion.

I am sorry that the Senator who represents the ecclessiastical area of life is not here because he might be able to enlighten me. But they have taken Genesis 9 and 10 and make us believe that our people are the fallen race of Ham and Noah and that we have been cursed. They have used it effectively because they wanted to strip the African people of persona. They wanted them to believe that they were here for a specific purpose and therefore they justified bringing the African people into slavery.

Until we recognize that the problem of apartheid is not only within the ambit of Africa, that it has extended its arms throughout the Caribbean and right in Barbados – we have a serious problem to deal with – well then we are going to continue to be criticizing the cricketers, we are going to be criticizing the politicians, we are going to see people shifting left to right on these issues.

I support this Resolution. I do not have to extend any discourse on it because my position is quite clear. Barbadians cannot continue to say we are Barbadians when they are dealing with issues at home, and we are not black or white, we are Barbadians. You shift to the national position when you are home and then when you go outside of Barbados you begin to deal with the ethnic position. We are getting into problems. The Caribbean society is a very complex one. We have to look at it. We have to look at those persons who believe that in order to be considered as important in this society that we must identify ourselves with a certain class and a certain type of people with special pigmentation. If we do not examine the profound, we would continue to talk emotionally and we would continue to make all types of superficial analyses of what is happening within the Caribbean.

And then the only way that we can make our action appear to be relevant to the society which is crying out for genuine social justice and not hypocrisy by any opposition or any Government Member, the only way we can make the society realize that this Government and the people within

the Democratic Labour Party that you see here sitting around this table here today.... It is demonstrated in our presence, our presence here today is an indication that we do not consider it a debate on apartheid or with the elements of dealing with the sportsmen and their behaviour in this country as one that is insignificant. It is manifested in the presence of this Chamber.

Mr. Deputy President, the absence is symbolic of the ignorance that exists within our society. I want you, Mr. Deputy President, to take note today that I commit myself, as long as I live, regardless of what political organization I am in, to support the concept of Pan Africanism, support the concept of seeing that the black people of Barbados move vertically up the ladder and feel a sense of equality within this society. It is on that basis that I have been inspired today to raise my voice and give full support to this issue which the Democratic Labour Party brought before this Chamber today.

I want to thank you very much for listening to me on that short and I hope lucid presentation. Thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that the Bill be now 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. DEPUTY PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.*

*Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.*

*The Schedule was called.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. I do not see that the Schedule is part of the Bill. It certainly is not marked here on the sheet.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, out of an abundance of caution, I beg to move that the Schedule stands part, although it appears to be part of Clause 2.

*The question that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.*
3.35 p.m.

*The Schedule was called and passed.*

*On the motion of SENATOR The HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY 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 passed.*

*Order No. 8 was called – Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Lancaster in St. James, Walkers in St. George, Cane Garden in St. Michael and St. Thomas, Rices in St. Philip, and the Hope in St Lucy for housing development.*

SENATOR The HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution proposes the vesting of four areas of Government owned land in the National Housing Corporation for the purpose of housing development. The first area relates to 94,989 square metres of land at Cane Garden spanning St. Michael and St. Thomas which has been identified for the construction of 102 houses under the joint venture housing project between the Venezuelan company and the Government of Barbados. The acquisition became necessary after the project at Husbands in St. James was unable to accommodate all of the houses which form part of that scheme.

The second portion of land is at Lancaster in St. James. This became necessary as a consequence of the need to relocate certain houses which were either in the path of the road improvement project, Highway 2A Road Improvement Project, and other houses which were in the alignment of the new road. The houses which have to be relocated related to houses at Westmoreland in the parish of St. James.

The third lot to be vested is at Rices, St. Philip, 36,703.8 square metres of land which is being used as part of the National Urban Low Income Housing Development Project.

The fourth area of land is at Walkers consisting of 2.378 hectares in the parish of St. George. The property formerly of Walkers Plantation became vested in the Crown. It was acquired to augment and facilitate the relocation programme arising out of the Glebe Development Project.

