
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 25, 1992

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, November 25, 1992, at 11.20 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, (Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs) (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 Trade, Industry and Commerce)

Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE

Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES

Senator J. J. PAYNE

Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.

Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.

Senator W. L. INNISS

Senator the Rev. Canon J. L. SPRINGER

Senator J. G. BELLAMY

Senator J. A. F. COLE

Senator T. E. BARKER

Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY

Senator T. C. BECKLES.

Prayers were led by Rev. Fr. Errington Massiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is a Message from the Honourable The House of Assembly to the Honourable The Senate which reads as follows:

"On the 17th November, 1992, this House completed the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the regulation, distribution and censorship of films and matters related thereto and agreed to refer the Bill to a Joint Select Committee, if the Honourable the Senate concurs in that reference.

This House proposes that Hon. B. M. Taitt, Hon. E. E. Greaves, Hon. C. V. Walker, His Honour T. C. Estwick, Miss B. A. Miller, Dr. R. L. Cheltenham, Q. C., Mr. G. W. Payne and Mr. L. L. Brathwaite, as Chairman, be our Members of the Committee and that the Honourable the Senate should appoint 3 Senators to the Committee whose first meeting should be at the early convenience of its Members.

The proposed terms of reference of the Committee are to debate the said Bill and to report thereon.

This House therefore invites the Honourable the Senate to concur in the proposal for the constitution of a Joint Committee on the said Bill.

17th November, 1992.

Lawson Weekes,

SPEAKER."

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate agree to concur in the proposal for the constitution of a Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation, distribution and censorship of films and matters related thereto.

Mr. President, I have not made any consultation as yet. I think it is probably appropriate that when we have responded to my motion for the concurrence that we can proceed to identify the persons for the Committee.

The question that the Senate concur in this Joint Committee of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I wish to nominate to serve on this Joint Committee the following: Senator Mrs. Maizie Barker-Welch, Senator Mrs. Ada Straughn and Senator Miss M. A. Mottley.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, the question that those three named Senators be appointed as the representatives of the Senate on this Committee was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, let me say that the custom is that the Joint Select Committee in deliberating will extend an invitation to other interested Senators to attend the meeting of the Committee, but they will not be able to vote. Although there are other Senators, I am certain, on both sides of the Table who may be interested in this subject, the nomination of these three persons will not preclude them from active participation if they so desire.

11.30 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The 23rd Annual Report of the Barbados Development Bank;
2. The 1991 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados;
3. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ending 31st December, 1991;

4. The Annual Reports of the Child Care Board for the years April 1988 to March 1989 and April 1989 to March 1990; and

5. The Annual Reports of the Welfare Department for the years April 1989 to March 1990 and April 1990 to March 1991.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable us to proceed with Item No. 2 on the Order Paper.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move the First Reading of a Bill entitled The Miscellaneous Amendments Act, 1992, a Bill which seeks to amend the Pharmacy Act and the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office Act, to transfer to the Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property certain functions which are now performed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 – THE MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS BILL, 1992

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, the Bill before us seeks to amend the Pharmacy Act and the Intellectual Property Act in order to transfer to the Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property the functions presently performed, under the Act, by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. This seems like a fairly trivial amendment and appears somewhat to be tinkering. However, the history of this Bill will show the need for its implementation and the wrongs which are being sought to be righted.

The Pharmacy Act came into operation on May 21, 1986 by proclamation and the provisions of the Act should have been enforced since then. As early as 1989 the Ministry of Health recognised that Section 16 of the Act provides for the registration of pharmacies and that the Registrar should issue a certificate of registration. On July 22, 1989 the Ministry of Health again enquired of the Registration Office whether arrangements had been made so that the registration of pharmacies could commence no later than January 1990.

The Registrar responded on December 4, 1989 as follows: "The Registrar of the Supreme Court is not the proper officer to deal with registration of companies." On January 30, 1990 the Drug Inspectors, inspecting the pharmacies, did what was required of them but still no certificates could be issued because there was no registration. At that time when these inspections were carried out there were 52 private pharmacies and 26 Government pharmacies in operation.

Since there appeared to be a conflict as to who should carry out the registration of these pharmacies, an opinion was sought from the Attorney General's Chambers and on March 12, 1990 the Deputy Solicitor General stated: "It is my view that the Registrar of the Supreme Court is the officer legally charged with the function of registering companies in accordance with the Act, Cap. 372D(2)." On March 23, 1990 it was again pointed out to the Registrar that the registration of companies should have commenced in January of 1990.

On December 4, 1989 the Registrar of Companies wrote as follows: "The Registrar of the Supreme Court is not the proper officer to deal with the registration of pharmacies." This forced the Director of the Barbados Drug Service, on October 28, to declare: "Failure to register the pharmacies in Barbados has become a deep source of embarrassment for the Barbados Drug Service, both locally and internationally, since persons involved in regulatory affairs cannot understand our inability to get this simple job done."

Mr. President, because of this failure to register pharmacies, Government has lost revenues as a result, the Director of the Drug Service has indicated that it has caused considerable embarrassment and in order to carry on the business of a pharmacy the pharmacists have had to operate illegally. By this simple amendment, we do hope to correct this irregularity by placing the registration procedure under the umbrella of corporate affairs and intellectual property.

11.40 a.m.

I should add that the registration fee for a pharmacy is \$500. So you can see, with 52 private pharmacies operating, the revenues that have been lost per annum to Government as a result.

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

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Just a slight intervention. The Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property is now being called upon to register pharmacies, and one wonders if that particular office, not the office-holder, has the capacity to perform this function. One would have

thought that the registration of pharmacies would require some person with some sort of knowledge in the particular area. While I have no problem with the Bill, I just wonder if the necessary tools are going to be given to the Registrar's Office to enable it to carry out its functions.

In listening to the Minister, one gets the impression that in the first place there was some sort of difficulty associated with this Bill. How are we sure that by transferring the authority from the Registrar of the Supreme Court to the Registrar of Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property that the situation will be any better? If the individual to whom it is transferred is not competent or is not diligent enough we are going to get the same problem again. I am not sure that a strong enough case was made to convince me that transferring authority from one person to the other is going to solve the problem. You may have to look at another way of ensuring that whoever is designated to carry out this function does the job properly.

I have no problem with the Bill as such, but we must find a mechanism to ensure that persons who are mandated by Parliament and the Constitution to carry out certain functions actually do them. I think the Minister under whose authority the office holder falls – in this case, the Minister of Justice – has to ensure that the person carries out his or her function properly.

With those few words, Mr. President, I support this Bill.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, just to correct a few things. First of all, the registration function for a country should be centralised and although we deal with different types of registration we would expect that those people who have the competence in a given area will first conduct the inspection and then recommend registration. In this case, the Ministry of Health is the competent agency to do this, and in my introductory remarks I indicated that it did in fact carry out the initial inspections and made the recommendations. However, in spite of that, the Registrar of Companies felt that it did not. As a matter of fact, the Registrar stated on December 4, 1989, that the Registrar of the Supreme Court is not the proper officer to deal with the registration of pharmacies. This is in the face of the statute as it existed then. I am not a lawyer and I am not qualified to speak on this, but by osmosis from time to time there are certain ideas that come our way. I think that one way we could have ensured that the Law was executed was by a *Writ of Mandamus*.

