
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

SENATE

Monday, December 21, 1992

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Monday, December 21, 1992, at 10.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN, (President)
His Honour Senator J.J. PAYNE (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable L.V.H. LEWIS, G.C.M.
(Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. MORRISON
Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, B.S.S., J.P., M.C.F.A.
Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS
Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE
(Minister of Labour, Consumer Affairs and the Environment)

Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE
Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES
Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH
Senator Dr. E. A. SIMMONS
Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.
Senator J. G. BELLAMY
Senator J. A. F. COLE
Senator T. E. BARKER
Senator T. C. BECKLES

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The National Insurance and Social Security
(Collection of Contributions) (Amendment)
(No.2) Regulations, 1992;

The National Insurance and Social Security
(Self-employed Persons) (Amendment)
Regulations, 1992; and

The Annual Report of the Accountant General
for the financial year 1991-92.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CONSETT BAY, ST. JOHN

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution comes before us in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. It seeks approval for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land the property of one Codrington Estate Board of Management situated at Consett Bay in the parish of St. John. The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs have included in the Development Plan for 1988-93 the development of a project for improved facilities for fishermen at Consett Bay in St. John and Skeetes Bay in St. Philip.

The two of these projects have been recommended for funding under the Lomé 3 programme of the European Development Fund. In 1988, a government notice was published which invited proposals for upgrading of the 2 landing sites. A local firm of consulting engineering partnership was eventually contracted to undertake the work which has been done in consultation with other consultants.

Government proposes to acquire 7 237.8 square metres of land approximately 1.79 acres at Consett Bay for the development of those fishing facilities. In the course of the study there were certain findings which are relevant to this acquisition. It was realised that the facilities at both locations were in a state of disrepair and were inadequate.

On a visit which I paid to this location at Consett Bay it was very difficult to get entrance both on land and at sea to the sites. At sea the access to the harbour was through a narrow channel which is somewhat risky in spite of beacons being placed. The access road to the site is in a state of disrepair and needs to be urgently upgraded. This is when you approach Consett Bay from the St. Mark's end of the road.

It was recognised that the fishing industry employed or has the potential to employ a number of persons in this district and it is an important source of food not only for persons living in that parish but throughout the Island. It is felt, therefore, that the acquisition of this parcel of land will enable the full development of the facilities there. It is quite necessary. It will include offshore and onshore developments.

The offshore undertakings will include the removal of rock heads, the extension of the jetty and installation of piles for the jetty. For the shore construction, it is necessary to provide not only a terminal building but – the building there is no more than an open shed – something more substantial. It is necessary to provide washing facilities and a caretaker's office and to ensure that these are properly secured from the encroaching sea.

In addition, it is proposed south of the road, to make a boat park. The existing area in which boats are hauled up is one in which at high tide the waves come, so the boat park will be taken across the road. They will provide security lighting and electrical outlets in the boat park on utility poles.

10.25 a.m.

Mr. President, the full development of Consett Bay is considered desirable in view of the need for such a development on at least one site on that side of the island. It has been agreed there is need to provide these facilities consistent with the Government's thrust in the area of providing fishing facilities around the island.

I beg to move that this Resolution be passed.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. President, I am not a fisherman and my interest as a profession or so, I do not really know much about it. But I am a Barbadian and I see the fishing industry as a major productive sector of our economy. There are certain things I think should be said in this regard. The Leader of the Senate, Senator Lewis, gave us heartening news. I think continuing to improve the

facilities on the eastern side of the Island is a good one. Consett Bay is a traditional fishing area. Perhaps we might be able to say it is the headquarters on that side of the Island and that is good news indeed.

When we discussed at our last meeting the removal of the gasoline tax for another sector of the fishing industry, Senator Alleyne used terms to say that perhaps it was not to say that the industry was going through a major transformation, therefore, that particular Bill would not have affected them too much. Actually, what this development on the eastern side of the island is going to do is to boost a major transition which the industry is really in. In other words, we are now into long-lining, bigger boats and different sort of fisherman. An educated man is now the new fisherman. In fact, we are seeing the beginnings of a new fisherman and a new industry.

Again, Senator Alleyne in the earlier Bill referred to the days of subsidy being passed. I agree with that but that does not mean we have a day of impositions. In other words, it is quite farcical to me as a Barbadian first, and a producer second, to know that the fishing industry, an industry which does not grow anything, it merely harvests and exports – I am going to get into that in a minute – but we have a big export business going, yet we have heavy impositions on engines and parts.

Sir, I believe the time has come for Government to send a message to all the people who produce and it is this. Remove any of those duties or impositions which affect the fishing industry. I have heard the term used where the subsidies put on the productive sector were a mistake. I do not think it was a mistake. I believe it was calculated that that sector would have reserves and help put things right. I could go along with that to a point but I think the time has come now to take off these impositions. You cannot do it across the board at one fell swoop. I do not believe that can be done but if we start with the fishing industry we can move into other areas later on. We have to encourage more people to go into fishing.

We have a large band of people in Barbados, very well organised, who are very good at harvesting without planting. We see their work in the newspaper every day and they seem to be untouchable. I think if these fellows could be coerced to harvest out of the sea instead of out of the next door neighbour's plot, that would be a good message. It could go a long way to changing the direction and thinking of a large part of our society.

The thing about this long-line fishing is I do not think I could tell Senator Lewis anything about it. But a lot of people do not seem to realise we have a few long-liners going out. These people catch sword fish and tuna. These fish are exported immediately. It is virtually a cash crop. The fish they would normally dump comes into our markets here in the form of king fish, dolphin, tuna

and maybe bonito. This is year round and it helps to stabilise prices. As I said, it is a new development. The fellows have a lot going for them. I think this is a good time to send out a message. If we could continue to develop this industry, we would see less and less of these huge mounds of tin fish on our supermarket shelves.

We are also importing large quantities of raw fish, or less freshly caught fish, not canned. I think this is a good sector to view the fishing industry on a little higher profile. Right now it is a poor cousin to agriculture. I think this is a good chance for us to encourage these people by taking off all duties and putting the fishing industry in a different light. When you consider you are only asked to harvest, that cannot be all of that bad. I think it is a good way of sending a message to the other productive sectors in our economy. They would probably read this to say it was fishing first, maybe next month or in 3 or 4 months we will start to see some of these other duties and impositions coming off. I think that would not be a bad foot to step off into the new year.

With those few words, I support this Bill.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, this is one area where the Opposition and the Government are seeing eye to eye because, in our Manifesto, we had specifically stated we were going to build a fishing harbour in Speightstown, and were going to upgrade landing sites both at Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay. We are very happy that Government has at long last read our Manifesto. We hope the other things contained therein would be implemented to the betterment of our people and our country. Sir, it is the season of goodwill so I will offer my sincerest congratulations to them and wish that certain other aspects of the fishing industry would be given the same urgency as the upgrading of these landing sites.

Sir, it is a known fact that we are an island surrounded by a lot of water. It is also a fact that we have not exploited our marine resources to the fullest. No one would question that we have not made full use of our marine environment. We are told that fishermen come from all parts of the world, Asia, Korea and those places and fish in and around our waters. It leads us to the question, if they see the economic potential in doing that, coming thousands of miles from their home base, what are we doing? Why are we still importing a lot of tuna, mackerel, sardines and as Senator Cole mentioned, all of these tonnes of fish products when out there we have more than enough not only to feed our population but to further develop a thriving export industry. As Senator Cole mentioned, the long line fishermen bring in a lot of sword fish and tuna. I am told these fish are well sought after in America and those places.

10.35 a.m.

The price they fetch is pretty high. It means that the fishermen can get a good return on their investment. But, Sir, there are other things which must be done before we can fully develop the potential of our fishing industry.

With your permission I want to go through a few of them. The fisherfolk's status must be elevated. For too long the society has not given the sort of recognition that they deserve. They always seem to be of a social and economic standing which would not encourage a lot of our young people with O and A levels to aspire to. If we are going to fully develop our fishing fleet we must encourage school leavers with the technical know-how and so on to see the industry as one in which they can go and develop to their fullest.

That is why we on this side are calling for Government to set up a training institution where our fishermen can go and learn the skills.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am glad that there is one but I wonder how much use is being made of it because training is very essential. As we all know fish do not jump in the boat. We have to know where the fish are...

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sometimes, I bow to your great knowledge, Sir. We have to know when to fish and also, of more importance, when not to fish. We have to know where not to fish. There are a lot of things associated with the fishing industry that we have to teach our fishermen. Obviously, we have learnt a lot of things over the years but there is still more that they can learn.

As we seek to develop our fishing industry we have to pay attention not only to the physical development as we are here discussing this morning, Consett Bay and these other places, but we also have to think of the human resource element of the fishing industry.

There is the question of security. I think the time has gone where we are going to send our fishermen miles out to sea, without proper navigational equipment, without radios in their boats. I think it should be mandatory.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: It is not mandatory. I am told that a lot of fishermen go out there in boats that do not have radios. I think there is a strong case to be made that we insist that whenever the boats are registered that a radio and certain other navigational equipment must be in that boat because we hear too much of fishermen drifting

all over the place not being able to contact anybody. We must insist that our fishing fleet...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will you address the Chair, please, Senator Barker. You just go ahead.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, Senator Clarke was making a very important point.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just go ahead, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Then, Sir, there is the area of security. Only a few weeks ago we heard of a case where some fishermen ended up in a jail in St. Vincent. I do not know if it was a jail but apparently they were fishing in waters in which they were not supposed to, their catch was taken away and they had all sorts of trouble.

We talk a lot about CARICOM. We talk a lot about integration. I wonder if we in this region are serious about integration if something like this is allowed to happen. We hear of some of our fishermen having harrowing experiences in and near Tobago, and now St. Vincent. I wonder if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for fishing cannot speed the negotiation process so that our fishermen can fish wherever they want to, in the Caribbean Sea. I see nothing wrong with the Caribbean Islands having a joint fishing agreement. I do not see why we are so insular. Because as I mentioned before, we do not grow fish. The fish are already there.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Precisely. And we know that they do not live forever. The islands have done nothing to grow the fish. The fish travel within things like currents which are really out of the control of the islands. There is a strong case for the Heads of Governments to meet and have a proper agreement where you may say, "Okay inshore, a few miles out belongs to the island itself but as soon as you go past a mile or two that should be waters reserved for CARICOM fishermen."