These lands are now proposed to be vested in the National Housing Corporation in order to accommodate the various housing projects. I beg to move the Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy President, I will not be too long because I want to get home like everybody else but at the same time I am a bit worried. I am supporting the Resolution but let me say something that I have said already. I am going to repeat myself. One is that I am not satisfied with the type of houses that are being built by the Venezuelan people for my people. They are building

a lot of houses without the packing of rocks underneath them. They are building them on props. Why not build houses on groundsels that we are accustomed? If you go down in St. James, you will see what I am talking about. These houses are on stilts. I am not satisfied that we have to pay for them because nobody is giving us anything.

I remember quite some years ago when they first built the houses in the Bay, I criticised them and I was criticised for that. They built a lot of houses there without any toilet facilities and so on. They got wall houses and people have got to go out in the yard to the toilet. I am not satisfied at all with the houses that are being built by the Venezuelan Government. Why can these houses not be built with the groundsels right around covered up? You are building these houses like years ago when we used to put a goat under there or cane and that kind of thing. I do not want that sort of house for my people. The next thing I must say again is this. Now when I say these things you will hear somebody saying that I am criticising them. I do not care. I said that already. I do not care and I have to say this. I am a Barbadian. I do not have anywhere else to live. This is my country. I am one of the people who have made this what it is today and that is why I have a right to speak on it. Only this morning I passed there where I pass every morning coming from the beach through the Bayland. There are lots of house spots in the Bayland that people are not using that can be utilized. I know there are lots of rotten houses that should be torn down on spots that people can use. How often must I be saying the same thing? Then you say that I am criticising the Government. I am not criticising the Government. I am a Government Member. I have been a Member before most of the people who are Members of the Government right now. So I can afford to talk. I am not satisfied. I have said it again and, unless you say these things repeatedly and people get vexed, they will not start to do something. There are too many house spots in the Bayland. There are quite a few in St. Matthias too. It is all right for the Government to keep buying up land but the Government does not seem to know their own land. There are lots of places that people are not paying taxes. If time has run out, then the places should become Government property. Government is not seizing them either.

In fact, the house spots in the Bayland and out in St. Matthias close to the Marine Hotel, and some in Culloden Road because that is part of the Bayland anyhow, that we can use. There are lots of people always running to me. I do not know why they come and confuse me about these things. I am nobody in power. They should go to the Ministers and let them do their little bit, but they do not see them apparently. But I am saying this now because I am really upset about it. Why should we have places that can be used which are not being used and we go and buy land somewhere else?

As I said, I am supporting the Resolution before us so I am not criticising it. But at the same time I am saying it again because I want the Minister to hear what I am saying. If he gets vexed, that is his business. But as a Bajan, I am saying that we have got too many house spots in the Bayland and St. Matthias that you can remove these old houses and let people get spots.

3.45 p.m.

You can go and move these old houses and let people who want to live around town get house spots. We are going all down in St. Andrew. The people in St. Andrew are entitled to house spots like anybody else. We are going up in St. George. They deserve them too; but we have some right here in St. Michael. Why can't we use them? What is the purpose of having them there? Nobody is paying rent for them, nobody is occupying them, except rats, and we want to get rid of the rat problem. How can we get rid of the rat problem when we are finding houses for rats to live in? The time has come when we must stop pussyfooting, as Mr. Walcott used to say, in these instances and deal with these things seriously.

I promise to count them myself. I am sure that between Chelsea Road when you turn into Brown's Avenue or into Curwen's Avenue, you will be amazed to see the amount of house spots you have about there that are not being used. When you ask who lives there, nobody. They are a nuisance to the neighbours too, because they are encouraging rats and creating a problem for us. Why can't we have these places cleared away? Who are they afraid of? I cannot understand what is going on.

Here now we are buying land this place, that place and the next. I have no objection to that, but we have a lot of house spots in town; and there are lots of people who would like to live in town that we could give these house spots to and help alleviate the situation that we are faced with. Something must be done.

I do not want you to sit down here, Mr. Leader of the Senate, and listen to me and when you go into the Cabinet not raise these questions. Raise them and say that I raised them here. I am serious about this. I am getting fed up when every five minutes you can pass and see a lot of house spots knocking about the place. If you go through Curwen's Avenue or Brown's Avenue, as I said, you will see the amount of house spots we have out there that we can use.