With those few comments, Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed to.

COMMITTEE

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill without amendment in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF
LAND AT CLARKE'S ROAD,
ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution deals with a proposal to acquire a parcel of land in order to regularise Government's encroachment on the area during the relocation of houses at the time of construction of the ABC Highway. It is proposed that 1 397.4 square metres of land at Clarke's Road be now acquired for this purpose. You will appreciate that all of this is after the event.

Apparently, it became necessary to relocate 6 chattel houses during the construction of the ABC Highway at the southern end of Hothersal Turning. These were intended to be relocated at lands at the Belle Plantation but 2 houses were inadvertently sited on adjacent land which are privately owned and the purpose of the Resolution is now to complete the transaction of acquiring those lands.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.
11.50 a.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I just wish to say a few things on this matter. I am glad the matter is now being regularised in so far as what transpired some years ago. There are still a number of people whose private businesses have not been settled in terms of Government's acquisition of lands for highway or other developments. At this stage I would wish to re-issue a call, because I think many calls have been made over the last few years, that all of these matters be dealt with as expeditiously as possible so that the private citizens who complied with the law by conveying the land which Government required can be properly compensated and get on with their personal affairs.

In so far as the allocation of the land at Hothersal Turning is concerned, I would just draw reference to the development which has come to Hothersal Turning as a result of the Highway passing through the bottom of Hothersal Turning and the greater access, and, indeed, the number of commercial businesses that have arisen in Hothersal Turning in the last few years since the construction of the Highway. This has augured well for that development there.

I believe that Hothersal Turning is perhaps one of the best examples of a complete community in this country in so far as all aspects of a community whether we look at it from the point of view of the provision of education in the form of St. Matthew's School, although once again I issue a strong and urgent call for Government to make sure the conditions of that School improve as a matter of priority. I believe I have spoken on that in here earlier this year. While there may be some consideration of it I do not think that the urgency is there as one would like. I know things are a little tight now but we really cannot have primary school children, or the teachers, being subjected to those kinds of conditions particularly when the weather is not fair such as a day like today or even worse than this.

It has one of the more established churches in the form of St. Matthew's Church and a number of other churches in the area so that the religious side is taken care of in that community. It has the facilities of both Friendship Pasture as well as Lears Pasture, Friendship Pasture having been provided for them since the 1950s. A number of prominent Barbadians have grown out of that area. I am even told that my roots come from Hothersal Turning as well, my grandfather having been born there, went to school at St. Matthew's and taught there as well for quite a few years.

Also there is the provision of groceries facilities. More importantly for me, Sir, is the sense of community spirit among both the old and young in Hothersal Turning. Indeed, we have been trying to work along with them towards a number of experimental concepts in community development, not at a governmental level but purely and strictly within the community trying to get them as a self-sufficient community governing the conduct of their lives and having as much control over the type and standard of life they have either through the provision of community development, recreation, job facilities or retraining.

At this stage I would really like to compliment some of those same people who would have come off Clarke's Road and have had the benefit of the Friendship Youth Group which is one of the more vibrant youth groups in Barbados. Once again they do not wait or look upon anybody to give them any direction. They do what they

have to do. That is the kind of young Barbadian I believe we really need to promote at a national level so that others may have exemplary role models in the form of them. They have consistently raised their own funds. They have active linkages with a number of community groups in England and there are constantly exchange visits between the two. They have undertaken a number of community projects towards improving the esthetics of the community. Only last night I was speaking to one of them and found out that the bus shelter which they had asked Government to build and because of scarce finances Government was not...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, this is straying a bit far from the subject of the debate.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am asking for a bit of license...

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have really been giving you quite a bit of license, Senator Mottley. I do not think you could say otherwise.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I just want to make the point quite succinctly that the residents, whether they be at Clarke's Road, Hothersal Turning or further up the road from Hothersal Turning, have really benefited from a cohesive community spirit and really represent a self-sufficient community.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, the point I am making is that the youth group has just submitted plans to the Town and Country Planning so they may provide the bus shelter themselves having realised that Government's scarce economic resources will not allow for it. I think this is the kind of behaviour I believe we must applaud at a national level and not just privately by telling them they are doing good. This is the kind of thing the newspapers should be applauding and promoting at a national level in order to send the right kind of messages rather than putting fellows with big gold chains with handcuffs on coming from the Courts on a Monday morning.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Mottley. You have gone far enough now.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I thank you for the indulgence you have shown me in being able to make that point with respect to the community at Hothersal Turning. I am glad the matter is being properly dealt with especially where there will be no lagging over in terms of people's personal affairs as a result of the inconvenience and the relocation of the housing.

I just wish before I sit to say that I really do hope that there will be some form of urgency particularly since the Ministry of Housing and Lands now do not have to deal with the construction of houses anymore since they are not any, but can spend the time in resolving all the outstanding conveyances as a result of the compulsory acquisitions that still remain to settle up people's businesses.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, in making a few points on giving my acceptance to the passing of this Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Clarke's Road, I think this is a very good move on the part of Government although we understand it is late in coming. My contribution here this morning is to say that there is a need in this country for a number of areas that can be highlighted to be compulsorily acquired by Government at this time to facilitate the relocation of housing, not only in this area in the Resolution but in a number of areas and I can cite some especially in the north of this island where there is a need for us to look at this kind of thrust to relocate housing.

Just briefly bear with me, Sir, to indicate that when I say in the north I have recognised that especially in the St. Peter area where the Government has acquired land for relocating housing, that is all taken up in the Six Men's, Colleton area and there is a need to look at a new area. You see the problem arises, in the whole question of compulsory acquisition, that some persons think that it is not good to do this and then we find that a number of people in the area, and moreso the poor people in that area, are suffering for land for housing.

12.00 noon.

We had a recent case in which the Town and Country Planning gave notice to a number of people who had placed their houses in a Zone 1 area. Therefore the need arises for us to look at relocating those people. Mr. President, I have seen a number of areas that can be earmarked – but it must be compulsorily acquired by the Government – to place these people who have been earmarked by the Town and Country Planning to have their houses relocated in St. Peter. I am urging the Government to look at this whole question of relocating those houses. Furthermore, to a large extent there are a number of poor people, workers, in that part of the country where people have allowed them to rent land since some of them had their relatives overseas or some of them were not ready to build and they allowed them rental. Now they are asking them to move from the area so that the lots would be vacant so that they can build and their family overseas can come home and build.

