
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

SENATE

Wednesday, December 22, 1993

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, 22nd December, 1993, at 11.15 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 the Environment, Housing and Lands) (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 State, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Deputy Leader of the Senate)

Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE
Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES
Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.
Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.
Senator W. LeR. INNISS
Senator J. G. BELLAMY
Senator J. A. F. COLE
Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY
Senator T. C. BECKLES.

Prayers were led by Rev. Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

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

The National Insurance and Social Security Collection of Contributions (Amendment) Regulations, 1993.

The National Insurance and Social Security Self-Employed persons (Amendment) Regulations, 1993.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 4) Order, 1993.

MOTIONS RELATED TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate agrees with the suspension of Standing Order 45 (2) to enable us to deal with the item on the Order Paper in all its stages.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled an Act to amend the Income Tax Act be read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Order No. 1 was called – To move the Second Reading of the Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1993.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Bill before us is a fairly straightforward Bill. It seeks to create a parallel situation. The emoluments payable to Governors-General at the present time are not liable to the payment of income tax. Salaries of Governors-General are not liable to the payment of income tax. But at the present time any pension payable as a result of that service is taxable. It seems to be somewhat unreasonable that during service no tax is paid but when a pension which ensues from that service is about to be received that the recipient is required to pay tax. The question has never arisen until recently because Governors-General have succumbed while in office.

For the first time we have a Governor-General who demitted office and has been in receipt of a pension from 1990 and being the retired holder of the office of Governor-General is subject to income tax under Cap. 73 the Income Tax Act, because there is no exception either in the Governor-General Conditions of Service Act nor anywhere else.

What this Bill seeks to do is to exempt the pension payable to Governors-General who survive the holding of the office and who are in receipt of a pension out of the public Treasury. The Act makes provision for the amendment of the principal Act Cap. 73 to state that notwithstanding the provisions of the Income Tax Act that Governors-General pension shall be exempt from income tax. This Amendment goes further and provides that the Amendment to be made to the principal Act shall be deemed to come into effect from the 1st day of May, 1990.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I rise to support the Amendment to the Income Tax Act as placed before us today. I do feel that pension earned and being received by former Government employees and all others should definitely be tax free. I only wish that this exemption which we are now considering were applicable to all pensioners in this country – not necessarily post dated but allowing pensioners to receive their full pension without any tax. That is, if not all of the pension at least up to the amount of the allowance of \$20 000 prescribed for that category.

Mr. President, I brought up this point when the previous Income Tax Act Amendment came before this Chamber in August last year. I now crave your indulgence to mention it here again. The allowance for pensioners was raised to \$20 000 then in August last year, but, at the same time, a 12½% withholding tax was placed on all incomes derived from interest on deposits and dividends from shareholdings. So that for a pensioner receiving income from investments and these premiums totalling around \$20 000 or less his or her whole income is taxed at 12½% unless of course they have other resources and then those resources would take up some of the \$20 000. But for the man who only receives income from dividends and interest and it does not amount to \$20 000 or more every whole dollar of his income is taxed. There are many people in this country whose income falls in that category. My concern here therefore is for the pensioner whose income is mainly derived from dividend and interest payments and who does not have the privilege of claiming the \$20 000 allowance because that 12½% withholding tax is levied at source and it is not refundable.

11.25 a.m.

So this system reduces the benefits a man or a woman might have worked and planned for all his life and it reduces them without him and the others at hand getting the benefit of the allowances laid down for him. So this draconian tax system may have its merits but surely its affect on some pensioners is not equitable.

The Bill amending the Income Tax Act before us today is referred to as number 2 so this means that this is the second amendment that is coming up and it is very strange that we have this amendment dealing with a matter concerning one pensioner and still no consideration is being given to so many other pensioners although I am sure this anomaly must have been brought to the attention of the authorities during the last year and over.

Mr. President, while I think I wholeheartedly support the Bill before us today I must say I am disappointed that it is so limited in its coverage in respect of other pensioners in this country. Thank you.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1993.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, it has been drawn to my attention that I omitted to indicate that this was a money Bill and I am just mentioning it for the record.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes. That is why we did not go into Committee.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, last year in the listing of National Awards two Honourable Members of this Chamber were recipients. That is 1992 I am talking about. Again in 1993 two Honourable Members of this Senate were recipients of the award of the Gold Crown of Merit. I believe that this is evidence of the calibre of persons invited to serve in this Honourable Chamber and includes persons who have distinguished themselves in some form of endeavour. In this instance a person representing the Church and in the other instance a person who has contributed to the development of education in this country.

At the present time only Senator Alleyne who is recipient for his services to education, among other things, I believe, is with us and I would wish to express congratulations to him and to say to him that this signal recognition of the contribution which he has made is one which was well received by the people of Barbados. I believe the wider Caribbean, the University of the West Indies, his colleagues may well recognise over time that the contribution which he has been making to the growth and development of that institution is not only well earned but we believe he will be a worthy holder of this honour which is being conferred upon him.