I do not want to keep repeating myself. I do not want the Minister to think that I am trying to be sarcastic or in any way going after him. But the time has come when we cannot go on this way, spending the taxpayers' money buying up a lot of land and the Government is not getting back anything for it.

I knew every householder from the Police Post in Hastings up to Rockley and I have been pointing out to the former Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, houses that we should claim, because nobody was paying taxes for them. This is

nothing that somebody told me, I grew up about that area and I know it good. Bay Land, Beckles Road, Dayrells Road, Brittons Hill, Chelsea and St. Matthias are all my areas. I roamed those areas and I know them as well as the next man. Therefore, I am saying when you get to Cabinet tomorrow say that I raised this issue again about these house spots that we have and can use. It would help alleviate the situation where every five minutes somebody is confusing me saying they want help with a house spot. And it hurts me that I cannot do anything to help these people. I would have to send them to the Minister and then he will say I send people to confuse him.

With those few words, Mr. Deputy President – I am sorry to take up the time with this, but this is important – I am supporting the Resolution but at the same time I must say what I have to say, since as I said before I have been a member of this Government before most of you fellows, so I know what I am talking about. I want something done, do not worry to think that I am running anybody down, but by sitting down and not saying anything I will not get anything done. Let them know what I want, but not only me, because I already have a house spot, but the general public. We are losing a lot of money by not utilising these vacant house spots. There are a lot of old houses in Brown's Avenue, Field Place, Curwen's Avenue and all around there.

Mr. Deputy President, I have said enough. Thank you for listening to me so patiently.

SENATOR Miss V. P. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy President, I too shall be brief in my intervention. Like Senator Boxill I rise to repeat a concern that I have already expressed in this Honourable Chamber.

My concern is mainly regarding the final cost to persons of Government houses which are supposed to be catering to the low middle income bracket. When you have projects, for instance the Husbands Development Project of which I understand this project forms an extension, where the final cost is in the region of 70 odd thousand dollars, it puts housing significantly out of the reach of persons who need that accommodation. Part of the problem, I believe, relates to the timing in terms of the coming on stream of the projects.

We have persons whose applications for houses at Husbands Development have been approved for over two years. The person go ahead, make tentative arrangements with regard to financing the acquisition of a home, they put their personal financial affairs in order, now to be written two years afterwards to be told that their houses will soon be ready. In the meantime, Sir, some $20 000 has been added on to the purchase price, which means the persons have to go all over again to put their finances in order. It cannot be fair, it cannot be good management, it cannot be good planning.

Senator Boxill also alluded to the availability of some house spots around the island, but we will never be able to get a clear and comprehensive picture of the housing problems in this country and the measures which we can take to address it unless we formulate a clear housing policy. In this regard, Sir, I am happy to note that the Government has at least seen the wisdom of the policy of the 100% mortgages formulated and announced by the National Democratic Party. Though a little bit late in the day, and though they now claim to have been the first exponents of that theory in relation to this country, we wonder where they have espoused that theory. Nobody heard it before they heard it from the platforms of the National Democratic Party.

Like I say, Sir, it has also been very obvious that they have no idea how to implement the policies that they have now been enunciating. I firmly believe that they keep repeating that they had it first for us to indicate how we are going to implement it, but they shall keep waiting, Sir. They shall keep waiting indeed and they shall only be rewarded when we have been given the opportunity to put it into effect.

Mr. Deputy President, I did say that my intervention would be brief and I would just like to reiterate those two final points. I am really not going to be tempted by the comments and Asides by Senator Fraser, Senator Dr. Clarke or the others who would attempt to put me off. I shall not be put off and the NDP shall not be put off its policy of 100% mortgaging.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. Deputy President, this is not the kind of matter which requires any protracted intervention. To set the record straight, I gave way to Senator Brathwaite. She is carrying the full load because her partner has deserted her.
3.55 p.m.

I gave way to her and maybe she took the opportunity to speak of the 100 per cent mortgage, and the fact of the matter is that this is the policy of this Government. As early as 1987 the Ministry of Housing had committed itself and the present Minister, the Honourable Harold Blackman, was subjected to a lot of criticism in public, particularly on the call-in programmes in this country. There were some people who were saying that the Minister's head needed examination. Fortunately for him, he has stuck to his guns and it is part of the policy of this administration. We have no difficulty on this side in sharing this idea with the NDP; anything that is good we will share with you. Of course we would not share the Government with you.