I know that we are not talking about good times. We are talking about bad economic times in the world and we might even look at it in terms of the economic gurus and say that this is not a buyers' market. But I am not talking about real estate here in a real way, Mr. President. I am saying that even when – if I can make another point here – the whole question of housing is allowed by the National Housing Corporation for the relocation of houses, you find that even some of our politicians try to prevent workers from buying the land. That is another area that we have to look at in terms of trying to ensure that the National Housing does not sell the land and furthermore they are preventing the people from becoming secure. I am saying that insecurity in this country is one of the serious areas that we have to look at in terms of our workers and how they relate to land.

Land, to my mind, especially for housing will make people feel more secure not only for themselves but also for their children. I am very strong on this because I am saying that this is one of the areas that we have looked at with workers' education. Senator Beckles – whom I did not have the chance to welcome to the Senate the last time because I was absent from this Honourable House – has been very much in the forefront or is one of the pioneers in workers' education when we look at the whole question of what do workers do with their money in terms of trying to look at acquiring land. I am sure that during his session at the Labour College with us and in workers' education programmes which he has been very much in the forefront of, he would recognize...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am going to finish at this point.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes, I have permitted you to stray quite a bit but I think it is about time you return to the subject matter.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Okay. I am dealing with the relocation of houses and I am also dealing with the whole question of compulsory acquisition of land by Government so that the poor people can relocate their houses. And I am saying that if a point is made by people that poor people should not buy the land even though they are relocated, they are given the land to relocate, then that is a question. I am saying that if we find pioneers like Senator Beckles who have been teaching workers security in terms of how to spend their money and not have people misunderstand the whole question of poor people utilizing their money properly for them and their families, their future and the generations thereafter, then I am saying that we are not playing our role as parliamentarians in this House.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be struck from the Record.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am sorry if I mentioned the name out of term. I am saying that this has been ventilated very much in the press and it has been around so it is not something that is under anybody's bedrooms or anything like this.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That has nothing to do with it. Let us go on with the debate.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: I am saying that I was very upset and I had to call the name because I do not know anybody else who has made the point. When someone of that calibre and that standing cannot understand the need for workers' education and the thrust that we are going in in this country, in terms of how workers should understand how to spend their money, and that you could say that a person in his position could have said that Sir Frank could have built a hotel rather than the Labour College because you do not understand workers' education. That is the point I am making. I cannot see how I could make the point without calling a name.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes, let us proceed with the debate.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I am very sorry but I am saying – and I cannot understand how my point could be made more firmly – that if we are looking at educating workers and not trying only to pass resolutions and to do legislation just because we are supposed to be intellectual, or have some other view, but we are trying to assist our people in terms of how they see life and in terms of having a firm foundation in life and giving them a thrust, giving them a direction, giving them a vision of where to go in life and in terms of how to spend their money and to utilize the funds properly, and at this crucial time in our economic history when we need to understand how to utilize funds and we know that money is not easy to get, but the point is that if we can just secure enough to ensure that we have land for ourselves and make us comfortable – I do not know if you understand what it is to be poor and know that you have a kind of security in land – I am saying that then this is a thrust that is very necessary in this country and that we the parliamentarians have a right to give people a vision. That is why I was upset about that lack of vision that was not given by the Honourable gentleman in relation to building a Labour College and comparing it to a hotel. I cannot see, if you understand education, why you would say that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are repeating yourself, Senator Walkes. Will you proceed with the debate and move off that subject.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I seem to be frustrating the whole question of the debate on the acquisition of this piece of land and in relation to how it can benefit people in the north, in Speightstown and in St. Peter. I would say, to end, that I give my approval to the passing of this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of this land.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I note that the Minister said that the houses are to be relocated to the Belle.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have not heard that.
12.10 p.m.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, am I incorrect to say that the Belle area was mentioned as a site for relocation?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, Senator Barker, that is not accurate. I shall ask Senator Lewis to respond in due course. If you have no other point ...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, my point was contingent upon that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no. All right thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I would not roam so since I am not getting an answer on that point ... I hope the Minister will give us a response to that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lewis would you like to ...

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, a simple Resolution which seeks to assist people who were disadvantaged when the lands were used took us into labour colleges and all sorts of places like that. There is a time and a place for everything and a gentleman would like to take us into the Belle. The Belle Plantation and the Belle are not necessarily the same thing. The lands of the Belle Plantation adjoin lands at Waterford and others. That is the whole point. This is not lands near the water table.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us not have any cross talk.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: That is the whole point that is why I was just going to let the matter ride and not say anything about it. When the road was being constructed it was necessary to relocate these people. They are properly relocated. I will certainly convey to the

appropriate Minister, namely the Minister for Housing and Lands the concerns of persons who are very interested in the parishes of St. Lucy and St. Peter in terms of the need for poor people to be facilitated in those parishes. I will certainly convey those remarks to him. With those brief responses, because there is no other question, I move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPUL-
SORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
BOURNES LAND, ST. CHRISTO-
PHER, CHRIST CHURCH FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF
AN ACCESS ROAD

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution relating to the acquisition of some 4 parcels of land at Bournes Land, St. Christopher, Christ Church, is required for the extension of the playing field at St. Christopher Boys' School and for the relocation of houses.

When the arrangements were being made for the playing field to be extended it became necessary to relocate 6 houses if the extension of the playing field was to be properly adjacent to the school. Apparently the National Housing Corporation prepared a subdivision on its own lands for these houses but there was no proper and adequate access to the houses. Steps were put in train to acquire this land by private treaty; they fell through, hence the need for this Resolution to compulsorily acquire 459.8 square metres of land abutting and abounding lands now or late of one Forde and lands now or late of the National Housing Corporation. 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. 5 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE UNDER
SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VEST-
ING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 TO
SIMPSON INCORPORATED OF LAND AT
GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, CHRIST CHURCH
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRO-
VIDING, INTER ALIA,
AIRCRAFT HANGAR
AND MAINTENANCE
FACILITIES

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, there are lands demarcated in accordance with the Development Plan for the Airport and its surroundings, which are aimed at providing facilities for persons involved in airport business. I believe that we recently dealt with a Resolution for the lease of lands to Seawell Air Services in continuation of an existing lease. I am aware that other lands are leased to British Airways. In this particular instance an application was received and given favourable consideration for the lease of some 909.1 square metres of lands owned by the Barbados Government and it is adjoining lands which are leased to Seawell Air Services. The purpose of the land is to allow for the development of various facilities including the development of a facility which will accommodate Wilkins Weather Technology Caribbean Limited an associate of Simpson Incorporated and that firm Wilkins Weather deals with the plotting of weather patterns which are then transmitted to locations in the United States and are used internationally.

The lease of land by Simpson of this area is proposed to lease the land for 15 years at an initial rent of \$84 948 per annum subject to renewal every 5 years. The lessee will be responsible for the development of the land at its own expense and be responsible for keeping the premises in good repair throughout the term of the proposed lease agreement, the premises to be used to provide aircraft hangar and maintenance facilities and executive aircraft passenger handling facility and also to accommodate the Wilkins Weather Technology Caribbean Limited activities. The proposal and the development that is planned will be subject to Town Planning and other applicable approvals.