I wish therefore to offer him my warmest congratulations on this award.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR W. L. INNIS: Mr. President, I could not miss this opportunity to associate myself with the kind remarks which the Honourable Leader of the Senate made on behalf of Dr. Alleyne on the award which was conferred upon him.

This is not the first award that Dr. Alleyne has received. He has received various other rewards for different endeavours but it is a pity that we do not find more persons of the calibre of Dr. Alleyne who does not confine his activity solely to the interest from which he earns his living but who has given service to Barbados and indeed the wider Caribbean, not only through working with the University. It is possibly known by many here that his activity within the University was not related to teaching only but he has also held many administrative positions in the University's administration and he has given yeomen service.

We can single out, even in Barbados, that Dr. Alleyne has been one of the early persons to associate himself, on behalf of the public with the Public Utilities Board, for example, where his public spiritedness has come to fore.

One thing you cannot say about Dr. Alleyne is that he is a hypocrite. He is a person who is forthright and when he has to do what he has to do he does not look for any favour or any reward he does what his conscience tells him to do in the interest of the nation. If he finds that today he thinks you are doing right and tomorrow he thinks you are doing wrong, in the interest of the country, he will tell you that you are doing wrong. We wish there were more people like that who, when they are working labour not for the hope of reward but because they love their country.

I am very pleased, Sir, to associate myself with any remarks of congratulations to Senator Alleyne for the work he has done to Barbados and the Caribbean in general. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President. I too would like to associate myself with the sentiments so far expressed on behalf of Senator Alleyne on the occasion of his being awarded the Gold Crown of Merit. Too often, Mr. President, in Barbados we allow those who make significant contributions to our lives to go unnoticed for far too long and some eventually are only remembered at their death or some time after.

I am happy to note that this is not the case with Senator Alleyne. To all of us in Barbados, Senator Alleyne is known for his sterling contribution to the general debate of this country especially in the area of economics. Although he sits on this side he does not allow that to influence his objectivity which he brings to bear on debates coming before us.

11.35 a.m.

It is not very often that we find professionals in public life who are as intellectually honest not to allow their partisan politics to interfere with their professional discipline and development. I have admired this in Senator Alleyne and I do hope that as we seek in this country to identify those people who are the guardians of our heritage that we in Government make sure that their contributions to the life of the country at this time is recorded for posterity.

With those comments, I again offer my sincerest congratulations to Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne for the recognition.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I too should like to associate myself with the remarks of other Senators. I want to say one of the things that impressed me with Frank Alleyne – and I now refer to him as Senator Dr. Alleyne, but I knew him a long time before he was a Senator or before he was Dr. Alleyne – was his family life. It was very scarce, or you would not see it at all, for a young man to be travelling to lectures with his little

baby in a pram beside him. I used to attend lectures at Harrison College on a Saturday morning and Frank Alleyne was there, but his little daughter was there with him too. I was really tickled pink, I said here is a man who loves his family very dearly.

Also, he may not remember this, but while he was at the University I went there to do a course and everybody started telling me about this popular young man at the University. How friendly he was, how hard he worked and he always remembered his family. I think he is a good role model to many of the young men up and coming. Frank never talks except he talks about his wife and four daughters, and he always praises them for what they are doing, and they praise him, and he thinks strongly of getting home to his family.

I am also pleased that Frank and I have worked together in the political arena and other areas and, as Senator Inniss said, he is one of the few academics who has endeared himself to the poor people of this country and has served in many different capacities. I laud him for that, because we have a number of people – and I have said this on the Floor of this Senate already – that have come back here, we have spent taxpayers' money on them and we could never see them to do anything in the community.

I take this opportunity to wish Senator Alleyne all the very best in his endeavours, and I hope that he will continue to be that model family man and to inspire many other young people that the family is the important area in this society; that the radius of a man's life depends upon his centre and the centre is the family, and that we will get a lot more people emulating him. I pray that God's blessing will be upon him and his wife and his family and that he will continue for many, many years to labour in this vineyard.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, I too would like to add my contribution to the congratulatory remarks with respect to Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne.

I have said this at more than one public fora, but I do not remember saying it in this Honourable Chamber, that I have an extremely deep respect for, and genuine fear of two disciplines in particular – law and economics. I will not go into the details as to the reasons for my fears. I crave your indulgence, Sir, to use the vernacular and say "I really frighten for the two of them."

The discipline of economics is so fraught with assumptions that a lot of my attempts to come to grips with economics made the word "assume" treat me like how it has treated many people, and I think we know what "assume" does to you and to me; so I have left that

discipline severely alone for people of the calibre and with the brains of Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne.

Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne's work as an educator has been recognised at an extremely high level and his contributions in this Senate have always been well informed and well researched, even although sometimes he could do without the use of the loudspeaker, because he usually knows he is so right that anybody can hear it.

But I should like at this stage too, Mr. President, to throw some verbal bouquets to the wives of both these people who have been honoured, because I know what wives put up with in this type of business; long suffering, hard working and playing extremely supportive roles.