Now, Mr.Deputy President, two things which are of great pressing concern in Barbados today are the matter of house spots and houses, but more so house spots. I have

been besieged almost on a daily basis by people who believe that I am either a landlord or that I am looking after lands. I have to deny both. I used to be looking after lands, and thank God I got out of that. I know the pressure for house spots in Barbados, and we must not fool ourselves. There was a fear which was struck in the hearts of Barbadian land-owners by the previous Barbados Labour Party administration. When the previous Barbados Labour Party administration modified the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act and reduced the maximum number of houses on lands from five to two in order for that particular lot to be declared a tenantry, that drove fear in the hearts of Barbadian land-owners, and in spite of the fact that this administration has subsequently modified and liberalised that particular provision, the land owners have not been taking any chances. Mr. Deputy President, in other words, what the private land-owners are saying is, once bitten twice shy. So people are prepared to leave their land unused rather than to rent them to anybody.

I have to differ with Senator Boxill. Of course he can take chances that I can't take. When you have lived as long as Senator Boxill you can afford to swipe. I cannot start to swipe yet. I am not convinced that there are so many open lots of land around that you can satisfy the needs of those who are seeking house spots. Because very often I suspect that many of the lots referred to are lots owned by private persons, and you cannot encroach upon them. The Constitution protects private property; so this Government is faced with a massive problem in terms of satisfying the demand for house spots. I think in Barbados all of us are enjoined, particularly those of us who enter these Chambers, to be responsible. And I say this, Mr. Deputy President, because recently there has been much, I call, cheap political talk going the rounds trying to make mileage by telling people that you are going to give them the land and the house which is owned by the National Housing Corporation at historical cost. I say this is cheap political talk because the present administration is committed to that policy. It is committed to putting certain categories of houses which have been identified into a good state of repair and once the tenants have paid up their rent and are in good standing, then an arrangement can be entered into where the tenants can purchase the land and the house. In fact, some of these purchases have already been completed and the Ministry of Housing has handed over the necessary title to the property. I say this because when you hear the N's start to speak, you would believe that this is the first time this policy is being articulated in Barbados. This is a policy of the present administration. I am sorry neither one of the representatives is here with us; but they are talking a lot about the historical cost of these properties, and I challenge any one of them to come inside here and tell me what is the historical cost of those properties. I say to you, Mr. Deputy President, that they don't know what is the historical cost and they must stop fooling the people.

I have no doubt that the Government and particularly the Ministry of Housing would have thought very carefully about this matter before they decided to acquire additional lands, and I would wish to urge the Minister of Housing to bear in mind as a criterion when these lots are serviced that the priority in allocating these lots should be given to those in greatest need in the immediate communities first, and I repeat, the highest priority in allocating the lots should be given to those in greatest need in the particular community. I think if we adopt that as one of the criteria we will avoid much of the conflict and the animosity which develops over this business of house spot allocation.

With those brief remarks, Mr. Deputy President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution and to make a few observations and to point out for the benefit of the Senate that we are not actually acquiring land at this stage; we are vesting certain lands already owned by Government into the National Housing Corporation for the purposes stated in the Resolution. If you examine the Resolution itself and the areas of land, you will see that almost all of those areas that have been vested now have already been used up. In the case of St. James you will find that the houses which have to be removed from the new Highway 2A project already pick themselves for that land in St. James. You have the case of St. George where people who were on the Glebe lands and had qualified for lands at a very nominal price under the Estate Tenantries Bill at the time have been relocated to Walker's Land, and I would hope, Sir, that these people would not have to pay the kind of open market price for the lands as going now, because they are also people who should have benefited under the Agricultural Estate Scheme; so again that land has already been used up by people. The only land that is available I would think are the lands at Rices, St. Philip, where we have a Sites and Services Programme going, and that might be the only place where land is available for house spots and for purchase. The land that is being made available also in St. James to continue the Venezuelan scheme is because of the fact that certain lands had to remain open for recreational facilities in Husbands, and as a result of that they had to cut back on the number of houses to be built in Husbands to make more recreational facilities available for the people of that whole area and that they would have some form of sports grounds, other recreational facilities and things for the young people in the whole area. So as a result they had to cut back on the number of houses which were to be built at Husbands and so they will use these lands now to continue the other 102 houses in St. James. So it is not a question of providing more land, it is a question that we are still short of land for housing development, because these lands have already been used up by people who are there already to move on to these lands.