The lessee should comply throughout the terms with the Town and Country Planning Act, the Airport Act and Regulations made thereunder. The firm will not be permitted to sublet any part, either part or whole of the premises other than to a subsidiary of the lessee and any assignment of the entire premises will be subject to written permission being first obtained from the Government.

The lessee will be responsible for insurance of the premises and for payment of land taxes and other charges arising out of its use of the premises.

At the expiry of the lease all buildings and development on the parcel of land are to revert to the Crown, either at the end or at a sooner determination of the term for nil consideration. There are really two parcels of land which are joined together. It is believed that this activity will be the best use that could be made of those lands adjoining the Airport and it will provide for another area. I understand that it will provide for the possibility of aircraft coming to Barbados for maintenance and servicing.
12.20 p.m.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I rise to speak on this Resolution and I will reserve my right either to support or object depending on the answers to certain questions. We are indeed glad that Government is at long last seeking to develop the enormous potential that exists at the International Airport, which I think is one of the finest in this part of the world. It is only right that we make maximum use of our excellent communications for the benefit of our people. This is a welcome Resolution and we hope that many other private sector concerns will come in and provide services so that other airlines and so on can use the facilities at the Grantley Adams Airport.

Sir, that part of the Resolution is welcome as far as I am concerned. But there are one or two things that I would like answers to. Sir, according to the note that I was given, the Second Schedule states that the lease shall be for a period of 15 years. The second condition says that the rent shall be payable at the rate of \$30 000 per year. I did not catch the figure that the Honourable Minister mentioned for the rent. The figure mentioned is \$30 000 per year and the rent is payable and subject to review every 5 years. The last condition mentioned the renewal of the lease.

Sir, speaking under correction, I think that in the Other Place when this matter was debated the Honourable Minister indicated that the rental valuation that was put on the land by the technocrats was \$84 000. Before I personally decide whether to support this Resolution, I want to know how the figure of \$30 000 was arrived at given that the technocrats advised that the rent could be as high as \$84 000. Sir, that is a difference of over \$50 000 which is not insignificant given the fact that Government had to increase its rents in the National Housing Estates last year. At that time a lot of poor people felt the effect of the increase in rent. Not only that, Sir, but the IDC increased their rents also by some 30 per cent. As a result, Sir, a lot of businesses were put under more strain because of the increase of the IDC rents. How on the one hand you are increasing the rents and now in the business at hand when the technocrats have advised that you can get \$84 000 you are only asking for \$30 000? I think, Sir, that we in here will all agree that an explanation is called for because that amount of money is significant.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. You are repeating yourself. We have heard that and we take your point.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I also note that I had difficulty in here with another matter where Government was a bit tardy in putting a proper valuation when it came to the land development duty that Government put on too late and a lot of money which could have been gained was lost. I am very worried that this sort of thing can

happen and the Government does not come and tell Parliament the reason for it. We must have these answers because you are asking us to take Crown land that the Constitution entrusts to our keeping, since we are the guardians of the land, and any arrangement must meet with our approval. I am saying, Sir, that in order for us to approve it that we must have full facts. I am very worried that in my year and a half in here very often we are not getting all of the relevant information which will enable us to make a proper decision on any Resolution that comes before us. This is another example.

Sir, I hope when the Minister sums up that he will give us the reason for the decrease from \$84 000 to \$30 000. This is over a quarter million dollars in the first 5 years, because 54×5 is like over \$270 000. The public has a right to know why this company is given favourable consideration now. Is it because it is a charity? If the concern is a charitable concern, I would be the first to say give it to them rent free. This is not a charitable organisation because they are going to make a profit from their operation. I do not understand the need for the charity that is so evident. I do not know why the Government was so charitable to this organisation. Why not to the fellow renting from the IDC building on the Harbour Road? He needs more help in my view than Simpson Incorporated.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, will you please address the Chair? Please continue.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Depending upon the answers I get from the Minister, I will then decide whether or not I will support this Resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I will be very brief on this matter. I concur with Senator Barker that it is a welcome development to see that the Government is enhancing the returns which the citizens of Barbados are likely to reap from the very substantial investment in that Airport facility. It is a good facility. We all agree on that. I somehow do not agree with the line that Senator Barker has taken on the matter of the rental fee charge. I think for all purposes it would be more informative to know what considerations the technocrats had in mind when they came up with the rent. I know that there are some businessmen in here who would know that the rent will vary depending on the use to which you are going to put the particular facility. Therefore, I wish to know when they arrived at the figure of \$84 000 what particular considerations they had in mind. I know that is something which all of us should know. When we ask the Minister a question, we should ask him to tell us what considerations the technocrats had in mind.

The other point which I want to make, Mr. President, is that it is very important to discover what were the competing demands for the use of that land. If there were no competing demands, the alternative rent is zero. I think that we have to be reasonable and understand these things and not go about playing detectives.

Mr. President, I said at the outset that I would not detain this Chamber on this matter. But I feel constrained to note that regarding the Airport facility, which is such a valuable infrastructural investment, that every care must be taken to make sure that it is kept in a first class condition. I came through that facility last Sunday night and one of the first things that struck me upon entering the complex was that it could be much cleaner. There is no reason on earth why in Barbados we should find cigarette boxes thrown around at the entry point of the Airport. If that is the first thing visitors meet when they come to Barbados, they feel that all of us are dirty people. I hope the point that I am making is taken notice of. You cannot have a place which is a tourist economy and, as soon as people come into the arrival hall of that little strip of greenery, one finds pieces of paper thrown around. That is totally unnecessary at this time.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, in speaking on this Resolution, I would like to express what I consider to be a major concern, not with the Simpson arrangement but with the general Airport development overall. I believe, Sir, that from time to time, having looked at a number of Resolutions which have been brought to the Senate concerning the Airport, it is time for us in this Chamber and, I believe, in the Other Place to have some access to what could be described as an Airport Development Plan. I feel that we should see a physical layout, we should have some general knowledge as to how the Government perceives the ongoing development at the Airport, we should have knowledge as to what will be the final outcome of the old Airport building. Is it now properly used? Is there not more use in this old building which is there? Can it be renovated and, for instance, have an airport overnight facility, like a small hotel which may accommodate people who may just be merely overnighing in Barbados and who may not want to leave the compound of the Airport to journey even to the south coast?

12.30 p.m.

Sir, from time to time too I have been hearing that there may have to be a relocation of houses that are in the flight path, as it is called by the technical persons. If that is so, it would give me the impression that Barbados is anticipating an increase in the number of heavy aircraft that may be using the Airport, and it would be good for us in this Chamber, and in general – as a matter of fact, the whole country – to know how are we anticipating the

future of our international airport. Is our traffic going to improve to such an extent that we may need to look at the acquisition of larger areas of land to improve the runway and the other facilities around the Airport?