I am sorry that Senator Archdeacon Springer is not here, but he knows how we all feel about the honour that has been conferred upon him.

To reinforce what Senator Lewis said in his opening remarks, I too, Mr. President, would like to go off on an interesting note, and that is, that in the context of National Awards, if we take this Senate as a single body of people, I think that it stands out in its number of national awardees in the whole of this island. I should like to add then, that, having been distinguished for these awards, I think it behoves us all to distinguish ourselves by continuing to do some real solid work for our country.

Mr. President, I thank you.
11.45 a.m.

SENATOR T. C. BECKLES: Mr. President, I could not allow this opportunity to pass without, like other Senators, showering appropriate praises on Dr. Frank Alleyne. Not only is Dr. Alleyne an academic, not only is Dr. Alleyne a good family person; but he is a friend and a friend to many persons who have attempted to dabble in the area of economics but find that the complexity of the thing sometimes takes up more time than they can afford.

I am particularly impressed when I hear of students who go to the University and find they have been taught by 2 or 3 lecturers and still cannot get past the first hurdle and then all of a sudden Dr. Alleyne appears and you see the pass list increased. Those persons tend to pass. This is an indication as to the kind of person that Dr. Alleyne is.

He is able to deal with the subject at the most complicated level and still explain it to persons at the lower level and it is mainly in this area because no one else touched on it and I want to give Dr. Alleyne credit. It is not a very easy thing to do and I know that I have discussed this with many students who were in the first year for many years and only by God's blessing Dr. Alleyne passes through and they are able to get on with their degree.

Dr. Alleyne, on behalf of all those persons out there who will not have the opportunity to let you know about this, they appreciate it very much and therefore I, like the other Senators, would like to associate myself with the award and look forward for even higher awards coming your way. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I rise to offer congratulations to a most worthy gentleman on the occasion of his receipt of an honour in the last Independence Honours List and to say that it is indeed gratifying for me to be able to congratulate my friend and contemporary in this august Chamber on being so elevated at this time.

Frank Alleyne and myself have been associated as teacher and pupil for a number of years at our earliest years in primary school. He is a younger man than I am but I have had the chance to teach him some things in those early formative years. So probably he owes it to me. Some of his success would naturally be attributed to my early molding of such a fine character which has always been manifested here. He has been the source of many an enlightened debate which has been a credit to this institution.

I think that he has been always a forthright and very attacking person and he never lets his feelings be put under a bushel. He lets his light shine wherever he was and to my mind he has been too active. He has been a hyperactive student, hyperactive personality. Sometimes I worry that he might even kill himself when he is taking up certain subjects, and on certain occasions he does not rest nor sleep but goes on and on. When we leave this Chamber some Wednesdays I can always get a telephone call saying "Peanuts, I am coming by you now." We continue to argue out the same problem when the debate has already been finished in this Chamber and he comes back and recreates the whole atmosphere much to my embarrassment because I cannot get on to my social activities as I would like. He delays my efforts in another direction.

Albeit, he is a worthy comrade and a very close friend and I cannot find words to really describe his achievements because he has been so close to me throughout the years that it has become so natural that on an occasion like this I find it difficult to find words to praise the achievements and faithfulness and sincerity in whatever he says and whatever he does. He is a truly faithful and sincere person and for that he will go far in all his endeavours.

We need more Frank Alleynes who will work faithfully and truthfully so that we are able to work together to attain the kind of production which is so necessary at this stage of our development.

I would like to close by offering my good friend heartiest congratulations for his wife who I know has always been behind him, who more or less worries about him night and day and who has been giving that support which is very necessary to people like that who are hyperactive and who would cause problems to a wife anyhow.

I should also like to join with Senator Straughn who made the point very forcibly that this Chamber has been receiving the recipients of service awards. That should be so, Sir. I would hope as we go along in time that more worthy gentlemen and ladies in this Chamber will also reap those rewards which they so rightfully deserve, which will make for a better nation and a better appreciation of people who contribute to this country so that as time goes on we will have a better Barbados and better citizens who are more cooperative, more understanding and more willing to enjoin themselves to the work at hand. I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: Mr. President, I would like as other Senators this morning to warmly congratulate Dr. Frank Alleyne on his award and Canon Springer as well.

Sir, one of the things about Dr. Alleyne which causes me to marvel is his ability to judge situations, particularly political situations. If you want to have a good analysis as to a perception of Barbados in the immediate future or in the distant future, I believe there is no person who has a better idea of that than Frank Alleyne, his ability to judge and analyse persons and where they are coming from. I very much doubt that in the field of economics he has an equal in this country. We in this Chamber have had other persons who have been trained in the same skill but none have been able to put themselves over in such a way that we ordinary laymen can understand. Frank Alleyne has been able to make economic theories simple for us.