The law of the sea operates from 12 miles from the shore. I am talking about closer than 12 miles from the shore. I see no reason why we should not be able to fish closer than 12 miles. Not only that, Sir, what about the 200 mile limit? What are we going to do to make sure that fishing fleets from all over, outside CARICOM are prevented from fishing within the 200 mile limit. These are things that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in my view, in collaboration with the other Governments in the CARICOM region should look at. I think there should be a fishing agreement among the CARICOM states. This, Sir, would further deepen the integration process and stop the foolishness that we hear every now and again.

As we seek to develop our fishing potential the question of money becomes of tremendous importance. I was looking at the commercial banks lending portfolio and I see that the latest figure is that just under \$1½ million is allocated to the fishing industry out of a total loan portfolio of around \$1.2 billion. Out of \$1.2 billion that the commercial banks lend, less than \$1½ million goes to the fishing industry. If we want to really develop long line fishing a boat itself may cost \$½ million. I am not sure of the cost. But a boat for long line fishing may be in that sort of region.

We need to find money to get bigger and better boats as we seek to develop this. I know that the Barbados Development Bank has been very, very helpful to the fishermen in this regard. I think that a lot of the financing in the development of the ice boats was done by the Barbados Development Bank since the commercial banks seemed to have opted out of lending for fisheries. We are glad that the Development Bank, even although it has been stung on one or two occasions, has been very instrumental in helping the fishing industry. This is not only now, this has been going on for a long time. The development of the ice boats is, in fact, due to the BDB.

I am told that they are getting advice to the effect that there may be enough ice boats in order to cater to the fish that is out there. I would strongly encourage them that they should look at the possibility of lending, not so much for ice boat construction, but rather for the bigger long line boats. I think Government must have a strong policy on this. Government must say, "Look, this is an industry where we can reduce our imports and, at the same time, increase our exports so we are going to put a few million dollars" – since they cannot find the money from some donor agency or the other – "in order to develop a really modern fishing fleet." Especially one that is capable of long line fishing and other types of fishing which we need.
10.45 a.m.

Then, Sir, we must further get into the area of fish processing. We do not make use of our population in London, New York and these places. They would be more than happy to get more flying fish than they are getting now. There is a potentially strong market in these countries, but we need to exploit it to the fullest. We can also try with other fish like dolphin and king fish, to which the people have been accustomed over the years, and I am sure they will buy it readily if they can get it. All of us who have lived overseas know that if we could see some dolphin in any place, we would be more than happy to purchase it, so that is an area we need to get into. We need a pretty modern processing plant to help us in this regard. That, Sir, is a must and I think that Government may find itself having to take the lead in this regard.

There is one last thing, Sir, which I want to cover, and that is what is happening to Speightstown.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We cannot permit you to go on to that. We are going to have that at No. 3.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I know that, Sir. I am talking about Speightstown with regard to fishing facilities. We are here talking about fishing facilities at Consett Bay and at Skeete's Bay.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Skeete's Bay?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: At Consett Bay, but the Minister mentioned Skeete's Bay as another facility which is to be upgraded. The Resolution is specifically for Consett Bay, but the Minister in his presentation mentioned that Skeete's Bay is also to be upgraded.

Sir, what I want to know is what is going to happen to Speightstown. Speightstown is a large population centre. It is within excellent range, even of St. Andrew, because the road from Belleplaine to Speightstown is pretty good and well developed, and communication between St. Lucy and Speightstown is also good. That is why, before we left office in 1986, we had plans for a modern fishing harbour in Speightstown and, of more importance, we had identified a source of financing. The same EDF that helped to build the Oistin's fishing complex were so impressed with what we were doing in fishing, that they were going to do two things with regard to Speightstown. One, they were going to give us a grant and, secondly, they were going to lend us money under the Lomé Agreement, so they were going to lend us half and give us half.

I would like to know the reason why in October of 1986 Cabinet made a decision to abandon the plans for the Speightstown Fishing Complex, when the money was identified, the need was also identified and it made sense, because Speightstown is a big centre. I do not think the EDF would have given us money and lent us money if the project was not going to be beneficial to the country. I believe the Government owes the country an explanation, especially the people of St. Peter.

I know, Sir, there was a lot of confusion as to the actual site for the fishing complex. The fishermen wanted down by the old market and I think the engineers decided on the Fort Denmark site, and eventually it was agreed that the Fort Denmark site was to be the place where the fishing harbour was to be sited. I am at a loss. I do not for one moment believe, as some people are suggesting, that the Government did that to hurt the people of St. Peter who have been faithful to the Barbados Labour Party, because I do not think a Government would operate that way. But in the absence of any other explanation, the Government leaves itself open to these sorts of charges. I feel that this is a good time when the Honourable Minister, who was in the Cabinet at that time - Dr. Carl Clarke was not yet recruited ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is irrelevant.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I just wanted to point out which Minister I meant. I felt it would be a good opportunity for the Minister, who was party to that Cabinet decision, in bringing this Bill to clear the air.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, it is all right for you to make a passing reference to the fishing at Speightstown, but this is not the time or place for us to have a full scale debate on the fishing industry of Speightstown. I have given you ample opportunity to make passing reference to this fishing industry of Speightstown. I can see the relevance to the fishing industry of Consett Bay, but you will have to wait until we have an opportunity to have a full scale debate on that. Let us move on now.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, thank you for your ruling. In the season of goodwill and all of that, I am happy for your intervention. I have no problem, but I just wanted to say something about the fishing development as it relates to the island as a whole, because that is a glaring omission as far as I am concerned. That centre would then make us almost complete, we would have fishing harbours at strategically located places.

With those words, I strongly support this Resolution and I am glad that I find something the Government has done to support. I trust that in the New Year they will continue to do things to please me, because in pleasing me they are pleasing the rest of Barbados.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH: Mr. President, I am very pleased to support this Resolution which will approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Consett Bay to upgrade the facilities there. That side of the island is not only picturesque but the fishing provides a lot of work for people in that area. By doing that we will be helping the whole process of the fishing in Barbados. Fish, as has been mentioned by the Leader of Government Business, is not only a very nutritious food, but it is very digestible and can be used by sick persons in their diet because of the quickness of the digestion.

I would hope that in upgrading the facilities the mistakes of the former Government would not get into the project at Consett Bay. I was present in 1985 when another fishing area on that coast was being, so to speak, upgraded. It consisted of a great deal of work.
10.55 a.m.

I was present and I saw the work going on. At the end of that, all of that work was for nought. The fishing people in Tent Bay have now to go all the way to Bridgetown to fish because of the unsuitability of

their area. I heard the Leader of Government Business also speak about the channel. That was exactly what happened in Tent Bay. This beautiful slipway was built in the wrong place. Several local fishermen had told them that it was not the right place but the experts told them it was, and now it is just a monument going into the sea overgrown with moss. I am sure that in upgrading Consett Bay all of these things will be looked into and we will be able to see real progress.

I am not going to refer to the great deal of ignorance (and I speak of ignorance in the true meaning of the word, lack of knowledge – of the subject). My colleague is very knowledgeable on certain subjects, but he is certainly not knowledgeable on this subject. I leave it to the others to enlighten him as to what actually is in our manifesto and what has actually taken place for the fishermen of this island.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am supporting this resolution and I want to make some observations. I think it must be clear to everyone as Senator Barker says that Barbados is an island. One of the things we must seek to do if we are to diversify is to look for the natural areas which we must diversify and of course, the sea is one. Therefore it is natural that we look to the sea.

I think that the concept of opening up the east coast of Barbados in Consett Bay has to be one of the great priorities. I notice that Senator Barker is talking about Speightstown, but we have to understand that Barbados is 21x16. We are a very small island and if you drive for 3 hours in any one direction – and you mention that the road in St. Peter is very good – whether you come from St. Lucy or Speightstown you get to the east coast. The traffic goes in both directions. It does not only go eastward but westward as well.

The point is that if we are to develop the fishing industry we will want to be sure that we strategically locate fishing areas that will probably stimulate the whole of the country. You talk about upgrading the quality of the fishermen. Let me say that about 6 weeks ago I was watching a very interesting programme on television and there I saw a young man whom I knew as a child who is a product of one of the grade 1 secondary schools in Barbados who had gone to England and had done very well in the RAF. There he was out there dedicating his life to fishing.

You will find that we will get more people of this calibre to go into fishing because the young people have recognised that there is a future. You have to do precisely what that young man is doing, that is, dedicate your life to it.

Fishing can no longer be something where you go out at 2 o'clock in the morning and come back at 6 o'clock in the afternoon. It has to be a profession. So we have to approach it from that aspect.

I would like to answer a couple of points made. I was very interested in that you said we have to look at security and Senator Cole in his address talked about the problems of fishing as compared to agriculture in which we have praedial larceny. I was surprised to hear Senator Barker say that we can condone people going into others' economic zones and fishing, and that the Government should do something about it. What you are talking about is another form of praedial larceny. If there are laws saying that you must...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is slightly misquoting me. I never said condone. I said we need to get agreements between the islands.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: I am making the point that there are laws existing, agreed to by all of the Caribbean countries, that say there is a 12-mile limit. Although we have strong feelings for our own fishermen... I do not know what the facts are as I was not even in Barbados. If they went into the 12-mile limit and fished in St. Vincent's waters then we can ask the mercy of the St. Vincent Government. We cannot condone their breaking the law. That is tantamount to going into somebody's ground and digging up their carrots. You cannot do that. There are laws that say that you fish without the 12-mile zone.

With respect to agreements, I agree that we must have agreements. One of the things I would like to see the private sector do in this country – I know that there is a mad rush to get into Guyana – in conjunction with Government, is to look at the fishing possibilities in Guyanese waters. When I talk about Guyanese waters I am not only talking about the marine waters but the inland waters, up the rivers.

We know that in the world today there is overfishing in the sea. You talk about the Japanese and the Taiwanese, but do not forget the Europeans. They are also overfishing in our waters. As a matter of fact, because of that the Lomé Convention has just set up a working group of fisheries of which I think Namibia is the rapporteur. I think Surinam or Jamaica has presence on that body. The focus is that we are depleting the sea of catches of fish. That is the important part.