Sir, I am imploring the Government, if possible, to make available what plans they have for any further extensions, or what plans they have for the present utilisation of the airport facilities as they now stand. Let us know if the facilities are adequate, let us know if, for instance, we may have to be looking at any large scale construction there in the future and probably any large acquisitions to accommodate what extensions may be necessary.

Sir, I have an open mind towards the arrangements with Simpson Incorporated as far as the rental is concerned. I believe that the Minister would have some explanation as to why there is such a variance between the price by the valuation people and the offer by Simpson and as to why the Government would have arrived at that lower price.

Those are my comments on this Resolution. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: In giving my approval to this Resolution, Mr. President, I see the provision of this land for an aircraft hangar and maintenance facilities as a developmental one in Barbados and at the Airport in particular. I think that Barbados is now ripe for development and what is important is that it is not only ripe for Government development, but private sector development. Therefore I see this thrust as a timely one, not only if we look at what will be happening to our tourism plant, but how this whole expansion can allow us to have job creation for young people — engineers, mechanics, people in aeronautics and the like.

Senator Phillips spoke about what is happening with the whole development of the Airport. This is of great importance, because this whole expansion can lead to even more airlines coming to Barbados and being able to have enough hangar space, the increase of airline employment — ramp workers, cargo workers, maintenance workers. But what is bothering me about that whole development is that no one seems to know what is happening to Caribbean Airways at the moment. How many companies are under it? What is happening to American Airlines, to LIAT, to the workers and their security? There has been the sifting out of workers, even in Seawell Air Services, which have just let go permanent workers for contract workers, so there is no clear indication as to what is happening with the workers at the Airport. It seems as if BWIA is now handling things on its own and there is this whole rapid turnover of services at the Airport that no one seems to be

able to answer and give the workers any kind of responsible direction as to where to go.

We have to understand where we are going. We need the developmental role at the moment, but if we are to have this developmental role properly carried through and have workers employed, expand Barbados, expand our Airport, expand our tourism because of this innovation, then we must have a clear indication as to what is happening with those workers.

I just wanted to ask those few questions and I give my approval to the Resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, in supporting the Resolution I should like to say that I am happy about this new development. I see it as a development where more people can be employed and as an enhancement of tourism development. At the same time, I feel very strongly about the number of things which have to be put in place at the Airport.

I think it was Senator Alleyne who mentioned this, but I am very concerned about the cleanliness at the Airport and of the facilities, especially the toilet facilities. I just came from St. Kitts and Antigua and at Antigua's airport the toilets have these large bins which can hold a lot more paper, and every now and again you get maids coming in and cleaning the place. It is cleaned on an ongoing basis and detergent with which to wash your hands is always present. I do not know if it is every hour or what, or every time a plane comes in and leaves. I do not think that is seen too often here. These are things that are important. However silly they may seem to other people, they are vitally important. First impressions count. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. If it is scrappy looking people will not want to go in. It has to be done for the locals as well as the tourists because local people go to the Airport to meet and see their friends off and they might want to use that facility.
12.40 p.m.

At the same time, I want to look at more infrastructural development that can be carried on there. I foresee in the future a large number of small shops selling strictly local things, promoting all the local crafts and foods. I know that presently you are able to get cooked fish, but that facility can be extended to several things. We have to sell ourselves more. It is not good enough to have things and not make them known to people abroad.

Also, I think that however good those things are there is much to be desired in terms of the whole question of Customs and visitors. It has to be looked at very seriously. If you are going to operate the kind of shuttle services

that will move people, I suspect we will have to have Customs services and everything there on the spot to check these people before they move from one place to another because that is a very important aspect of our gaining revenue.

Mr. President, I also would like to think that we have in place all the local expertise to sit down with overseas personnel and see that everything is going to work out for the mutual benefit of all persons concerned. I say this because often going down the road we find out that at the beginning of a project everything was not looked at and then it has to be altered and it causes a loss of time and you may have to lose some of your staff in the interim period because of some fault or incorrect law or documentation. I find that happens very often with many of those businesses that are set up. When it starts out everything is going fine and then all of a sudden somebody realises that the legal people should have looked at it. It is left too wide open and so people are able to do a number of things which they feel like doing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are straying somewhat, Senator Fraser.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I am relating this to the whole concept of what we are setting up at the Airport. With all due respect to you, Sir, I am not...

Mr. PRESIDENT: What we are setting up at the Airport?

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: We are talking about a project here, Sir, as far as I can read. I think that is very relevant because if documentation is not done properly we can get a problem with this. I do not think that I am straying anywhere. It talks about approving the lease under section so and so. As soon as you are talking about sections you are talking about law. Therefore, these laws have to be looked into very carefully and you have to ensure that they are correctly done before you move on.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. I think we can read what is stated.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Thank you very much, Sir, but I just wanted to point out that it was no intention of mine to stray. It was my intention for the protection of Barbados to ensure that at the very beginning, because I have had several experiences on some of those Boards of people forgetting that a certain clause should have been put in at the beginning... I think it is very important for us to get all these things up front.

I welcome the Resolution and I welcome the fact that it is going to provide employment and will train more

people in the area of aeronautical engineering and that many private aircraft will be able to come here and refuel and we in Barbados can get more business.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I should like to reply to certain points made by various Senators as regards the present structural arrangement at the Airport. This operation by Simpsons is to assist early in the servicing and in certain maintenance facilities for executive type jets – private jets; which will be welcome at our airport and which should attract some revenue to the Airport. It is a worthwhile venture. It is being done on their own and we welcome those kinds of ventures. In the same way, at this time due to our structural adjustment package, we welcome efforts by the private sector to work alongside with Government in providing certain facilities such as we are trying to conduct at the Port Department to build a new arrival terminal with the assistance of the private sector.

We have had an ongoing Caribbean airports project assisted by the Canadian Government for the whole Caribbean region. It only ended in 1990 and has identified certain things which we should keep doing in order to keep our airports in line with modern standards. During the past year, we have tried to keep our lighting up to standards. We have done work on the lighting system. We have done work on certain parts of the runway and, in the last year or 2, we have also installed those frangible poles for the descent. In case there should be an accident when the aircraft is coming to land, the poles will be able to give way and reduce the amount of damage which might occur in a crash landing.

These are things we have been doing throughout the last 3 or 4 years. We are now into a feasibility study for the expansion of the Airport. We have had certain firms tendered and we are at the stage of appointing one of those firms to carry out the kind of feasibility study to put us in line for airport requirements up to the year 2015. The present airport is inadequate to cope with present day traffic, and if we are to keep abreast to be in the forefront of all the airports in the Caribbean... We have already started and we will soon be awarding a contract to a firm to carry out that feasibility study. It is a priority with the Ministry of Finance to get this study going so that we will know our requirements.