Another area is particularly in matters relating to his friends. He never finds it is too difficult for him to talk to them at any time or to visit or meet them, regardless of how far they live from his Christ Church residence. Indeed, I feel very strongly that Frank has merited this honour and so too Canon Springer and while giving my words of praise to these gentlemen I would like to also congratulate a former member of this Senate, John Stanley Goddard, who was awarded the knighthood and, also for his contribution in cricket, I would like to congratulate Sir Clyde Walcott. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the congratulations for Senator Dr. Alleyne more so from the area of the trade union movement. Let me say before I knew Dr. Alleyne I had seen him on various public fora and I thought he was such a serious and direct person that I often thought he

was someone to fear until I was in closer contact with him and recognised that actually he is very soft. I will tell you why a little later but let me speak on the matter of the trade union movement.

I am always heartened by his agreeing to come to lecture to workers in the Barbados Workers' Union because on a number of occasions you would recognise that the kind of work he does, especially at the University and travelling around, would take up a lot of his time. When some lecturers at that institution find it very difficult to come to areas, especially as far as the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College in St. Philip to give a lecture to maybe 25 workers, I find that Dr. Alleyne always found time to come to that far corner. It might sound as though it is something simple but when we recognise the number of times he comes, and also the extent to which he puts himself in various positions to be there, and also he is able to reach those students at their level to understand whatever area it is that he is dealing with, I think that is something that is of great credit to him.

11.55 a.m.

I remember, maybe about 10 years ago, when Dr. Alleyne was talking about wage restraint, we in the Trade Union Movement were quarrelling and I remember having a little argument with him after one of his lectures because I was quite upset that he would have been going in that area. In looking back at it in retrospect, I would say that Dr. Alleyne in his analysis seemed to be well ahead of his time. If most of us in this country, maybe, had an opportunity to listen to the kind of lectures he was giving at that time maybe we would not be in such a position today in accepting, even if we had to do what we have to do, the kind of situations that exist at the moment. That stood out in my mind very much. Whenever we are talking about wage restraint and incomes policy and things of that nature I always refer to that because at that point in time I did not think that this particular area of analysis was as necessary as we now see today and he was saying from that time that we have to look at that very seriously.

Other than his direct approach to situations and his serious approach to analysis and scholarship, I see another side of Dr. Alleyne. This came out to me most forcefully during the illness of Sir Frank. One would think that because Dr. Alleyne is so caught up in different areas that he would not find time – I am not talking about a visit or two, I am talking about a number of visits and at what I would call prime time – to visit Sir Frank. I want to thank him for that publicly because Sir Frank's illness is one where he is very much alert but yet because he is tucked away one might fail to be in contact with him. Dr. Alleyne never ceases to call and find out how he is doing and to visit him as regularly as possible. That is one of the reasons why I said that he is very soft because if you see him even relating to Sir Frank, not at the level of

scholarship or any serious discourse in economics but at the level of a person, as a man, and as human being and someone whom you can now relate to, at a time when he needs people to show him love and comfort, Dr. Alleyne is there to do this. I think that is a credit to him. I must say I appreciate this.

I think this honour is well placed in Dr. Alleyne.

Thank you.

SENATOR J. G. BELLAMY: Mr. President, first I must apologise for my voice today. At least I have it back. Two days ago I had no voice. I had been sitting there wondering whether I could risk standing to make a comment without being sure what would be coming out or how it would be coming out. After hearing all of the comments that have already been made I felt that I should rise and associate myself with the complimentary remarks that have been made.

I do not know if Senator Alleyne recalls the first occasion on which we actually came into contact but it was some 5 years or so ago during the time I was at that time President of the Chamber of Commerce. We sat on a television panel discussing the then Budget of that year. After the particular panel discussion was televised and we were finished with that he and I spent some considerable time in the car park analysing several other issues relating to Barbados.

I must admit that I was impressed then. I have heard words used in here like "fear", "soft" and things like that. I remember during the televised debate the major opponent, if you want to use that word, was actually shaking when trying to respond to him during the debate so I do not know if that is the "fear" part. But, certainly, from my experience then and since then reading contributions in the Press and watching him in his own style here in the Senate, I have always been very impressed with his analytical ability and the manner in which he puts forward his points in very precise, sometimes in supporting Senator Walkes "loud fashion", but everybody gets to understand. I think if there is anything that is not understood he has always demonstrated a sincere willingness to meet outside of the Chamber or wherever the point may be made, and explain his point. I think it is this sort of person, of high principle, who is generally regarded as such that is very deserving of national honour.

I also want to associate with the comment made by Senator Phillips my own feelings in respect of the honours conferred on Senator Archdeacon J. L. Springer, Sir John Stanley Goddard and Sir Clyde Walcott.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR J. J. PAYNE: Mr. President, I find it an honour to join in these congratulatory remarks being expressed on behalf of our colleague and friend, Dr. Frank Alleyne who, to all of us, has always been recognised as a person who, as one of the previous speakers said, displays very sober judgment.