Scientific evidence has suggested that the fish stock is being depleted and what we have to do in the future is to look to the inland waterways. I think that Barbados would do well if it jumps the gun and has an agreement with Guyana in their fish-filled inland waterways.

The Japanese boats go out fishing and when they catch the fish and come back ashore all they have to do is to offload the canned fish because everything is mechanically done on the boats. We are really not in a position to compete with that sort of situation.

I think I am correct in saying – and the Leader of the House can probably clarify – that we have a fishing agreement with Belize. If we are serious about fishing we have to look at exploring all the possibilities and if we have a signed agreement that we can fish in the waters off Belize maybe with our fishermen with new approaches coming on stream we need to look at the possibilities of exploiting that situation. I think that the fish industry offers a great potential for Barbados. Senator Fraser whispered to me a fact that I did not know. Barbados eats more fish than any other country in the world per person. I really thought it was some of the Scandinavian countries but I have not seen the statistics.

I think our fishing industry has now not to concentrate on local production so much as it has to concentrate on fish for export earning dollars overseas. I think here is where our agreement with Belize and some agreement with Guyana to fish in the inland waters with some joint venture between the private sector and Government could be explored when we recognise that in the future we face stiff competition against the Japanese and Taiwanese and the Europeans.

The other area which we have to look at seriously is fish farming. I know of one country in Africa where they have been farming shrimp for export to the European markets.

11.05 a.m.

I think these are areas we have to look at very seriously. It is not so labour intensive. It is highly productive. It is highly mechanised but it is a money earner. I think with the kind of young people we have in Barbados who are adaptable to training, these are areas we need to look at in terms of fishing. I hope this whole concept area will be a nidus for us in Barbados to look seriously at the fishing industry and new ways at how we can upgrade and bring Barbados more foreign currency.

With that, Mr. President, I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I support the Resolution wholeheartedly. I recall just recently this year when we were celebrating Fisherman's Day going to Consett Bay. The conditions there are not right for present day thinking about fishing when we are thinking of farming from the sea and also from the land, as was mentioned. You will find in those areas fishermen want to do things professionally. A lot of them have been trained but because of the lack of facilities they are not able to do

it. I therefore welcome this Resolution. I know the Government is very far in its thinking.

One Senator mentioned about training but I know the Government has implemented many training programmes for fishermen. I do know it is a regulation that fishing boats must be properly equipped. At least they must have radios so that the Fisheries Division can talk to them. The whole question of training has been vigorously attacked. They are going on to greater and higher things.

Recently an aquaculture association has been formed through the Barbados Agricultural Society. There are a number of young enterprising fishermen in that area. However, one of the things which concerns me greatly in the area of fishing is the pollution we are getting off the shores which has killed out the fish. Any experienced fisherman will tell you that they used to be able to get a lot of small fish, sprats, jacks and pot fish which people were able to utilise in their daily diet, although our fishing intake in Barbados is something like 60 lbs per head per person. We eat a lot of fish in this country. When the big fish season was off, we used to be able to have all these other small fishes. Indeed we had them all year round. The pollution has caused a lot of these fishes to die out. They do not come any more.

What we need to look at is the building up of some artificial reefs with the old cars. I know that was on the drawing card at some time. It is a bit sad now that we cannot even get a sea-egg and now Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines are supplying everybody with sea-eggs. Sea-egg was a Barbadian delicacy. What we need is a new attitude, not an attitude from the Government. Everybody thinks Government is to do everything. We need a new attitude to fishing among our people themselves. They need to understand that if you have something and you destroy it it takes a long time to rebuild.

I remember someone had advanced that if Barbados was able to stop catching sea-eggs for a while our population would have built back up and everybody joked and thought it was foolishness. People still went about their way trying to steal out the sea-eggs even earlier than the harvesting time. Now we have them no more.

I remember the exercise in St. Kitts where the UNDP assisted them with their lobsters. For 2 years the fishermen of St. Kitts could not interfere with lobsters. They waited their time. They caught other fish and the lobsters then became bigger and better. Their lobster export trade is fantastic. If we had waited we could have built up that sea-egg population again. But there is a lot of pollution along the various coastlines where one used to be able to get a lot of pot fish.

I remember down by Hart's Gap, along Palm Beach and those areas you could get any amount of fish. I

think in planning for tourism and hotel building, we have to look seriously at whether we want the hotels only or we want fish to help feed the tourists. We have to think about that very seriously. We have to consider our coastal waters. We have to consider whether we are going to pollute them and have no fish or we are going to build hotels in other areas and stop the pollution so we can get a better fish.

With respect to the nutritional value of fish which was mentioned, that is true. Fish is a very nutritious dish. It is easily digestible especially when it is boiled. As I was saying to Senator Dr. Simmons, the problem is that too many people eat too much fried fish, therefore the high rate of cholesterol makes them sick. They can have a nice piece of baked fish. It can also be broiled, boiled or steamed. It tastes just as good if it is broiled or baked. It can be baked and stuffed, rolled over or something like that but you need to get away from the fried fish.

Also, when it comes to processing, I visited Ocean Fisheries here in Barbados which I think a lot of people can take an example from. They have done an excellent job. The employment rate there is quite high. The fishing industry there can employ a large number of people. I think right now there are about 600 people who fish officially. I am not talking about the unofficial ones. But then, Ocean Fisheries has gone a step further. They have the long-line boats. They now package and export fish. They smoke or dry them. Young Morgan has been drying fish and doing various things with them.

What was amazing to me is we allowed Tobago to get into that area first. When I was invited down by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to show them how to prepare the flying fish, I did not think that very shortly we would have such a thriving export industry. I happened to stay with Honour Louis. She was an architect. But here is an architect who saw that fish processing would bring her great financial rewards. She went over to Trinidad with Professor Sammy and did a year's study in fish processing. Now she has one of the very thriving factories. She is smoking, salting and exporting flying fish. Now she has gone on to dolphin. I am saying this because we in Barbados are still importing tuna, mackerel and so on. Many of these long-line boats bring in tuna. If we had a small industry, I believe small is beautiful, we could start very small to can some tuna. We have the technology in Barbados. We have all sorts of food technologists in Barbados who worked in Canada and all over the world. So we have the technical resources already. All it needs to do is to start as Honour Louis started, that is, small. Then she got a bigger place from there – the IDC.

We in Barbados in the private sector have to do like the same Jonathan Morgan and Ocean Fisheries. Start somewhere. I think this is a challenge to the private sector to get out there and get. We know that fishing is beneficial

to the country. It is going to be a high employment generating activity. If you take a visit up there at Warrens at Ocean Fisheries, you will see the various processes that the fish go through to ensure that you get quality and there is a large number of women who are employed in this particular business. If we had at least 10 factories operating like that in Barbados right now, you could see the amount of employment that that could bring for people.
11.15 a.m.

I hope that in the very near future those persons who have some money to start up a business or those who need some help with some capital will seek that assistance. I am not sure that the Foundation can help you with that kind of money, those thousands that you would really need. If you are starting small we can help you. But nevertheless it is worthwhile exploring to see if the National Development Foundation can help you. But we have two Senators here who are associated and affiliated closely with the banking sector. But I think more than that, Mr. President, we need to publicise the importance of fishing, not only during fisherman's week. I know I had to work very hard to get the media out there to go in these nooks and crannies to take these fisherfolk. We as Barbadians must realize that fishermen are very important people to the development of this economy and not treat them like second class people. There was a whole lot of backward and forward writing during fisherman's week saying that they do not see why fishermen should come to the Hilton to get awards. It just shows you that people believe that women or men who work in agriculture and people who do fishing are not people to sit down in good chairs and eat with a knife and fork. We have to get rid of that attitude from our society. That is why we were happy to highlight a number of fishermen and to let people know that there is also boat building; there is the art of sculling. There are so many things involved in the fishing industry that are arts. There are specialized fields. All those young men who we see going out on those long line boats are very specially trained. We continue to train them in Barbados and there are people from the other islands who also get some of our training too.

I hope that many of the people in the private sector who have money lying down on the banks will not let it stay there. If they are truly nationalistic, they will take up some of that money, invest in long line fishing and invest in the processing industry. That is a quick thing that can turn around things in a short time for the benefit of Barbadians. Also the aquaculture. I was happy when we talked about the agreement. I think, subject to correction, that Barbados does have an agreement already with Guyana. Shrimp is a delicacy. If we can have our fishermen go there – and we have a lot of people who were going there before on the shrimp boats – and bring in shrimp here, I think the price will be reduced also and

we could get people to package it. Again that is labour and we will be able to employ people.

There was a time when we used to have people filleting a lot of fish in collaboration with the BMC. Whoever it is with, I should like to see that time again. But in order to see that time again we have to look at the environment. We have to look at our coastlines; we have to build up artificial reefs; and we have to see that we keep the sea clean and not let people destroy what is there because one of these days we will get up and find that we are not able to get any fish at all nowhere near the shores of Barbados. That is why we will keep getting into the controversy with other islands and so on until that proper Caribbean agreement is made.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, it is true this is the season of Advent but it does not mean that I must not take this debate seriously Christmas or no Christmas.

I listened to Senator Barker this morning waxing, ranging very wide and demonstrating a level of abysmal ignorance which is incredible. This Government has a comprehensive policy statement on fisheries. This is a document of this House. It is "Into the 90's and Beyond" the 1991 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party at page 12. With your permission, Sir, I will read the opening statement:

"A DLP Government will implement programmes in fisheries development which will revolutionize the industry and significantly enhance the standard of living of those engaged in the industry. The DLP intends to ensure that the fishing community takes its rightful position as an equal partner in modern industry. We recognize the sea around us as our most plentiful resource, and it is imperative that appropriate strategies be devised to exploit our marine resources. The DLP fisheries policy is geared toward harvesting, processing and marketing large quantities of fish for domestic consumption and for export. We envisage the canning, salting and drying of fish, and the pulverization of fish bones and heads to produce a cheap high protein livestock feed."

Then it sets out and I will now go on to read the rest of it:

"A DLP Government will seek to implement the following policies:"

I move immediately to:

"6. Upgrading of the fish markets at Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay."