It is not that we do not have any plans. When we have got that study, I can assure Honourable Members of the Senate that it will become a document of this House and they will have an opportunity to examine what we have in mind and where we intend to go with airport expansion at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

As far as Terminal 2 is concerned, the old terminal building is being used now for various purposes. Some firms are using that location and we intend to keep it up to date because there is a lot of potential in that building. We have been talking about making Barbados a free port in some respects or a major area for exchanging certain goods and services. We can see that facility being utilised in that respect. I do not think we can think about putting a hotel at that location. It does not lend itself to that kind of development but we are hoping that as we go further eastward we have to identify on that Caribbean Airports Project the total area of land which is needed to service a modern airport.

As regards the moving of people who now adjoin the Airport, for the longest time we have been in breach of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in that we do not have the kind of open land on the approach to our runway which is desired under international regulations. It is going to be a mammoth project but we have to look for the money to compensate those persons who will now live on the ridge at Fairy Valley going towards Wilcox Hill. We have to make that whole area free of people. That is the regulation of the ICAO. We have been getting by for the longest time without bringing that aspect of the Regulations into force. We cannot go on forever. We have to conform to the kind of international standards which are necessary for the safe landing of aircraft on approaching certain airports in the world.

12.50 p.m.

When the aircraft bank at Oistins in Christ Church there should be an unimpeded view of the complete runway as they approach. As far as Thornbury Hill and Parish Land that should be the limit of housing development. But the houses now when you go down Thyme Bottom Road, that road to the Training School on that side, those should be removed as far as the top of Wilcox Hill so that the pilot would see a very clear vision of the Airport coming into shape according to international Regulations. It is not a question of our trying to move people as such. I would like to assure Senator Phillips that this is an international requirement. We will carry out the necessary survey when the time comes. People will be properly compensated for their lands in due course.

Sir, I can only mention that this particular development at this stage is very desirable for the Airport. I am not in the area of land valuation as such from the point of view of making the Airport more accessible and commercial to raise revenue. It is necessary we get these kinds of offers by firms who can carry out the necessary maintenance which Government is not in a position to do at this stage because we would not want to be involved in that kind of aircraft maintenance in our development as instance our involvement with Aero Services, another small

aircraft. There is nothing of a technical point of view or from the standpoint of the Ministry of International Transport which would preclude us from not welcoming a development of this nature. The kind of other things to be worked out by the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Commissioner of Valuations is not our business.

I believe they would have used this opportunity also to provide the kind of setting one would want to come in to provide this kind of service at this very time to assist the Government and the people of Barbados in our quest to earn more revenue and to keep Barbados in the forefront of airport development in the Caribbean where we have a distinct advantage and which we intend to keep because of the new study. We are undertaking the Airport Expansion Study which would see us with a more equipped Airport, departure space, runway development and shops being instituted in the Airport facility right now. Recently we opened new shops in the Departure Lounge which seem to be well received by the departing passengers and have augured well for the people who run them. We will see more developments of that nature as we go along.

We have an Inboard Duty Free Shop which is serving its worth at this moment and which, to all intents and purposes, appears to be a very wise decision. It is that kind of development we are interested in. Given the lands which have already been identified for the Airport there is a question now of allocation of lands and resources to the best people who come forward and are able to provide certain services to the travelling public and the aircraft industry in this country, hence this Resolution.

I beg to support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the last Senator that spoke is familiar, as the Senate will be aware, with this matter since it comes within the portfolio for which he bears some responsibility. Let me clarify the matter and say that the number of \$84 948 was the rateable value placed on the property in terms of the valuation given by the Commissioner of Valuations.

Let me also say to the point made by Senator Alleyne to the effect that the land is not presently in use therefore the value has to bear some relation to the other possibilities which exist for the sizeable use which it is proposed to make of the land.

The fact is that Barbados will benefit substantially with a facility of this nature. Any wise Government would seize the opportunity when approached to make use of the lands which will not affect, in any way, expansion of the runways. Any lands required for expansion of the runways would have to be obtained west of the existing runway far southwest of this location. This parcel of land is

bounded by a roadway and will, in fact, change to some extent the face of the road leading from the Airport when this property is developed.

In all the circumstances I cannot believe that anybody would wish to oppose this Resolution. I beg to move that it be now passed.

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

ORDER NO. 6 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE VESTING OF CROWN LANDS IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION AT BREEDY'S LAND, CHRIST CHURCH FOR HOUSING PURPOSES

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the parcel of land which it is now proposed should be vested in the National Housing Corporation was acquired by the Government through compulsory acquisition specifically for the purpose of housing development. At that time it was explained that the basis for Government's acquisition of the land was there were certain tenants who would qualify under the Freehold Purchase Act and in order that the tenantry would remain and the spots could be made available to those poor people for whom a plea was made earlier in the day, it was decided at that time that Government would acquire it. The action now is to vest the land in the National Housing Corporation. It is 5 969 square metres of land at Breedy's Land in the parish of Christ Church.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.
1.00 p.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, Sir. I just wish to make a few comments on the whole question of housing particularly as it relates to the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation. If I may start by saying that I believe that the level of work being done within the Ministry of Housing and Lands in this area is perhaps an indication of that level, is perhaps shown strongest by the recent reshuffle in Cabinet where the Minister of Housing and Lands was given the additional portfolios of Culture, Community Development, Child Care Board, Welfare and all of those other social agencies that would normally constitute more than enough for one person far less to go as an appendage to the Ministry of Housing and Lands which certainly, up until 1986, and I believe even a few years after 1986 constituted more than enough for the workload of one Minister in Government's business. I believe that that reshuffle is a clear indication to the public of this country that all is very quiet within the Ministry of Housing and Lands particularly as it relates to the provision of

subsidized housing or the facilitating of housing for those people in our community who are unable to provide for themselves. That statement is not a statement that I make idly. It is backed up by the statistics that come out of the Ministry of Housing, the very same Ministry of Housing.

If we look at the quarterly statistics on Housing for the quarter ending September, 1991 at pages 22 and 23 – I believe I can make it a document of this Honourable Chamber if it is not already so – one can clearly see this level of inactivity within the Ministry of Housing and Lands within the last 2 to 3 years in particular. If we look at the number of rental units, the statistics there are unbelievable. In 1989 there were 12 units in progress for the first 3 quarters, 12 rental units for the whole of this island, particularly, bearing in mind when we look at all the rental units that have been built over the years and the thousands of Barbadians...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, are you saying that there were only 12 available at that time?

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No. I said there were only 12 being built, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Just to make it clear.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. When we look at the fact that the numbers, the thousands of Barbadians particularly young Barbadians who are unable to provide housing for themselves either because they are unemployed or they are on wages that are so near to the breadline or below the breadline that they are unable to provide for themselves, the fact that Government could only have 12 in 1989... Those 12 were completed between the final quarter of 1989 and the first quarter of 1990. There were none built in 1990 and in 1991, 51 were started and never completed, Sir. So that over the period from the middle of 1988 – 4 years ago – a Government that has normally provided rental units for that category of Barbadians who are unable to provide housing for themselves, housing which is a basic human right, that this Government has not provided.