Whenever Dr. Alleyne has the opportunity to give you an opinion on any matter, whether it is an opinion in his own field of training of Economics, or in some other area, you can rest on the fact that that opinion will only be forthcoming if he can give it careful thought and bring to bear all different shades and angles of the particular problem with which you are faced at the time. If he is not in a position to give you an opinion, he will tell you that and perhaps he will even tell you where you can go to get better information. I have always found this to be one of the characteristics of the man on whose behalf we speak today.

In his own field of Economics I believe you will all agree that he has always come across as exceptional. I believe if you were to ask anyone in Barbados for someone who can give you a good sound judgment on any matter relating to Economics the name of Frank would be one of the names that would come up in any such mention.
12.05 p.m.

Frank is a person who, from the time I knew him has never displayed what some people call a "chip". Some people walk around with what you call a "chip" on their shoulder. I have always found Frank to be the kind of person that can get along with all kinds of people whether you belong to his Party or to one of the opposing parties you were able to relate to him. Some people do not like you if you are black, some people do not like you if you are white. I have always found that Frank was able to relate to you no matter what differences you manifest in your personality. I have always found him to be a very helpful person. The tribute which we pay to him today is one which gives me some pleasure. I do hope that the words which we hear here today would serve to inspire him to do even more for his country and indeed for his people.

I am sure he does not need the honour which was bestowed on him to make him continue to make his efforts at contributing to Barbados. I believe that these kinds of signals are important to be bestowed on people so that the effort which they are making is recognized. I think, Mr. President, that today one can only say to Frank that he should continue the efforts which he is making and it is a pleasure for me to join in these congratulatory remarks.

Thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Cole.

SENATOR J. A. F. COLE: Mr. President, I would like to join my fellow Senators here today in congratulating Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne. I do not know and I cannot speak with the certainty that some of us have spoken as to whether he is hard, whether he is aggressive, whether he is soft. What I do know is that I consider him, whenever he has something to say, to be very convincing because of his ability to sell himself in clear simple terms. He sells himself showing that he is on top of his subject and therefore the message that he is giving is quite easily taken.

I would agree with Senator Payne that perhaps Dr. Alleyne does not need awards. I think some people need them like carrots. But I think he is one of those people who does not need it but it is a form of recognition and when we are recognized we should stand up and be recognized.

I should like to congratulate him for that. I would also like to say that in my dealings with him which I cannot say go back as many years as some of us, I have always found that he is able to relate very easily to all strata of society and the various shades, and as Senator Payne said, he does not seem to be worried or to be put out dealing with people from different backgrounds. I think that is a terrific attribute and it is people of this nature in this day and age in Barbados that we need to take us forward.

I would like to congratulate him once more on his award.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, there is not much left for me to say but I do wish to be included among those who want to congratulate Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne on this honour that is so well deserved, the recognition of his work in here and at the University and in Barbados as a whole.

My experience with his speaking is mostly in this Chamber and I have always been impressed by his contributions. I do not think that at any time when he rises to speak we can pretend that we are not listening or we ignore what he has to say. Because even whether we do not agree I know that it is something very important there that you have to take into consideration and look at it at different angles. His contributions are really worthwhile. I have heard similar words of his worth at the University. It is clear that this is only the mid-point of his career and we all look forward to his continued success and progress. I hope you know that you have a lot of friends in here and a lot of support and love to take you where you are going.

Congratulations Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I too should like to be associated with the congratulatory remarks which have so far been made in favour of our Senator Dr. Frank Alleyne.

Over the years I have had the privilege of being associated with him and I can say that he is very forthright and he certainly is most fearless. It is fortunate when we have someone who does not confine himself only to academia and his professional life but who is willing to contribute to the public life of the country in so many ways as Senator Dr. Alleyne has done.

There is not much new which I can add to what has been said other than to say I certainly hope that he will continue his contribution in public life as he has done in the past.

Congratulations to you Frank.

Senator Alleyne will now reply.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I am very much like Senator Bellamy in that last week I did not have a voice it just comes and goes for several days.

The events of today remind me of almost 24 years ago when I got married having to sit and wait. It is not the easiest of experiences sitting and hearing people say all these nice things about you. I want to thank fellow Senators for the very generous comments which they have made today. In the last 3 weeks, 3 things have been significant for me, one I could not anticipate because I have a way of viewing national honours as something you do not expect. It is something that happens. It is different from an examination, you can plan for it and if you plan and you work hard enough and you have enough luck you would do well.

A couple weeks ago the University Librarian wrote me a letter – it is a letter which I will keep for some time – in which he thanked me for continuing to make my published work available to the Library. This is not something which many academics do.

Just Monday the Department of Economics which I helped to found surprisingly honoured me at a luncheon at the Ship Inn Restaurant. I was surprised because I did not expect it.

Quite simply, Mr. President, my motto has been To labour without the longing for reward. Life is very short and I really never had the time to sit down and worry about the things of the past. I try to learn lessons from them.

12.15 p.m.