This policy statement is a comprehensive statement about technology, about the physical development of the industry. I want to reject, as complete nonsense and ignorance, this notion Senator Barker is advocating that this Government has now read the policy statement put out by the Barbados Labour Party in its Manifesto. It is foolishness. This is a comprehensive policy statement. This is what the Government is committed to. It is not a matter of waiting until things happen and coming inside here with something as if this Government operates on a fly-by-night basis. I am talking about a thinking Government, a Government with vision.

Senator Barker and Senator Fraser talked about elevating the status of fishermen. I am not one of those people who subscribe to that kind of talk. We do not elevate people's status by telling them, "Oh, we think highly of you." That is not the way.

Mr. President, I think we have to ask, "How does one acquire..."

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: On a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, let us hear your point of order.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Yes, Mr. President, I think Senator Alleyne may have understood me a little incorrect. I did not mention the word elevating either. Maybe it is Senator Barker who did.

My point was made with reference to the way that the people think, the attitude to fishermen.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: I think Senator Fraser is talking about the perception of fishing people. It is how people perceive them. The Senator is talking about their elevation and status. I do not subscribe to that kind of notion.

One has to ask the question, how does one acquire mobility in a social sense? You acquire it by substantial improvement of your income status. You acquire it either by some access to some high professional status. But it does not mean anything when people say "Oh we think differently of you." In the final analysis, it comes down to your earning power. That is what it comes down to.

I have to say that I agree with the point made by Senator Fraser. She did not make it in the way in which I put it. But I think it is important, from the point of view of the fishing industry and its development, that Government seeks to integrate fully economic and environmental policy.

I know Senator Fraser spoke about artificial reefs. I am very much aware that Senator Clarke some time ago made a policy statement, in his capacity as Minister for the Environment, where he set out a programme for the pulling together of the agencies which deal with environmental policy. It is one which I wholeheartedly support because it is the only approach which makes sense.

Let me say, Mr. President, for too long we have dealt with the environment as an afterthought. If it is one of the things we have to do in 1993, it is to put the environment where it belongs, as the number one priority in our planning, and not treat it as something when an accident happens then you attend to it. That is how we have gone along, certainly until this day. We have talked a lot about it; we have not taken it seriously and we are at the point where we are going to pay for it.
11.25 a.m.

The Government has not only committed itself to improving the facilities at Coasett Bay – I am not going back to it, because I do not want to detain Honourable Senators – but every single point which Senator Barker made is included in this policy statement. Not only is it included, it is included in a coherent way. That makes the difference. It is a coherent policy statement. My only urging is that the Minister responsible for fisheries and the Government faithfully commit themselves to this policy statement. Once this is done, the fishing industry will benefit and Barbados will benefit.

On this matter, Mr. President, which was mentioned, people coming into our waters and exploiting our reserves of fish, I think it is time that in the Caribbean we stop talking about coordinating action and we do it. Barbados as a small island state does not have the resources to adequately protect its marine resources. In the Caribbean we are indulging in acts of futility. Fishermen from Barbados stray into the Vincentian waters, you hold them; you stray into the waters of Tobago, you hold them. I am for upholding the law, but I think we have to look to the larger goal. Who is doing something about the South Koreans who come down here and rape our seas? I have never heard of one of them being arrested.

Aside.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: If they were arrested, I do not know of it, but you will hold a couple of fishermen from Barbados. It does not speak well for us as a people in the Caribbean at this time.

Mr. President, I believe that the Barbados Government, with respect to the development of the fishing industry, should initiate a discussion with other members of CARICOM, and in time we can move it beyond the other members of CARICOM to the French speaking, to the Dutch speaking and the Spanish speaking, and let us join

together and police our region. We have to do it together. If we do not do it together, not one of us will succeed.

I am happy to see that the Government, with respect to fisheries, is staying true to its Manifesto. I welcome the support of Senator Barker on this measure, but I would caution him, read the document carefully.

Mr. President, I am happy to support this Resolution. I am much obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I welcome this acquisition for the development of Coasett Bay. I think that the Government should be very highly commended to be able to bring about this present development. We have always pursued a very concrete policy of upgrading fishing harbours and the reason why this has taken so long is because we never intended to have any piecemeal development on that part of the island. We have now come up with this and we should be able to come up with a full comprehensive plan for proper facilities in that part of Barbados which was so in need of that kind of development for a long time.

We have always, as a party, been in the forefront of fisheries development and I did not know I would hear today Senator Barker talking about developing a fishing fleet. After the destruction of the fishing fleet – 30 fishing trawlers – which this Government had acquired for this country, and which, on the accession to power in 1976, that party to which he happens to belong as an honourable member, went about a systematic destruction of, by selling those 30 fishing trawlers, even when we had been already engaged at that time with a fisheries institute and had trained 18 young Barbadian gentlemen to man those trawlers. Instead, when they qualified, after 18 months of training, there were no boats for them to man. That is the kind of party you belong to, who not only sold the boats, but did not care anything about the human development.

At that time we used to pay the upkeep for one student in Trinidad, the same amount you would pay to keep a fellow in Jamaica doing medicine. The cost per student was \$5 000 per year and we were so intent on upgrading the quality of life of fishermen and young boys in this country, that we had put a young investment on the youth of this country, and when all of them graduated, after 18 months' training in Trinidad, there were no boats for them to go on through the wicked policy pursued by the Barbados Labour Party Government at that time. Now you are talking about developing the fishing industry! You must read the history of your party and the sins they have committed over the years as far as fishing is concerned. Then you come in here and say you want to debate fishing. I do not forget these things, so when you come to fishing, and whatever you want for fishermen. . . .

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not "You", the Honourable Member or ...

SENATOR A. MORRISON: ...or fishing development, you must listen to the DLP bible. We have always been in the forefront of having progressive ideas for the fishing industry and we have pursued a systematic course. On our return to power in 1986 we completed the Bridgetown fishing complex. We had a real plan for Oistin's fishing development and that again was adumbrated by your party and we have a half baked fishing development at Oistin which is nowhere near what we had agreed to with the European Development Fund. You have destroyed all the plans we had for it; all you did at the time was to develop Oistin to suit the whims and fancies of some particular person; dig drainage at Oistin; take up a long stretch of coastline you did not really need; opened a big sea front and the fishing requirements at Oistin are very inadequate to suit the kind of fleet we have at Oistin to this day. We continue to suffer because of the short-sighted policies pursued by the Barbados Labour Party when it comes to fishing and the fisherfolk in this country.

You all cannot teach us about fishing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not "you all", Senator Morrison.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: They in the Barbados Labour Party, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: As far as the Speightstown development in fishing is concerned...

Aside.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: All right, Sir, because he made a charge against my Government about not doing anything for Speightstown. But it is not my Government; we are not guilty of those things.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Morrison, we cannot have the cross talk and cross charges. I do not encourage that.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I am only making brief reference to the remark he made about the Democratic Labour Party not doing anything for fishing in Speightstown. Whatever was to be done down there, the fishermen said they did not want any harbour at the time. We met the fishermen's desires and we improved the jetty at that time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please remember that if you make your contribution on this subject at this time I shall not permit repetition when we come to that subject.

11.35 a.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, as far as Tent Bay is concerned, that also needs upgrading. We always have that in mind, but that is a very difficult area. There are very obvious problems at Tent Bay. However you try to widen the channel, the boats still find great difficulty in beaching there. When you come to the channel sometimes you can make it easily. Sometimes you cannot make it at all; the boats and the fish go overboard and the fishermen have to try not to be drowned.

That is an engineering difficulty which we have not been able to solve. Many people have looked at it over the years, but we seem not to be able to come up with an exact blueprint to solve the problem. I believe when we have been able to upgrade Consett Bay we can turn our attention again to that part of the country because that east coast area is rich in fish. We need boats to develop fishing on the eastern side of the Island. When the Government of Trinidad & Tobago was giving us trouble to fish in their waters some fishermen went east and made some very good catches. It can be very dangerous there for small boats as they might not see this part of the world again. They might end up across the Atlantic.

Sir, this is a development that we all welcome. Government has taken time in order to develop it in the right way and I know that it will bring great rewards to the people on the eastern seaboard.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, what was a simple acquisition resolution turned out to be a general debate on the fisheries policy of Government. However, I have to put the record straight and, indeed, provide some additional information.

The first point Senator Cole made about the matter of the removal of the subsidy which was a subsidy on gasoline. At the present time, 99% of the fishing industry use diesel. So the subsidy on gasoline – I did not wish to continue the debate last time any longer – was really used only by a handful of people who in any case could use an oarboat. They do not have to use an outboard engine. It is the sports fishermen who will not be able to use the subsidy any more.

Secondly, Government's policy at the present time is to waive the duty on boats and engines if they are imported for exclusive use in the fishing industry. Quite recently, some adventurous entrepreneurs in the fishing industry have brought in boats much larger than the existing long line fishing boats. I am told by one of them that his first 3 weeks at sea have brought him substantial returns as a result of his catches being exported in toto because he did not need to use them locally. I know of 3 such persons who have these very large boats which are going out east and getting the fish. I believe that 6 of them will provide the sort of returns and revenues from exports that the Government is anticipating. There is much potential and

it is being realised because of these exports to North America.

The question of the fishermen and the way in which people see them and the points made by Dr. Alleyne – I only have to comment that the fishermen not only are provided with opportunities; they are being trained, and not only in Barbados. There is a CARICOM Resource Management Programme which provides additional training for persons in the fishing industry, including persons in the management of the industry. In Barbados, our individual fishermen will develop as much as they are able to understand the opportunities which are provided through involvement in cooperatives. When these fishermen can come together and unify themselves as a cooperative group, they will be able to benefit immensely from the opportunities inherent in their activities at sea.

The development of Consett Bay, as Dr. Alleyne pointed out, is one of the pledges in the manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party. It will certainly be a benefit to the fishermen in that area because they now bring their boats to Bridgetown and to Oistin because of the difficulties of getting into Consett Bay if they come in after dark. When Consett Bay is upgraded and there are proper and adequate lighting and hauling up facilities for the boats, then they will head to Consett Bay rather than trek into Bridgetown. That activity when completed will take the pressure off the Bridgetown and Oistin fishing complexes.