Sir, not everybody can buy a house. While that is the aim, I believe, of all Governments in Barbados and has been since pre-Independence Barbados, certainly since the time when black Barbadians took charge of the Government and affairs of this country, we have always understood the necessity for rental units and the fact that this was the ability to give somebody a chance to have the housing and while, at the same time, to be able to put themselves in a position through savings or otherwise to provide themselves with this housing.

I remember very clearly and vividly the number of funding programmes that the Barbados Labour Party

entered into with the Inter-American Development Bank and a number of other institutions to provide:

- (1) the housing;
- (2) to provide funds for mortgages so that people may get housing.

And, Sir, even more critical than that was the more successful programme and that was the sites and services programme where tracks of land were developed to allow people to relocate or to place their houses on areas of land in a situation where they would not have been able to bear the cost of the acquisition and development of the land for the siting of that house.

When we look at that kind of history of housing development, when we look at this Government as it existed up until 1976, this Government's history in housing development, these figures over the last 4 years should make and do make a startling and shameful statement about a Government which claims to have a social conscience, that these figures are abominable. Indeed when we look at the Pondsides development, when the Barbados Labour Party left government in 1986 that development was supposed to have been for 75 units. Immediately upon this Government's ascension to office those 75 units were immediately cut back to thirty something. Anybody who goes through the City of Bridgetown, anybody who goes through the urban pockets in St. Michael whether it is in Carrington Village, whether it is in Bush Hall where there is dense, dense population will see the urgent need for the provision of proper and adequate housing. I do not subscribe to any assertion that 75 units in the Pondsides could be a slum because the mere fact that the Town and Country Planning, as part of the whole Bridgetown Re-development Plan, would have approved the provision of those housing units and the manner in which they were being built and were designed architecturally was to prevent the slums or any imputation of any slum development arising in the heart of Bridgetown on the border of Bay Street.

When I look at the number of people say, for example, living between Codrington Road just there by Senator Phillips' office and down at Eagle Hall, the thousands of people who are living in there, and very often you go into houses down there where there are 8 and 10 people living in a house with 2 gable roofs and a shedroof, maybe 3 rooms in the house and the pressure is there. They are adults. Why are they there? Because the young adults cannot get access to the housing. They cannot afford to pay rent of \$400 for another house elsewhere and they are looking for this kind of subsidized rental that Government has provided over the last 30 to 40 years of our development as a country and that Government is no longer

providing now. Sir, we also need to look at the number of mortgages being given out by the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation which has dropped substantially. Sir, the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation was set up to provide....

1.10 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Mottley, the matter of the mortgages there has nothing to do with this Resolution so I would wish you to confine yourself to the subject matter under debate.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I understand that to buy a house one has to have money, to buy a piece of land one has to have money and the ancient and the common practice is that if I do not have all the money there is an institution that will lend me the money. Senator Alleyne, I believe, can back me up on this.

The Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation is an institution that has been closely affiliated with the work of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation and its very establishment was to aid in securing a level of access for funding to allow Barbadians...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, the Senator must not say things in the Senate that are not true, to mislead the Senate. Whoever told her so does not know the origins of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited. It is not a mortgage corporation either. It is Barbados Mortgage Finance Company Limited. It was not established in the way that she is suggesting and it was aimed at a different type of housing from the one she is talking about.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I have been very careful as to what I said about the Barbados Mortgage Finance company. I said it was closely affiliated to the works of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing. It is a fact that a number of residents living behind BIM factory in Green Hill, have had loans from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation to buy units that were built by the Government of Barbados through the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Whichever way you want to construe that, Sir, that is a fact. It is a fact that there are a number of Barbadians who cannot go in the bank in Bridgetown or a trust company in Bridgetown and get loans to acquire or renovate their houses and who got loans from that company. That was part of the rationale for the establishment of that company, Sir.

What is significant, Sir, is that the same Ministry of Housing and Lands in the same quarterly statistics, is

the same one, in the categorisation of funding for housing that clearly delineates the categories that they record the figures for as being –

- (1) commercial banks,
- (2) trust companies, and
- (3) The Barbados Mortgage Finance Company.

Now, Sir, this document was not published by me. That document is published by the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Housing Planning Unit, one of the few things it has had to do in the last 3 years, since they stopped building houses – The Quarterly Statistics on Housing for the Quarter ending September 1991, Housing Planning Unit, Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Sir the point I am getting at is this. At a time in the country when people's disposable income has been reduced substantially, at a time when the construction sector has been down for a considerable period of time and if we look and I read from page 1 – Analysis of Housing Statistics –

"The overall performance of the Housing sector was most uneven during the quarter. Housing starts contracted by a massive 36 percentage points. The steepest decline to be registered since the inception of the quarterly statistics on the Housing Report."

Sir, this is the Ministry of Housing saying, Sir, that this quarter 1991 has seen the steepest decline in housing starts since they started keeping statistics in this country. Sir, that is a damning statement on the performance of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, particularly, when that same Ministry was responsible for securing a large degree of funding up until 1986 which we received from the Inter American Development Bank to secure the funding of moneys for urban housing in particular. The whole question of the urban renewal programme which the Barbados Labour Party had was used towards the provision of that kind of housing.

The sites and services programme has also seen a serious decline and the only kind of information that we see coming out of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation nowadays is about some scandal about some house that was moved at an exorbitant price from some part of Barbados up into St. John for \$95 000 or \$195 000 or whatever it was.

Sir, I am saying that that coupled with the Prime Minister's reshuffle is the equivalent of a statement of no-confidence. I would not go so far as to say it was the Minister, Sir, because I believe that the Minister is an able man and is trying but he does not have the resources with

which to work. And, Sir, I hope he will have a few more resources to work with – the Social Welfare Department he has now been given charge of and the Ministry of Culture and Community Development. Sir, I even have my doubts there given the performance of the last Minister who was moved from that Ministry.

Sir, housing is critical to the social welfare of this country. Housing is critical to whether a person is able to reach the levels of productivity that we say we are expecting of them in a Barbados that is now facing the challenges of the twenty-first century. A man or a woman who has to contend with overcrowding in a house, no access to a bed, no access to a roof that is not leaking, no access to proper facilities in the house, Sir, is not a person from whom we can expect a level of productivity that is consistent with a competitive Barbados for the twenty-first century.

I am saying, Sir, that given that basic fact that the same social safety network that the unions talk about, that the West Indian Commission talked so much about in its report, that we as political parties and we as Governments talk about, that that in itself dictates that housing must be a priority in any development plans that we have for this country.

I am also saying that given that fact the performance of the Ministry of Housing and the National Housing Corporation over the last few years has been one that requires the strongest possible condemnation. When we couple that fact with the arbitrary increases of rents, particularly given the Resolution last week where the Cruising Club received the land up in Bay Street at almost like peppercorn rent, and given the fact that that rent to them represents a much smaller proportion than the rent of a person who is living in the rented units ...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Payne to speak on a point of order.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: Mr. President, the Senator, Miss Mottley, just made reference to a Resolution which was passed in this Chamber suggesting that some company was given some lands at a peppercorn rent. The rules of this Chamber do not permit members to reflect on a previous vote in this Chamber. By saying that she is implying that the rent was not the market rent and it reflects on that vote. I am saying that particular remark is completely out of order.