4.05 p.m.

So the Government still needs, despite Senator Boxill's plea about open land at the Bay Land in St. Michael, a lot of land if it is to really fulfill the promise in order to make more house spots available for the poor people of this country and it is an on-going concern.

I would like to compliment the Government on its continued awareness to make house spots available as is being done now as in the case with the spots at Rices in St. Philip. And we will continue to identify other areas in Barbados as an on-going thing because the private sector alone and the Government housing programme cannot accommodate the people who need houses. And if people are able to obtain a house spot they can help themselves even better by providing their own house even at cheaper cost than what is being built by the contractors. So we would like to continue to look for more land and to make more house spots available to the poor people of this country in order to carry on our housing thrust and to make everybody properly housed in this decade.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, just a short intervention.

I am in sympathy with the Resolution and I support it but I just have a slightly different dimension to bring to the debate and it is this.

The National Housing Corporation has a number of houses which were made available, I am told, to persons who become homeless as a result of disaster be it fire, flooding or what have you. There is also a need for housing occasionally for persons who might need to be relocated because of domestic difficulties and this is a welfare situation.

It is my understanding, Mr. Deputy President, that some abuses are creeping into the system; that persons who have benefited from the provision of welfare housing as a consequence of a disaster may not necessarily be moving out when things have got better, when they should leave the house free for occupation by those who are really in need; or sometimes even profiteering on the disaster by, when they have got the insurance monies and they have rebuilt their house, renting out that house and staying in the house that they have been assigned.

I would like to suggest and urge the appropriate corporation to police those circumstances and really it should almost be an offence for someone to stay in a house in circumstances where they no longer require that sort of housing because there should be a stock. There should be a reservoir of houses always available to deal with those hard cases when they crop up; and really for someone to stay in when they no longer need to be there is something, I think, is an abuse and should be addressed by the administration.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I would like to thank Honourable Senators for the various observations. The one made by Senator Boxill is fairly accurate. Let me assure him, however, that the whole question about the run-down houses which have not been occupied in the Bayville area for some time has been drawn to the attention of Cabinet and the Prime Minister who is the representative is fully aware of it as well as the Minister of Housing and Lands.

I will faithfully communicate his continuing concerns. I have myself drawn attention to a number of those derelict houses on land which cause rats to be present in the run-down buildings that are not occupied.

The points made by Senator Blackman are very apposite and we will certainly pursue them. Because, obviously, the Cabinet would wish to ensure that there is no continuing misuse of a system which is aimed at assisting people who are really in need.

When I introduced the Resolution I failed to mention the fifth area of land which is at Hope, St. Lucy, and which is land formerly used by the ADC and which is to be made available for subdivision into some 53 housing lots in the parish of St. Lucy.

That takes me to the final point I want to make and it is that it is the Government's policy to try to ensure that lands are available in every parish in order to facilitate response to the very urgent need for housing in this country.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. Deputy President, I am seeking leave of the Senate to withdraw Items 2 and 3 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business which stand in my name.

Item 2, Mr. Deputy President, is a Bill to amend the Limitation (Public Authorities) Act, Cap. 206 and I am withdrawing that because there is a draft Bill which takes into account the concerns which I put into that Bill.

Item 3 is a Resolution that the Land (Adjudication of Rights and Interests) Regulations, 1988, and the Land Registration Regulations, 1988, be not approved. I am withdrawing that because, in fact, the Regulations have been brought into force and are working and some of the concerns that I had at that time have not been realised. I so move, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There being no objection leave is granted to remove those items from Private Members' Business.

## ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to move the Adjournment of this Senate until Wednesday, June 13, 1990 at 11:00 a.m.

*The question that the Senate do now adjourn until June 13, 1990 at 11:00 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.*
4:15 p.m.

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