In relation to the question of the problem of overfishing done east of Barbados and, indeed, within our own exclusive economic zone, the need for protection exists. Already the Government has started discussions with the Government of France in its responsibility for Martinique and Guadeloupe. We have started discussions and approaches via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we hope to include Trinidad & Tobago in this because it is our problems with Trinidad & Tobago which are highlighted, but there are several other problems which could occur unless we are able to go out there properly armed with enough security forces to be able to prevent the Taiwanese and the South Koreans from poaching fish within our exclusive economic zone. Although something is moving in that direction, it is moving slowly. CARICOM is also engaged in the exercise because Surinam has indicated an interest in getting into this activity.

In addition, Mr. President, the Government has taken some new initiatives and a new Fisheries Act has already been drafted and is in the hands of the Ministry of the Attorney General. I anticipate that before the middle of 1993 that legislation will come to Parliament which will strengthen the opportunities which are available to fishermen and will also provide legislation which has some relationship to the other countries in CARICOM. Among other things that legislation will seek to achieve what we

have been talking about with Trinidad & Tobago and which we need to enter into with the other islands. It is an arrangement whereby in the areas which overlap there will not be the stupid behaviour which occurred recently when a boat was hijacked and taken to St. Vincent and the whole catch taken away by officials in that country.

Finally, Mr. President, let me assure the Honourable the Senate that Government is committed to improvement in its fisheries administration. It is doing this by the provision of new facilities for the Fisheries Department which are presently under construction at Princess Alice Highway, a building on which work had ceased earlier this year but has not started again and it is further anticipated that sometime in 1993 the Fisheries Department will be able to move away from the premises at Bay Street which are altogether inadequate premises which it is impossible to repair and they will be relocated at new premises at Princess Alice Highway.

11.45 a.m.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

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

ORDER NO 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER TO FACIL-
ITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SPEIGHTSTOWN
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution deals with the acquisition of lands in relation to the Development Plan for Speightstown which was pursued at another time when the Speightstown By-Pass Road was constructed, when the new facilities for the Transport Board were made available and subsequently with the development of the Heywood's Hotel in that area. This proposal is to provide open spaces and also to ensure that the general conditions for Speightstown are developed and pursued in accordance with that Plan. The Plan includes the refurbishing of certain buildings and the demolition of some, the removal of traffic congestion and such other amenities as will make life somewhat more pleasant for the citizens of Speightstown.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, I feel almost compelled to make a few observations on this Resolution. I know it is an all inclusive plan but a few observations, I think, are very much in place especially from someone who has spent the greater part, even at this stage, of a life in that area.

I am pleased, Mr. President, that it is a development plan, as distinct from face-lifting. While we may commend the private sector in Speightstown for all the work they have done in giving a new look, so to speak, to Speightstown, their face-lifting is in tune with, and in accordance with, their constructions. In the light of historic Speightstown, this is new. It is a different type of development. Speightstown has a uniqueness about it and a certain individuality of character. It lends to development but with preservation and, hopefully, not destruction. It would be a pity if in the Development Plan certain features are destroyed.

Mr. President, full consideration must be given all through the process of this development and construction to special peculiarities about this area. Chief among these is its proneness to flooding. Flooding has plagued the very existence of this particular area. It has to be accommodated and looked at in every stage.

In the 1960s the Alexandra School staged a pageant named "Speightstown Through the Ages", a truly historic pageant. It was very well researched and because of that it was informative and educational. It formed the basis of several public displays. I submit that research of this nature should be a prerequisite for any development programme especially if this development programme requires diversion of roads, relocation of people, construction of buildings and the like, and removal of natural growth of any sort.

The flood of October 31 to November 1, 1984 which followed hard upon the heels of the construction of the Speightstown By-Pass Road, very nearly caused the complete destruction of the Alexandra School and that included yours truly who was the Principal at that time. I say that without any reservations.

Rehabilitation of that whole area and especially that school which was done entirely by the staff of the Alexandra School, and I repeat, entirely by the staff of the Alexandra School, was an unforgettable experience. I submit, that if the foreign experts and our local people who were responsible for the educational project that was near its completion at that time had listened, or paid attention or even held any form of respect for the opinions of the people there who knew and still know, I believe the results would have been different and the losses fewer. It is a common failing among our Barbadians to react rather than to act. I think in this particular Development Plan we have to give this our heavy consideration.

I feel certain, Mr. President, that in preserving we might not want to preserve something like the name, "Little Bristol" which identified Speightstown itself with direct trading with its counterpart in Britain, probably because of the connotations of colonialism. But there are certain other features, and I will name one only, that I think with proper

adaptation could be preserved. There are some overhanging galleries to some buildings. These are so historic because they go right back to the date of William Spike, after whom Speightstown was named, and the practice of living on the upper quarters of these buildings they used as living quarters for those people who occupied the lower quarters for their business. That practice is still in operation in a street in Speightstown. I think, in spite of the hazards that could result from our big container trucks and other oversized vehicular traffic, something like that could be preserved rather than destroyed.

Another point, Mr. President. I know that the fishing area comes under this Development Plan. I would hope that a large enough share of this development pie could be taken to that fishing complex which supplies catches all year round, catches that are sought after island-wide. If this is not included in the Development Plan I should hope that something should be done about it and special provision made for its management and maintenance so we would not suffer the fate of the Oistin Fish Complex which has been very much publicised within recent times.

Mr. President, I should also like to make reference to the parish cemetery. I hope it will come within the boundaries or it will be considered in the Development Plan. I suspect that probably the answer to the problem of the cemetery is relocation and that, of course, would be a serious thing.

But anything done would be an improvement. It is distressing to think, it is almost a disgrace that that historic Quaker building – and I was made to understand that the architecture was Quaker – should be completely destroyed over the years. I think it is a disgrace. It has become more and more of a chore for the living to attend the burial of the dead at this particular cemetery.
11.55 a.m.

I think it is time that we overcome those petty differences which I have been made to understand caused that cemetery to be in the state that it is. Another point, Mr. President, and this is, I consider, quite a tall order. It might not be within the immediate planning of the development but I would hope that the implementation of this plan would be an incentive to the setting up of a cinema in the north. I would hope that some adventurous entrepreneur or team of adventurous entrepreneurs would look into such a project.

Since the days of the Asta, some of us would remember the Asta, the Asta had its heyday in the 1940s and 1950s and its unfortunate demise in the late 1950s. Since that time the people of the North have been starved of large screen entertainment. Admittedly, there has been the television and the videos. But the advent of television and, most recently, videos caters to a different pattern of consumption. People all over Barbados still desire the

large screen entertainment. I would hope that something would be done in the near future in that direction.

I note, Mr. President, that part of the land that is now being acquired is in the precincts of the historic salt pond, a unique feature in this island. I caution, handle with care.

I should like at this stage, Mr. President, to throw some bouquets in the direction of the bus facility in Speightstown. I am really proud of it – very proud of it. I think that congratulations should be given to its management and maintenance staff. I am happy and I do this with a certain amount of pride. I take my grandchildren there ever so often to enjoy its facilities and to see something that has been done in their generation by people of our generation.

Mr. President, another observation is that the Speightstown Development Plan would have had the unmatched support and honest support of several of the stalwarts of Speightstown. Many of them have passed on. I call to mind families like the Husbands, the late K.N.R. "Doc" Husbands, the Jordans, the Gills, the Rollocks, all would have been proud of this Development Plan. I am happy about it. I support it. I am happy and pleased to see that it is becoming a reality. I hope, Mr. President, we will take great care to see that we do what is right.

I support this resolution, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss YVONNE V. WALKES: Mr. President, I rise to support this resolution because I realize that it will give growth and cohesive development to Speightstown. I very much agree with the point that Speightstown possesses a fine architectural heritage worthy of preservation and special attention. You would note that in the Development Plan that was done in the 1980s Speightstown is defined, with Oistin, as a regional centre second only to Bridgetown. It was meant to provide a balanced community life for all the people of Barbados and also to reduce the pressure of traffic and congestion from Bridgetown. I realize that this development could also be used as a centre for tourists. I will deal with that a little later.

Let me just say that this land in the area where it is being acquired is a very worthwhile piece of land. It stands out. When you come from the Alexandra School you can see this land very bushy at the moment, but it can become a very beautiful area. I am hoping, Mr. President, that the National Conservation Commission will take this area seriously and really have an imaginative plan for it and in the midst of beautifying that area – because it is not suitable for housing or any buildings, so therefore we do not have to look at that – and making it worthwhile, with an open space, will realise that it is necessary to erect a

plaque really bringing out the heritage of Speightstown. I am saying that we have to look at a very good way of doing this to make sure that that plaque is outstanding.

Mr. President, Speightstown is an area that needs so much attention that even though the Development Plan that has been looked at even since 1969, and again in 1980, since so many things have happened and even now with the economic downturn, and a number of the areas that were highlighted in that Plan were actually implemented, we now need a comprehensive review plan for Speightstown. I am worried about these sporadic views and everybody thinks you should put something here, you should look at the buildings and just remodel them and push down what is to be pushed down. I am saying that right now we need to have a comprehensive review plan to really understand what is going on and, furthermore, have architectural sketches so that people can see what the impressions that are made for development look like.

Right now a Committee has met the tourist industry, with other areas like St. Lawrence to see what can happen in the areas for tourism. But the St. Lawrence area is going along quite fine because the private sector in that area has spent some money, has architectural sketches and all that and the people who are involved in funding the project are very keen on looking at the St. Lawrence area. But the Speightstown area does not have any kind of architectural plans. Therefore it is not seen in the light that I would hope it is seen although we have not written it off in terms of a community. I am saying "we", in terms of my being a participant, not a member of any Government team, in the hope that Speightstown would be developed as really a regional centre as it was intended for Barbados. I am saying that we need something comprehensive and we need the private sector to get involved, the business people in Speightstown to get involved and prepare a plan before hand.

12.05 p.m.

Before the lending agency can give any kind of credence to development they will sponsor, they need to have something concrete, because lending agencies will want to know how are they going to get back their money, or how the whole project is put in place before. But we need to have money spent on it before we can see anything concrete for further development.

I am saying we will need to have lending now, because with the economic downturn I do not think that in the very near future, about a year or two, it might be able to be done by the Government, based on what is happening in the country and in the world, if one can say that. If the Ministers have a different view on how quickly it can be done by Government, I would be glad if they can tell me. But based on my overall look at things I cannot see that hope forthcoming.