In addition to that the Resolution before us deals with the compulsory acquisition of some land at ...

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley you will refrain from such remarks.

SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: This Resolution deals with the vesting of land in National Housing Corporation at Breedy's Land, Christ Church. This does not permit the Honourable Senator to expand this particular Resolution into a general debate on housing.

If the Honourable Senator wishes to debate a general Resolution on housing, she has to wait until such Resolution comes before the Chamber that all Members can prepare themselves for a general debate on housing and refer to the matters which she is raising. When she raised a matter about a scandal of a house that has been moved, I see nothing in this Resolution relating to any scandal. I am suggesting, Mr. President, that the Honourable Senator take heed to the advice given by the Leader of the House when he spoke much earlier.
1.20 p.m.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am grateful to the Honourable Senator for clarifying a number of points. I suppose that I may have usurped the privilege of speaking widely and beyond the terms of the Bill. Sir, perhaps I took guidance from him in the same way that he has usurped your role in determining what is correct in this debate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not welcome your comments, Senator Mottley, and I wish you to make sure that in addressing the Chair you confine yourself to the terms of the debate. You may now continue with the debate and you will refrain from making any such comments.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I will take the lead of my elder, the Honourable Senator Payne, in these matters particularly since he seems to have an understanding and a desire to guide the debate in this matter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I repeat, Senator Mottley, that you will not proceed along those lines. I made it very clear. If you wish to continue with the debate, you may do so. If not, you may take your seat.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I believe that Senator Payne has made it quite clear what the ambit of the debate is and I will take notice from him.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I repeat that is not your province, Senator Mottley. Either you continue with the subject matter or you take your seat. I take it that you have taken your seat. All right, Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I want to talk about a couple of points raised by Senator Mottley which we need to put into perspective and I will do it quite quickly. I believe the Senator is correct in quoting from a document which says that there were 12

rental units under construction in 1989. That perhaps is a statement of fact and is something which I would not question. But I just want to say, Mr. President, that to take this statement and interpret it as a statement of what was happening with housing in the country is totally wrong. You have to interpret statistics...

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I never took this as a representation of what was happening in housing in the country. I was very particular to state that this was happening as a matter of housing within the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation in so far as it related to rental units as a subsidised form of housing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Proceed, Senator Alleyne.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I return to the point which I was making and it is simply this. To understand what is happening in public sector housing, one has got to understand what is happening in the total economy. That is the point that I am making. It does not make sense in trying to say there are only twelve units under construction. You have to go and ask the other question. Was it possible to construct more? If we will reflect on what was happening in this economy in 1989-90, there was over-heating and it could only be an unwise Government which would have gone to intervene and try to construct more houses in 1989. If we look at the level of residential construction and total commercial construction, it would have been foolhardy, Mr. President, in 1989 for a Government in Barbados to try and construct more low income housing. If you will recall what happened in 1989, the cost of labour services and craftsmen services rose substantially in 1989. I thought that I needed to make that point.

The second point I want to make, Mr. President, is about this continuing discussion in the country. Not only today have I heard it from Senator Mottley about the Government providing low income housing. I am not a political scientist. I have a basic understanding who is the Government. When we talk about the Government, who is the Government? We are talking about the working people of Barbados and, if the Government is going to get these resources, it has to get these resources from the working people of Barbados. There is not a fairy-godfather who provides these resources. Again, I make the point that it may be very true about the statement that Senator Mottley has made of what has happened to housing in 1991. It may be a very correct statement, but again one has got to understand that in the context of what is happening in the country.

It is common knowledge that Barbados was put into a stabilisation programme in 1991. I do not need to

expand on what a stabilisation programme is or why you need to go into it. Could anyone reasonably expect that a country which is going into a stabilisation programme at the same time could put the kind of money into social spending to increase low income housing? It is unthinkable.

I also want to set the record straight on this matter where the Senator read that the number of housing starts in 1991 saw the steepest decline. She proceeds to make the inference that that is a damning statement of the former Minister of Housing. I beg to disagree. That statement is a statement of fact and it has nothing to do with the Ministry of Housing. If the Ministry does not have access to the resources, it cannot build those houses. If the country cannot afford it, how is the Ministry of Housing going to get it?

Sir, I go further. The Senator said that housing must be a priority in any development plan. I agree that it must be a social priority. However, at this time in Barbados the highest priority must be given to the productive sectors which are producing for the export markets. You can only stimulate housing and you can only support high levels of social spending when the directly productive sectors are performing at a high level. There is no country that I know of that has been able to support any extensive social programme whether it is in housing or in health when the productive sectors have not been performing well. Jamaica tried in the 1970's and all of us know what the experience of Jamaica is today.

Mr. President, I want to caution against these loose statements which might have political appeal for those who are less understanding of these issues. In the final analysis when we make these statements here, there are some simple-minded people who believe them. I dare say that Barbados today is paying a high price for many of the loose statements which have been made over the years.

I have heard a lot of talk about mortgage financing and I just want to make one quick comment on it. There is a demand side and there is a supply side. If there is a demand, there will be a supplier. It does not take any genius to understand that since 1981 when this country ended the stabilisation programme the demand for mortgage financing would have declined. It would have declined because people's spending power declined and people became more unsure about the security of their jobs. I am saying yes the points in terms of facts which the

Senator is adverting to may be very accurate. But I think that we must not use statistical information to draw wrong inferences.

Mr. President, those are the remarks which I wanted to make. I fully support the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I do not believe that one should go outside of the Resolution to respond to certain matters. But I think that I would be remiss if I did not repeat what I tried to interject earlier the fact to indicate that Barbados Mortgage Finance Company was established to facilitate the sort of housing that we were discussing today is to mislead the Chamber. In fact, the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company came into existence through the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Finance. It obviously had a relationship with the Ministry of Housing and there was a specific window at the National Housing Corporation for that purpose for the sort of funding to finance the type of housing we are talking about. I only wish to place that on record because that is not a statement that I have heard from anybody as a statement that I know as a fact through my own personal working experience with that agency.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question that the Resolution be passed was put to the Senate and agreed to.
1.30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, we have cleared the Order Paper of matters which we wish to discuss. Let me alert Members of the Senate that I do not propose to deal with the first item on the Order Paper even at our next sitting. In addition, I wish to alert Members that there is a possibility that we may wish to deal at short notice with certain matters which are to be dealt with in the House of Assembly. So although I propose to adjourn the Senate *sine die*, I am just alerting Members that it is possible we may wish to meet, if not on December 2, certainly on December 9.

I beg to move that this Senate be now adjourned *sine die*.

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

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