I would say, Mr. President, that I was fortunate in many respects because what I have achieved has been with the assistance and the advice and influence of several persons. Perhaps the most important one, and without doubt the most important one was my mother who fathered me because my father died when I was 8 years old and my mother had to raise 9 of us and she was a remarkable woman. In fact I think that the environmental factor is perhaps the most important influence of one's life because the capacity to struggle, and that instinct for survival and hard work I got that from my mother.

I would say I was fortunate in school because I met one of my Headmasters the late Lee Harford Skeete who was one of the greatest educators in Barbados. I believe that not enough is known about the work of Lee Harford Skeete. I do not think there is a single person who passed through Foundation School under the tutelage of Lee Harford Skeete who was not influenced by his fairness, his commitment to principle and his love for scholarship. This was an absolutely brilliant man and a multi-talented man. I believe that Mr. Skeete made the decisive turning point in my early life because there was a time when my mother was finding it difficult keeping me in school although I was a Foundation scholar. I could not have remained in Foundation School unless I had won a scholarship.

I remember like now the morning when she took me with my books to Mr. Skeete and told Mr. Skeete she was going to send me to the Carpenter's trade because she could not keep me in school any longer. Mr. Skeete pulled a puff on his pipe and then he looked up at her and said "You have to be crazy. This boy is doing well in school. Why are you going to deny him a future?" Although nowadays when I look back upon it I have a feeling Mr. Skeete gave the wrong advice because I might have been one of the most successful builders in this country because I like construction. This is why I remained in Secondary school.

There is another dear old lady, and with your permission I mention her, who was very important, who is, I believe, resting somewhere in Paradise, a Mrs. Lilian Weekes. I remember leaving her house many mornings at 5.00 or 5.30. I was there studying. She would say to me, you can use my house any time you feel like. You can come and you can study the whole night. If you want to sleep you can sleep and then you can go. It is these kinds of people who influenced my life as I grew up.

Then later, I got a little freedom for the first time in my life when I went to Erdiston Teachers Training College. I was a big man but not in experience. I was then 23 years old. It was the first time I was living away from home. This is the time when I started to experiment. In a matter of 12 months I had practically exhausted everything there was I could read in the area of politics and sociology and philosophy in the Library at Erdiston. The following

year I spent most of my time in the main Library in Bridgetown. But that time was very important. I think it was the most exciting time in my life intellectually – those two years I spent in college, because I had the time to read the things I wanted to read because Erdiston was no challenge. I met there a lady by the name of Miss Myrtle King. Myrtle King had a tremendous capacity to help you to believe in yourself. There was another lady by the name of Muriel Sealy. She is now dead but she was a fine scholar of English and possessed a tremendous intellect and was very sharp on critique. I recall an occasion at the College when the class did not come up to scratch and she asked the class to re-do the assignment and she prefaced the remark by saying the only one I will excuse is Mr. Alleyne because he is the only fellow who produced something of any quality today.

Then there was the late Rudolph Goodridge. I remember talking to him in 1964 under the Sandbox tree. I was leaving Erdiston and as Senator Walkes said, there was a bit of fear about me as a young man. I was a very brash young man. I did not have a wife, I did not have any children and the world was there for me to take it on. I remember the day when the students called on me to do the valedictory address. There were some tutors who were trembling because they knew that I did not mince matters. I spoke about things as I saw them. But there is a time for every thing and a valedictory address is no time to make people uneasy.

I remember speaking to the late Rudolph Goodridge under the big sandbox tree in the yard and I said to him, "Mr. Goodridge it is time you leave Erdiston. You are in a dead end. Someone of your ability should not remain here." He said to me, "Frank I hope you go on to University". I said, "That is where I am going". I remember two years and 9 months after the late Harold Bayne met me in front of Fogarty Ltd. I was not liming but I had stopped for some reason and he said to me, "What are you doing now?" I asked him, "What do you mean by that?" He said, "Are you still at University?" I said "I have left down there". He said, "You dropped out?" I said, "Mr. Bayne, with respect, have you ever heard me put myself to any task and drop out? I am finished". He said, "You are finished?" I said, "Yes, I am finished". He said, "You think you have passed?" I said, "Mr. Bayne, you do not understand whom you are talking to. I do not know the results but I know I am going to get a First Class Honours Degree or an Upper Second Class Honours degree". And the hair stood up on his head. He said, "You are serious?" I said, "I do not make sport".

There is a time in life for everything. There is a time to skylark and there is a time to be serious. I heard Senator Straughn talking about the complexities in economics. You do not know and I cannot divulge the confidential information of the University but Senator Straughn came to

the University and I believe she was 50 years old already, she barely missed a First Class Honours degree by a whisker. She used to get the young students read the things to her and then she explained them to them.

I was fortunate because I have to tell you that I chose teaching. Teaching did not choose me. The very day I went to teach at St. Christopher School I was offered a job in the public service and I decided to teach because I felt that teaching gave me an opportunity for self development which the civil service did not give me. I have always followed one motto and I have taken it into the University: "If there is no learning there is no teaching". I say that to my colleagues day in and day out. A lot of people believe that getting up and giving a lecture is to go in for an hour and you talk some highfalutin things and very often you end up wasting a lot of your time and all of the other person's time. That is one of the things our University has to address.