I am saying, Mr. President, that because of the need for this comprehensive plan, although we do not have it as yet, we are still looking at a number of things that can be done. As we look further across from that same piece of land which is being acquired we will see an area which the people have been using for sports and for a long time a sports complex had been promised for that area. It is time we look at having sporting facilities, a playing field properly designated and also a pavilion is necessary, even if we have to get it out of wood. But the point is we need to have something there where the young people can be more comfortable in that area. If you read the papers and you listen to the sports you will see that the people of St. Peter, not of Speightstown alone, are very much involved in sport – maybe more than some people in other areas of the island who have better facilities than they have – and at every level they are very much involved in sport. Therefore, they need to be encouraged and it is a very meaningful way of involving themselves in things of a recreational nature, and they should be encouraged by providing facilities for them. I am asking that that area be looked at properly.

There was an area which was designated for it, but to look at the surrounding areas of this acquired land – because I am hoping that a number of things could be done – and if we look at the whole question of bringing business to Speightstown to encourage the business people also to spend money on assisting in developing Speightstown, you will see a projection and suggestions from many people – I suggested it a few years ago – of having a jetty. There used to be jetties once upon a time in Speightstown; this is nothing new. They have now all gone and there is need to have a jetty. There is also the suggestion to bring in cruise ships so that tourists can come to that part of the island as well. This would of course generate employment. It would also help a number of businesses to be formed and also make the North much more improved, thus causing the tourists to see what the entire island is like and not to be caught up just in the Bridgetown and surrounding areas, and maybe even only to Oistin, but see what the northern part of the island looks like.

There is a lot of talk about a fishing complex. I realise that a fishing complex was highlighted in the Development Plan and everyone is very keen on having a fishing complex. Of course we know that there were some problems with the siting of that fishing complex. When the other administration was running this country they had suggested an area by Fort Denmark, which the fisher people rejected. There is not much that can be done to improve the old area or expand it, and therefore there is a need to look for a new site.

I am saying it is time we look for this new site. We are talking about Speightstown being compared to Oistin, both of them being regional centres, and I am saying that Oistin has its problems but at least it has something.

Speightstown needs something, not only for Speightstown, because we are talking about St. Lucy, St. Thomas, St. Andrew and the same St. Peter. People from those areas would be involved in this fishing complex, and based upon what I can see we need to reclaim land to get this fishing complex done, because it seems to me that nothing is pleasing at the moment in terms of how to expand the area there. The other one suggested is not in focus any longer, but we need to do something about getting that fishing complex on the road.

The people have been very contented and trying to make good with what they have. We must compliment them for that, but I am saying that at Six Men's and in Speightstown proper the people there need to have something to continue. At this time when we in Barbados are talking so much about trying to get our local business going, we need to ensure that in every area we have the best and that we encourage our people. Fisheries is one of the areas the North has been able to utilise and be independent in. We have a number of fisher people who have their own businesses and who have expanded those businesses with very small resources. They have managed to do that and I think there is the need to encourage them and understand what is happening to them so that they can broaden their businesses and make good for themselves.

Let me just say that close by that same area we are talking about there is a salt pond. Some people call it a swamp. It needs dredging very regularly so that it can be clean. It is not done regularly. It can be a beautiful area if it is kept going. You will be surprised to hear that fish usually are in this area and when it is not kept clean we are assisting in killing the fish. I think we need to encourage not only the life of the fish but the breeding of fish in that area. There is also a bridge which can be expanded, beautified and made into a boardwalk where, not only the local people, not only the people who visit, the tourists we are talking about will be able to enjoy, because it goes right through from the area of Queen's Street, through the middle of Speightstown, into the Church Street area and people can go on right to the Heywoods development and the Heywoods Hotel.

12.15 p.m.

Speightstown is so central to everything that it can be utilised. I am concerned because, although there has been development in terms of what was projected in the Development Plan from the 80's and there is the by-pass road, I do not think that there sufficient life and business have been generated in Speightstown to make it the kind of regional centre that we are talking about. The development has not lent enough to the kind of concept that we want to see an Old San Juan or some place like that.

We have to feel better about it ourselves. That is what I am trying to get through. We in Barbados, we in the North, we in the Government and the Opposition have

a role to play because I see this as a developmental thing. I am trying to get away from the old concept of Speightstown because I hope business people will not take it as a governmental thrust only. We have to feel something about the heritage of this place that we are talking about. It has nothing to do with whether you are a politician or not. It maybe has more to do with whether you are a northerner or a Barbadian.

I have been to school in Speightstown all of my life although I live just a stone's throw outside of Speightstown. If you can feel what it is like to understand that you want to maintain the buildings and see the heritage preserved and life in Speightstown even more so than it used to be. I think we need to bring back some of that life which I think it has lost. Although there are new buildings, new shopping centres, banks and businesses all around, a nice highway and all that, we need to do things within Speightstown that bring out that heritage more and encourage people to go there.

This development of Speightstown cannot survive if we are talking about a comprehensive review plan unless we talk about the surrounding areas – Round-the-Town, Gills Terrace. When we talk about them we remember the flood areas. People are still very concerned. As a matter of fact, some of them are very scared when they think that too much rain might fall because of the areas that lend themselves to flooding. Just opposite that same site there is a canal that needs to be serviced regularly so that it would not be blocked and it is still not serviced regularly. There is a need to ensure that the canal is improved because the water is not flowing well.

If we are going to talk about beautification and in the midst of all that people are running in the streets at night afraid when the rain falls that they cannot get out. As you will note there are times when some of them have to get help to get out of their houses, especially the ones in Gills Terrace opposite the site we are talking about.

The 1984 flood did not help very well when the repairs were done. Although a lot of money was spent it was not well spent and therefore the improvement is not there for us to see. We need to get away from that kind of narrow development in terms of individual progress when we have national disasters like that one and make sure that the money is well spent in the areas.

Therefore, I am saying that if we look at our flood areas we would also better serve the people because they would be more contented. You cannot have them looking at a beautiful area – and I can imagine it very beautiful with a plaque and all that bringing out its heritage – while, just opposite, people are worried that they are not going to have their furniture or their various personal belongings intact if there is a heavy rain. We have to pay attention to that.

Mr. President, throughout all of this talk about development and making Speightstown a regional centre and making it worthwhile with sports complex, looking at the bridge, looking at the salt pond and looking at the fisheries complex and ensuring that our people can work in peace and become independent and be happy and successful, all of this being looked at properly can help us improve Speightstown so that it can be an area of which we can all be proud.

I want to support the Resolution with those few words. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. President. In supporting the Resolution there are many things that are brought to mind: Speightstown and its inherent beauty and its historical importance to the whole development of Barbados. I see in the Development Plan a number of things which will be done for Speightstown. This is refreshing but I, like other Senators, feel very strongly about doing something whether building bridges or raising Speightstown to stop that flooding.

I do not think that people are going to want to invest money in any place where they have to be afraid to live. I believe that the Government has been looking at all these areas – St. Andrew and Speightstown – where there are problems when rain falls.

We are dealing with Speightstown in particular which in fact can be like a fisherman's wharf in San Francisco. The sort of scenic beauty of the waterways, the beautiful gardens and waterfalls... I am thinking of a proper fishing complex because the fish market there leaves a lot to be desired. It is something that is really very smutty and dirty and I do not think that is the sort of thing you want to see in a town.

I am happy that Government, in particular the Democratic Labour Party Government, has seen it fit to develop this plan for Speightstown. I like to look for swift implementation. I am also happy that they have the concept of the street market. That street market concept works in a lot of the Scandinavian countries. In Denmark it is really a beautiful thing and it encourages tourists to come in a particular area and the area usually sells the things that pertain to what they do. For instance, you get a lot of sea shells. Some are collected. I myself have collected. They have names on them so that you can carry them home and identify various sea shells which belong to that particular area. This is an industry in itself and can build up quite a lot of employment for persons in Speightstown, St. Lucy and the surrounding areas.

Also, there are many little shops selling fish. Right now we have Fisherman's Pub there. I think it does very well. If we have this Civic Centre where you can have dramatic performances and the park of which we

spoke I believe that that would lend so much to the beauty of Speightstown.

12.25 p.m.

I agree with Senator Straughn when she talks about that cemetery. I do not think there is anything worse than that in Barbados. It is really a disgrace. I think the citizens of Barbados have to think of doing things to help their areas and help develop them.

Senator Walkes mentioned just now about the National Conservation Commission but I wonder whether we could not have a special Speightstown Committee to look at the beautification of certain areas in Speightstown so they can beautify their own place and be proud of it. Rather than looking at what the Government has to offer, look at what I can offer and do for Speightstown where I was born or where my grandfather was born to help make it develop.

The Civic Centre... As I mentioned just now, I would like to see not cinemas but the theatre in a sense where people can have plays and so on – that type of development. The same way people come up to Queen's Park I would like a number of the dramatic performances to take place in Speightstown. That Civic Centre would include all those performances, displays of art and culture.

One of the things I would like to see is a small, maritime museum. Why I say this is when we had Fisherman's Week, the fishermen from Speightstown brought in all the old things like old bottles, shark jars and sticks. They had a very good display of what used to happen. The art of sculling is now being practised in Speightstown. Thank God a lot of young people are learning and they had a sculling race. Of course, you know sculling is a very special art in Germany. It is a big thing. It draws people from other countries. They have these big races. I would like to see a sculling craft developed there where you have sculling going on as a tourist attraction and also for the local people. Certain days a week, if it is Sunday, or whatever you could go and see that. Also the Police Band performing not only in the Band Stand but I am talking about this Civic Centre where they could perform on certain days. Then we could have other cultural activities.

I recall my grandmother telling me how they used to take a schooner from Speightstown to Bridgetown to shop. This is something I feel would do tourism well. I would like to see some suitable boats where tourists can come to Bridgetown, get on that boat and take a boat ride, have a nice snack served to them, and go to Speightstown and shop and come back up from Speightstown by boat. I think that is something I would love to see but on a regular service. Of course we know we have to get the jetty. I believe that will be taken care of. I am saying this in the light that the jetty will be taken care of. I think that would

be a beautiful experience because most countries have up-the-river travels and all sorts of things and they promote them in the various hotels. They can get a lot of fish in Speightstown, nice fried fish, steamed, boiled or however they want. But it will be at the same time promoting the local cuisine and assisting in the development of tourism. More than that, it will be employing people.

I am also glad to see that our industrial development is going to take place in the area. I hope a lot of the industrial development will be based on fish and products from the sea. There are lots of things now people are beginning to utilise such as shells, sea rocks and fans in making crafts. A very worthwhile craft complex can be developed in Speightstown because a lot of the natural resources are already there.

Just off from the fishing market you can get some beautiful stones. All of these things can be exploited to the fullest for the benefit of Barbados and its development. Speightstown can be the hub for those things that pertain to fish. These earrings I am wearing have in fish shells. There is also fish scale jewellery. We go abroad and want to buy them from Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco but we have forgotten that our people have the same skills here. There are a lot of women now making fish scale jewellery and it is sold at a good price.

I would like to see those types of development because Speightstown is associated with fishing and fisheries. Therefore, I would like to see all the things that go with fish developed, the crafts, the culinary skills and also the small maritime library that I talked about where the young people could see the boats as the same sculling boats that were used before. They can see drawings of some of the old methods that people used for fishing before. They can see some of the tools when people used to go out with the little beaded fishing nets. I feel this should be preserved. This would be a tourist attraction in itself and it should be promoted in the Barbados Tourist Guide that we give to people. This little town can create a complete metamorphosis in the area of Barbados.

I would like to see the salt pond developed. We are importing a lot of salted meat in this country. Our pig farmers are ready and rearing to go. I would like to see us develop this and develop it to the stage where we are able to supply coarse salt in order to do our pickling of salt meat because I do think we spend too much money on this type of preserve. We used to do a lot of it ourselves in the old corn jar but we need to get back to doing it now on a commercial basis where people can be employed. The technology is here but we need the people to develop it.

Mr. President, I am looking forward to the day when Speightstown will have all of these necessary things to bring it in line with many of the other countries in the world that have small towns like Speightstown. But if

you listen to the Mayors of these towns it is the amount of revenue that is generated. For instance, in China we visited some small towns like Suzhou. That is a fishing town which reminds me very much of Speightstown. So many things have been developed from fish in that particular town, craft, the museums and things like that.

I am glad also that it is mentioned clearly about the Sewage Treatment Plant. I think that is very important as we look at our environment. I hope great care will be taken with the environmental aspect of Speightstown. Two things which are very important are seeing to it that we have the proper drainage facilities, bridges, or whatever, and also the whole question of not allowing that place to get polluted. We have to be very careful when we start on these things. We do not want people to walk about and pollute the place or hotels develop and give us a further problem. I welcome the Sewage Treatment Plant. I hope that very shortly the whole question of the Speightstown development will come into being. We know that things cannot happen overnight. I am not a person who believes in that.
12.35 p.m.

I think I would take the Chinese side of things. They take a long time sometimes to build buildings. Sometimes they tell you you are looking at a building which took 60 years. We have to develop some patience because they look at the building for their children and their grandchildren, not necessarily for themselves. But when it comes about and it generates revenue then they are able to see in practicality what that has meant. It is going to take some time. I know that, Mr. President. But at the same time I think whatever we can do, as soon as possible, we should try to do to implement it. I do not only want to see things on paper – they look good on paper – but I want to see a start as soon as possible, as soon as the money starts to trickle in and Barbados gets back on its feet, I would like to see something done with Speightstown, especially to stop that flooding at this time.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Yes, Sir, I just want to make a short intervention here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, are you going to address us or are you not?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I was hearing cross talk, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will you please continue. Go ahead, Senator Barker. We do not need the preamble.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we have always taken the development of our country very seriously. So we

are indeed very happy to see that there is something called the Speightstown Development Plan. We are also very happy that Government, is thinking about Speightstown, given the fact that, as I highlighted this morning, without any explanation they have discontinued on the plans that were well advanced for the Speightstown Fishing Complex. Sir, I am hearing two words on this. One word is that the then Prime Minister spoke to the fishermen and the fishermen told them that they did not want any fishing complex. Now I am hearing Senator Walkes saying that what was happening is that the fishermen did not want it at that site. They wanted it at some other site. I wonder what the true position is.

I was told that, in the Other Place, the Minister gave us the assurance, us meaning the country, that a complex would be built at Speightstown. I am not sure what the true position is.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, if you do not address me and pay your attention to me, then I am afraid I shall have to ask you to take your seat.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I have an hour and I intend to use it. But the point is when an Honourable Senator is speaking and I stop to let him speak...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I do not ask...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, if an Honourable Senator is speaking...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will speak and you will address the matter of the debate, nothing else.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir,...

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will do just that. Go straight on with your debate, nothing else.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I wish you would stop harassing me, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What did you say, Senator Barker?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I said I wish that you would stop harassing me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will withdraw those remarks, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I withdraw those remarks, Sir. As I was saying, before I was interrupted, I want to know what the true position is. I am hearing a lot of different statements concerning the Speightstown Fishing Complex and it is about time that we hear a definitive word, the final word on the matter. I await that with eager expectation.

Any development in Speightstown must take into account the people of Speightstown. It is all right for us to get in here and talk but we want to hear what the people in Speightstown feel about their town.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Man, let me talk.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will not be making those comments. If you do again, I shall have to ask you to take your seat.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point is that under our administration there was something called the Speightstown Development Council which was not made up of people from all over the country but it was made up from the businessmen and residents of Speightstown and they were the ones who were involved in the development of their town. That Committee was bi-partisan. I was reliably told that they have some very strong supporters of the Democratic Labour Party on that Committee. It was broad-based but it was by and large made up of Speightstown residents. They were the ones who were to develop their own town. Since the Government changed in 1986 the Committee may not have been disbanded but it certainly did not meet. In fact there was a *de facto* disbandment of the Committee.

I want to appeal to Government as they seek to implement plans for Speightstown or in fact any other place that the people who live in that area should have a large input. They should not hear by the way but they must be involved from day one. Because what has happened with the abolition of Local Government in the mid-sixties is that a lot of decisions that were made at the local level were then started to be made at the central level. So that the actual persons involved did not have the say that they should. That is why the Speightstown Development Council was an indication of the foresight of the then Government. I call upon Government to reactivate that Council, especially as they seek to push ahead with plans for Speightstown.

If you are talking about developing Speightstown then the roads leading from Bridgetown to Speightstown have to be in good condition and there must be enough of them and of the quality to make communication between Bridgetown and Speightstown easier than it is now.

I am a little bit disappointed that Highway 1, over the years, has not been kept in as good a condition as it should have been. There are parts that need widening. I think we need to seriously look at Highway 1 again as it passes through one of the main hotel areas.

I am pleased to note that Highway 2A will start because that again will ease...

SENATOR THE HON Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On a point of order, Sir. I do not understand how Highway 2A gets into the debate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Please continue.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: We have a new President, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will withdraw that comment, Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I have no problem with withdrawing it but I would like to know why I am asked to withdraw it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I do not have to explain it to you. You will withdraw that comment.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Withdraw what? I just said that we have a new President. Anyhow, what you want me to withdraw, Sir, I will withdraw. I am not getting into any conflict.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not need any of that. You get ahead with the debate. Get straight into your debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I will debate, Sir, according to the rules of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And I will outline those rules.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with due respect, I can read them for myself. I am annoyed that I am being harassed and not allowed to speak in this Chamber.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will withdraw that statement. I do not appreciate anything about harassment.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: But I am being harassed, Sir. If I am being harassed and I feel that I am being harassed I feel I am man enough to say that I am being harassed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot say that and I object to that. You will withdraw all reference to being harassed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I will withdraw the words but I still feel I am being harassed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I repeat, you will withdraw all reference to being harassed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I withdraw those words and I want to say that the impression I am getting is that I am being harassed. I am not saying that I am harassed. I am saying that is the impression I am getting.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, if you wish to continue with the debate you will do so now, if not you will have to take your seat.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I have to speak and you will not allow me to speak. Everybody else can speak as they like but when it comes to me you are on my case.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not appreciate or understand your language. Let it be parliamentary.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am being parliamentary. I just wish that the President of this Chamber would allow me to speak because I am not being allowed to speak. I do not like it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have already told you, Senator Barker, you will proceed with the debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the development of Speightstown which we are talking about must...If you look at our Manifesto which is a document of this Senate, we had some specific plans for the north of the island. One of them included a marina because we need to develop the tourist potential of that part of the island. I will recommend that Government gives some thought to the building of a marina in the north of the island. Not only that, I should like that the educational facilities in the north of the island be enhanced. I am calling on Government to study the feasibility of putting a sixth form in one of the schools in the north. That is something that Government could look at.

Not only that, there is a need in Barbados for a second polytechnic because I am told the demand for places at the existing Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is outstripping the supply of places. As we develop that is an area that we can look at. Speightstown or somewhere around Speightstown would be a good place because it is central. The area around Speightstown could be an ideal area for the siting of a second polytechnic. The people in the north – and I live in the north – need to be assured that the Government, as it seeks to develop Barbados, does not leave them out of the plans. Barbados must not become Bridgetown oriented.

I am supporting the resolution because I see the north, with its natural beauty, with its resources, as being integral and forming an integral part of Barbados. I am glad that Government is putting things in place in this regard.

I will end on this point just to ask Government to reactivate – it is a repetition but I hope that Government takes it into consideration – the Speightstown Development Committee so that, as they develop, the views of the people of the area would be heard.

Sir, in spite of the many objections, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Phillips.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, in supporting this resolution before this Honourable Senate, I would like to state that having grown up in Speightstown for a period of 19 years or thereabouts and then after that being the part owner of a business that operates in Speightstown, I have found that Speightstown is strange, at least strange as far as commercial development is concerned.

I have observed that since the by-pass road has been put in place for whatever reason business activity has slowed down in Speightstown particularly Speightstown to the west of the by-pass road. It appears to me that the road being of a high quality that motorists coming from St. Peter speed on to Holetown instead of stopping at Speightstown. I do not know if it is a problem with the road network but certainly, Sir, it is a strange, strange happening.