My greatest satisfaction, Mr. President, throughout my career I can tell you is trying to help people to understand things. I do not think there are many people in Barbados today who have had the breadth of experience which I have had. I have taught infants, I have taught special class. I have taught primary school. I have taught secondary school. I have taught post secondary in Jamaica at CAST. I have taught most of my life at University. But in terms of my legacy, apart from teaching, is my written work.

I had the opportunity recently, as part of the Department to display some of my written work to mark the Twenty-first Anniversary of the Department. It is in the Library. That and more are in the Library. My main priority for the rest of my working life is to build on that legacy.

I was fortunate to have met the late Milton Lynch and Graham Corbin. Some of you might know them. These were headmasters in the old tradition. They were headmasters who kept after you and ensured that you built yourself professionally. Mr. Lynch saw to that when I went to St. Christopher. He would go after you. The late Graham Corbin was like that. Then, when I left Barbados and perhaps many may not know this but I am a lover of history and I had to make a very difficult decision in 1967 between becoming an historian and an economist but I chose economics because of the influence which people like Rawle Farley and the late Sir Arthur Lewis had upon me as a youngster.

12.25 p.m.

But before the examination results were published in 1967 there was a professor from Harvard who came to Barbados – I think he was one of the external examiners – and offered me a fellowship to go to Harvard to read for a Ph.D. in history, which I turned down because I did

not think it was history I wanted to do as a career, and I have not regretted it.

I believe it was a twist of fate that I am back in the Caribbean, Mr. President, because the truth is in 1967 I really never had a plan to return to the Caribbean to work. I was relaxing in my plans to go to Jamaica to study, to do graduate work, and I was offered the President Stanford Fellowship of the University of Miami. I was the first West Indian to be awarded that fellowship. When I got there, after six weeks I could not make it. The black suit which I wore there I think could fit me twice after six weeks. It was a very difficult environment, so I left it. I did not have wife or children, so I gave it up and was on my way back to Barbados. The then Vice Chancellor of the University, Vice Chancellor Philip Sherlock, heard I was leaving and going back to Barbados and said no, we cannot allow you to go to Barbados, come to Jamaica. That is how I got into Jamaica, and perhaps that is how I am back in Barbados, because I never applied for a job in the University in Jamaica. I was home relaxing and the Director of the I.S.E.R. called me and asked if I wanted to give up my scholarship. I had just received a very good scholarship for my performance in 1967 and 1968 and I was there planning how I was going back to Jamaica and live very sumptuously off my scholarship. The offer came: "Are you sure you do not want to come and join us in the Institute?" I agonised about it and then I gave it up, and that is how I ended up in the University.

But my life has been like that. In Jamaica perhaps the most influential person I met, in terms of my subsequent development, was the late George Beckford. Beckford was easily one of the brightest scholars I have ever encountered. I will always treasure my contact with two other people in the University – the late Sir Sydney Martin and Zachary Preston, the late Vice Chancellor. These are men who were absolutely fair. Even if you got a tough decision which you did not like, when you reflected upon it soberly you realised that it was a just decision. Of course, there was Sir Keith – he was Dr. Hunte at the time – and Dr. Hunte in 1964 was a different Dr. Hunte from the person we know in 1993. He was a young man and he was bristling. I remember many a night, between 1964 and 1967, encountering Dr. Hunte on that Harbour site. Those fellows – Sir Keith and Dr. Phillips – laboured in a way which the young generation of academics do not understand or appreciate. They not only had to lecture us but they functioned as encyclopaedia. We did not have much of a library, we had to be using the SPCK Bookshop which was in the Cave Shepherd building, I think it was, and you go and check and get them to import books for you. So that very often my collection of books in a subject was greater than those we had at the University.

Mr. President, I am happy to receive this award as well in association with those who have laboured with me

in the National Insurance Department, particularly the other Board Members and the management of National Insurance. National Insurance today is a far cry from what it was in 1986. In 1986 it was a maze. The restructuring started in 1987 and I am happy to say that, whatever happens, I believe it is impossible to reverse those developments which are taking place in National Insurance. So I am very happy and I take this opportunity to record my acknowledgement of the work of the staff and the management of National Insurance as well as the other Board Members.

Mr. President, someone said that I do not need honours. The truth of the matter is I never expect them and honours for me are like a diploma which you get and you put down somewhere. I do not ever remember that I have a Bachelor's Degree or a Master's Degree, I remember I have a doctoral degree when people address me as Doctor. Sometimes people say Mister and then they say they are sorry. I say to them "not sorry, I was born as Mister", but my philosophy is very simple. God never promised me a tomorrow, what I have to do let me do it today. My only concern now is that there is so much to do and so little time left in which to do it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

OBITUARY

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the passing of a former Member of this Honourable Senate has been reported and I beg to move that this Senate stand for one minute's silence in respect of the passing of former Senator Milroy Reece.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, I just wish, before we do stand in one minute's silence, to express my own sympathy and condolences to the family of Senator Reece, both on behalf of myself and my family and on behalf of the family of the Barbados Labour Party, whom she represented ably in this Chamber while she was here.

I think those of us who knew Senator Reece know that if there was one person on whom you could count when you gave her a task to do, to do it, it was Senator Reece. You did not have to look over your shoulder. Perhaps for those of you on the other side, it would be akin to the manner in which you speak of Senator Lewis when you give him organisational things to do. I believe that is what Senator Reece was to the family of the Barbados Labour Party. I have never heard her say that she was too tired, or that she could not. She may have expressed her views frankly but whenever done she was there to do it.

Her illness was quick. In the last few months I do not think many of us had the opportunity to see her, but

I would wish publicly to recognise her contribution not only to the Barbados Labour Party and to this Chamber, but I believe nationally through the National Organisation of Women as well as through the myriad community activities with which she was involved. Indeed, I believe there are Members of this Chamber who would have worked with her in those other areas of activity outside the strict political field who would be better able than myself to speak on these matters.

With those words, I wish to express my sympathy, Sir.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I would like to extend my sympathy also to the family of former Senator Milroy Reece. As Chairman of the National Advisory Council on Women, I am speaking in that capacity, because I have worked with Mrs. Reece over the past year and I can say for sure that Mrs. Reece gave her support in that Council. Although I must say that Mrs. Reece did confess that she is of a different party, and maybe of a different thinking, when it came to matters of national interest and areas where we had to look at work, Mrs. Reece was not partisan. I must say that we got along very well in the Council. She was very willing, as Senator Mottley stated just now, to work in any capacity she could work in and with vigour and vitality. As a matter of fact, I was saying only last night when I was speaking to some members of the Council, that I was rather surprised that she would have been that sick, although we can never tell what time we have to leave this life, when we were working on a number of areas and Mrs. Reece put in so much work in the various areas, that you would not have thought that she was ill, only to discover after a while that she was ill and had to stay in.

Let me say that I would regard Mrs. Reece in the capacity in which I know her as a person who can span a number of areas, who was always pleasant, who was always kind, who showed respect for people in areas. I think that is the kind of person I would want to work with, although we have different political beliefs, in areas of national interest, and I would want to give my sympathy to her family.

Thank you.
12.35 p.m.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, in expressing my sympathy to the family of Milroy Reece who was a Senator, I would like to say I worked with Milroy for many years and I knew her since I was at school, passing Culloden Road. At that time, I think she was very fond of me. In 1970 she worked with me as a secretary of NOW when I was Deputy President.

One thing I will say of her is that when she belonged to an organisation she got hooked on it like how somebody gets hooked on coffee or anything. It is an addiction. One of the organisations that Milroy served well in this country is the Business and Professional Women's Club. I think they owe her quite a lot. Many of the ideas which have been put forward for the Crisis Centre she was instrumental in pushing. She may not have achieved many of the things but there are people left whom I hope will try to bring them to fruition.

In her political party, regardless to what happened, Milroy would leave out anything if she had a function to attend at the BLP. That is something she made quite well known that if the Party had a fight or fly by night function she would be there and she would not go to anything else. One thing she was always sure about was that she would not come to anything at the DLP either. She used to make that quite clear. So I respect people when they say what they belong to and what they believe in. I respected her for that.

Later I think she became a member of the Advisory Committee and whatever happened at those meetings was paramount. At her workplace at the BMC if there was a meeting Milroy would even take a day out of her vacation to attend her meetings. She would give up that.

I feel strongly that persons looking at this should see that when you are in an association or an organisation you should really give of yourself to that organisation and in giving of yourself you are giving to your country. Whatever you may say, she gave selflessly to those organisations of which she was a member and I sincerely hope that the organisations will continue to grow from strength to strength when they look back and reflect on her commitment.

I would like to say especially that the Business and Professional Women's Club owe her quite a lot. I remember the nights with her standing at the door with the keys and nobody else there. I hope they will do something to perpetuate the memory of a member who was a true member. I don't believe that she ever missed a conference abroad of the Business and Professional Women's Club. Therefore she knew all the various people nationally, regionally and internationally. Whenever they were here she would find it possible to take a day out of her vacation to see that they were well treated.

To her relatives I extend my deepest condolences. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We shall now stand for 1 minute's silence in memory of the passing of the late Senator Milroy Reece.

ADJOURNMENT

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

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, on the adjournment I would wish at this stage on behalf of my colleague who is not here and myself and the Barbados Labour Party to thank the management and staff of Parliament for their work this year and especially bearing in mind that they have worked tirelessly even today, 3 days

before Christmas. I would also like to extend to them as well as to other Members of the Senate all the best for the Season and the New Year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Mottley. We have on the last occasion exchanged greetings for the season and I have reciprocated accordingly.

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

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