I would like to make reference to the drainage problems in Speightstown and to say that the drainage in Speightstown is as complex a problem for the Government as the Scotland District. There are no two ways about it, Sir, that the canalising and so on that they have talked about for Speightstown will not solve the problems of Speightstown and its drainage. I believe that the problem with the drainage in Speightstown is that the volume of water which comes down to Speightstown is by far more than any engineers have made provision for. This problem starts as far up as Black Bess in St. Peter. It is my belief that if you need to tackle the drainage problem of Speightstown you have to tackle it from about 4 or 5 miles east of Speightstown in order to be effective. It would mean, probably, the building of dams or the building of some kind of system that would reduce the power of the water as it comes down towards Speightstown.

But I have observed, and this is what makes me very sure that the problem starts way above Speightstown – is that I have been known to be in Speightstown when not one drop of rain fell in Speightstown and a deluge of water came down from the high lands into Speightstown with such volume that it rendered impassable that bridge which is to the west of the salt pond. That was a perfect example that the problem was further to the east than Speightstown. I believe that with all the development we propose to do in Speightstown that it is very fundamental that some very serious consideration be given to dealing with that mammoth drainage problem.

In addition to that I should like to make mention of the cemetery in St. Peter and problems relating to the cemetery, not so much to the environment of the

cemetery which I think has been approached from time to time on an ad hoc basis but in particular relation to the parking. I believe that Government has the responsibility and I believe it is only Government's responsibility because of the serious road blockages that are caused there for almost every funeral at that St. Peter's cemetery. I believe that some parking facility should be made for persons who attend funerals there because of the blockages, as I said. 12.55 p.m.

I have watched Speightstown, Sir, and in the area of commerce I have seen some strange developments. I believe it is the first time in Barbados that a large trading company found it necessary or thought it was using its better judgment by constructing a large supermarket by the seaside. It has been a total failure and one wonders how our town planners could have permitted that sort of development. In my view it represents a total waste of prime land, which I would have thought could have been used for some tourism development, as opposed to the siting of a supermarket.

I believe it is fundamental that if Speightstown is to be developed and make a landmark in Barbados, very careful consideration has to be given to the type of development which goes on there. I would support very warmly and very strongly the proposal made by Senator Fraser relating to the use of boats to link Bridgetown to Speightstown, particularly for the purposes of tourism. I believe that would be, to a large extent, although it was with us before, a very innovative decision for a Government or for private enterprise to introduce a boat transportation service between Bridgetown and Speightstown for the purposes of visitors. Even one day visitors could come up to Speightstown. It would take them between an hour and an hour and a half and they could spend the rest of the day in the North overlooking Speightstown, as soon as it develops some more, and of course taking transport out to St. Lucy and so on, where there would be other areas for them to enjoy.

I believe the acquisition of the land which we are discussing now is important, but I would very much like to see a review of the total Development Plan again, because there are some situations there, as I said earlier, which are not in the best interest of the development of the town or of the northern parts of Barbados. One does not see any proper linkage, for instance, between the presence of Heywoods Hotel and the Golden Mile development and Speightstown. In other words, people who live in the Golden Mile development, which almost adjoins Speightstown, still find it necessary or prefer to go to Bridgetown to do the majority of their shopping. It means there is something which needs to be done to cause people to want to be in Speightstown. Obviously it is not there yet, or if it is there it is in the wrong position. The bus stand, as Senator Straughn said, is something I would like to compliment the Government of the day for having

constructed. It is indeed a very lovely building, well designed and lends itself to a high degree of character for the area, but I personally would like to support a revision of the Speightstown Development Plan in order that it could reflect the sort of activity one would expect of the second most important city in Barbados.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I was not planning to get into the debate, but after Senator Barker raised a few points in his intervention I think for the record I should make it known that in connection with the building of a marina this Government has been having discussions with the private sector. As a matter of fact, we went so far that we had about 6 Ministers on site on one day looking at an area just North of the Heywoods beach, Six Men's. After that site visit we felt fairly confident that something would have happened out of it, but the private sector was not prepared to go any further with it. I feel the provision of a marina should be at best a private sector enterprise and, failing that, a joint venture, but I do not think Government should undertake this on its own for many reasons.

In connection with the development of the North, I think it was Senator Straughn who talked about a cinema to replace the Asta, which brought back fond memories to Senator Straughn, and I think it was Senator Fraser who talked about a theatre. We have the ruins at Farley Hill and the grounds are currently being maintained by the NCC. My Ministry has had several meetings with the Tourism Development Corporation and the Barbados National Trust in the hope that we could together, since Government already owns the park, develop a theatre so that cruise line passengers would have another facility that they can go out to and enjoy another side of the country. We could develop a theatre there where our young people could perform during the day, and overall develop that area. You have the wild life reserve on the other side, the East Coast which is just to the hinterland of Speightstown.

Those agencies of the private sector to whom I have spoken have indicated no interest at this point, but I would like to throw out the challenge again that Government stands ready to join with the private sector to develop the Farley Hill area as an additional tourism attraction to reduce the pressures now being placed on the hotels with overcrowding as we have cruise liners coming in. It is not my tendency, Mr. President, to wander too much, but the same invitation would go out to Batts Rock. We already have an offer from Rotary West to develop one part of it, and again I would like to throw out the invitation to develop Batts Rock. I do not want to stray on that.

On the question Senator Barker raised vis-a-vis the construction of a polytechnic in the north, we in the Ministry have just set up a steering committee to look

at the feasibility of the establishment of a technical vocational educational training council whereby we will coordinate the activities of the Training Board, the National Employment Bureau and tertiary institutions. Out of this study we will look at the feasibility, but what we have done in the interim is to take the facilities being offered by the National Employment Bureau. We have established a centre in Oistin; we have just set up one in Six Roads; and we are looking for a suitable facility to establish one in the north. What we hope to achieve out of this technical vocational educational training council is a coordination between the various activities in a decentralised manner. It is necessary to put up a new building, but there are many facilities now owned by Government which lie idle at night.

We could take the educational opportunities to these people in the various locations in the afternoon hours and so utilise the already existing plans that we have.
1.05 p.m.

On the question of the cemetery alluded to by other Senators, Government has before it an offer from a private business to do something about the wall there. This whole question is being examined in terms of health considerations and hopefully, once the Ministry of Health has addressed the matter we can get on. At least something will be done in the very near future about the cemetery wall and the overall environs at the cemetery in Speightstown. I just want to put that on record, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, there has been wide ranging debate not only on this particular Resolution but also on the Resolution that is to follow. The Resolution to follow deals with abandonment of land which was to be used for a fishing complex. That is a question that I am going to answer now and maybe it will save the debate next time.

There was consultation with the fishermen at Speightstown in 1986. The Democratic Labour Party Government recognised that to just build a complex would not guarantee its usage because we understand that the building of a complex requires consultation if a site is to be chosen. No site has yet been chosen. Every location that we visited, save the one with the jetty on lands owned by a private sector firm, was considered to be unsuitable as a fish landing site in Speightstown. Until such time as somebody is able to seize the opportunity to get that Speightstown Development Council going or to get a sufficient number of the fisherfolk in there to agree that this is a location that they will use, then there will always be a deferral of the decision as to the precise location for a fishing complex.

Government is still committed and understands very clearly that in the interest of even-handed development of

the country there is necessity to have such a facility in Speightstown.

Some of the other matters which were questioned received answers by persons on this side and I do not propose to go into them. I can give an assurance that the consultation will continue and when an appropriate location is identified the necessary facilities will be forthcoming. Indeed, funding was available. It had to be abandoned in the same way as the site was abandoned.

I beg to move that this Resolution do pass.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ABANDONMENT OF 2 PARCELS OF LAND AT ST. PETER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution seeks approval of the Senate (the House having given such approval) for the abandonment of the acquisition which was completed in 1986. The decision had been taken to acquire lands which would be used to provide an entrance to the site at Speightstown which is presently utilised by the Sanitation Services Authority.

The site was off course. The fishermen claimed that it would not be a location to which people would be attracted and therefore, on their advice, after the parcels of land were vested in the Crown in 1986, the decision was made later that same year to suspend any action on the project pending further investigation into the feasibility and the identification of a new location.

I can confirm that certainly the Minister of Agriculture has had through the Fisheries Department several discussions and the Ministry was told that they would not be permitted to abandon the site until a new location was found. After 5 years of searching no such new location has been found and it does not seem wise for Government to continue to hold lands which it will not be able to use for the purpose for which they were originally acquired. That is why this Resolution for the abandonment of 2 parcels of land is before us.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate be now adjourned *sine die*.

Before we do that, I would wish on behalf of the members of the Senate to wish God's blessing on all

the members of the staff who have supported us so well during the year. I would like on behalf of my colleagues on this side to extend warmest greetings to all members of the Senate, the Independents and the persons who represent Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

This is the time of the year when greetings are exchanged by persons just because it is the time of the year. I would wish to assure Honourable Members on the other side that the greetings from this side are not only warm but they are sincere. We wish for you God's blessings in the new year that is ahead of us.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, the season demands that we put aside all personal animosity and feelings so I will do that, although it is becoming increasingly more difficult.

I wish on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to extend best wishes to the members of the staff of Parliament who have worked so hard and so well during the year. To the members of the facility downstairs I wish to offer best wishes for the season. I want to wish my fellow Senators all the best for the season and I look forward to locking horns in the new year as together we seek to develop our country.

Once again, best wishes, Sir.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. President, at this time it is with pleasure that I rise to join in the seasons' greetings. I have already extended personal greetings to some of the Senators whom I saw earlier on. Fortunately,

I do not have any axe to grind and therefore I can stand here with the greatest pleasure and wish you, Sir, your family and all the other members of the Senate and their families all the very best for Christmas.

It is getting very difficult to say a prosperous New Year but I hope it will suffice to say a Happy New Year. Those greetings, I am sure come from all the Independents to all of the Senators and all the members of the support staff.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thank you all for having expressed your very kind good wishes to myself and my family and also I should like to extend the seasons' greetings to every member of this Chamber.

I do recognise the hard work of the staff of Parliament in all departments and should like to extend the season's greetings to them as well and to say how much we appreciate all that they have done for us during the past year. Thank you very much indeed.

I should also like to join in good wishes to the Press who have been here all the time. I should like to say how much we appreciate your attendance in this Chamber throughout the year. We thank you and wish you well during the season ahead of us.

The question was put and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
1.15 p.m.

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