
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 - 96

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 17, 1993

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, November 17, 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 G.C.M.;
Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE
(Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs) (Deputy Leader of the Senate);
Senator Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE;
Senator Miss Y. V. WALKES;
Senator Mrs. M. BARKER-WELCH;
Senator Mrs. A. STRAUGHN, G.C.M.;
Senator Mrs. M. WALCOTT, S.C.M.;
Senator W. LeR. INNISS;
Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER;
Senator J. G. BELLAMY;
Senator T. E. BARKER.

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in session.

MESSAGES

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received the following letter from Her Excellency the Governor General.

"Dear Mr. President,

I shall be away from Barbados from October 25, 1993 to November 6, 1993 on a visit to the United States of America and Jamaica.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 29(1)(b) of the Constitution, the Honourable Sir Denys Williams, GCM, will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General during the period of my absence.

As the Honourable the Senate will not be meeting prior to my departure it will not be possible for the usual formal message to be sent down to your Chamber. Will you therefore please bring my absence formally to the attention of the Honourable the Senate when next it meets."

This letter was dated October 18, 1993.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the financial year April 1991 to March 1992;

The Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Auditor General's Department for the financial year 1992-1993; and

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments, Exemption No. 3 Order, 1993.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
WESTBURY ROAD, SAINT MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the story of this land transaction began more than 10 years ago. In July of 1982, the Barbados Diocesan trustees recognising that the Government was carrying out roadworks in the vicinity of the St. Leonard's Anglican Church on Westbury Road offered an area of land approximately 290 square metres in front of the St. Leonard's Church for the purpose of widening the road and providing a sidewalk with the understanding that the Government would rebuild the guard wall in front of the church.

At a meeting in 1983 Cabinet agreed that Government should negotiate with the trustees for an even larger area of land so that the guardwall might be positioned 20 feet away from the centre line rather than 12 feet as is customary. There seemed to be a hiatus between 1983 and 1990 when Cabinet was invited to and in fact agreed that a parcel of land consisting of 480 square metres should be acquired from the Diocesan trustees for road improvement; that Government should accept the offer from the Diocesan trustees of the gift of 290 square metres of land for road improvement but that the Government should also pay compensation to the trustees for the additional lands estimated to be 190 square metres for road improvement; that the Minister of Housing and Lands should pursue negotiations for the acquisition of 480 square metres.

What is now before us is for the acquisition of the offer. After surveying it was recognised that the actual area to be acquired is 461.8 square metres of land, that the amount which would be donated by the Diocesan trustees is some 275 square metres approximately and that the balance of 190 square metres approximately would be purchased by the Crown. This is what the Resolution is about and I therefore beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT
RUBY, SAINT PHILIP

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, it was during negotiations by the Ministry of Education for the Third Education and Training Project with the World Bank and the IADB that the Ministry agreed in its programme that provision should be made for the construction of a number of schools, including a new one to replace the present Holy Trinity and Beulah Primary

Schools at Ruby in St. Philip. That was in May, 1992. In December, 1992, Cabinet approved principle of the acquisition of 27 580 square metres of land at Ruby corner in the parish of St. Philip for construction of the new school. The necessary notices under the Land Acquisition Act were published. The Resolution before us now seeks to give effect to the acquisition of 27 580 square metres, or thereabouts of land, including a road reserve, situated at Ruby in the parish of St. Philip. It is land, the property of Lisle Clarke.

11.25 a.m.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, I have no difficulty in supporting this Resolution because I always applaud Government whenever they make a move which redounds to the benefit of the people of Barbados, especially children. However, Sir, I just want to make a few comments as it relates to the siting of schools because this is an issue that is going to come up time and time again and I notice that we are about to approve a Resolution to buy land at Ruby corner for which the purpose is to build a school to replace, as the Minister has said, 2 existing schools, Trinity and Beulah, both in the parish of St. Philip.

Sir, it makes sense to amalgamate some of these schools for lots of different reasons, especially as we note that in the urban areas, probably not St. Philip so much, there has been a dramatic population shift, especially in parishes like St. Andrew and St. Joseph. So it makes sense to amalgamate some of these smaller units especially since we know now that some of the primary schools have a role of 150 and thereabout, so the process of amalgamation has to continue but, at the same time, we have to take into account certain factors. When you close these schools, you are going to make it more difficult for children living around the area to get to the new school. While we know that a price has to be paid for progress, Government has to ensure that the transportation system is such that the children will not be getting to school late because of the failure of the transport system, especially as they have to move, in some cases a mile or two, from their home to get to the school.

Sir, we know, especially in the rural areas, the reliability of the public transport system is not what it used to be in years gone by so when we are going to amalgamate the schools we have to ensure that the transport infrastructure is there to allow the children to have free access to the schools. That, Sir, is a must. Government has to ensure that when they go about amalgamating the schools that they pay attention to the transport difficulties that can be caused as a result of this movement.

Sir, it makes sense to build schools of a slightly bigger size, although I caution against having schools with a role of 600 and 800 which would be wieldy but, at the same time, a primary school of 100 or 150 might not be viable from a demographic point of view because a school of this size might not have the resources to cater for special education needs whereas a school of 400 might be in a better position to offer these facilities, especially for children who may have learning problems; so it makes sense to have a school with around 400 students so that not only can they get the special education but in addition the extra curricular activities such as scouting, brownies and so on will not suffer because the school base from which the children are drawn is too small. Successive Governments must be congratulated in this regard for making the schools more viable economically as well as from a demographic point of view.

Sir, I just want to offer a word of caution because in some quarters there has been talk about zoning of primary schools. While we appreciate the need for children to have access to schools which are closer to them, and this is particularly so with schools in the urban areas where people from the rural areas like to send their children to schools in the urban centres and it puts pressure on these schools.

Sir, I just want Government to note that a lot of people who live, especially in the St. Philip area, have their roots in the urban communities but they migrate to these areas mainly for housing reasons. The point is that a person who is living in St. Philip may have relatives living very close to a school in Wildey so that given the fact that a 5-year old child would have special needs and so on, it might profit them to bring their child from St. Philip to a school near to Wildey where the child's grandparents may live, or whatever. The parent may be working to 4.00 or 5.00 o'clock and the child would then be well looked after because its aunt or grandmother lives very close to the school who can look after them for the hours when he or she is out of school, and the time the parent is free from work so that insisting that children from a particular area must go to a particular school must not be rigorously carried out because it might create difficulties like the one I just mentioned.

I believe, Sir, that in any case, parents must have some choice as to which school they are sending their children. I do not believe we should be so rigid in our society that we say you must send your child to this school or that school. There must be some flexibility in the system because as a parent I would like to have some measure of choice as to which school I send my child to, especially when it is of the tender age of 4 or 5 and the problem then becomes more and more crucial. While I appreciate the reason behind calling for some kind of zoning, as I said

before, we must not be rigid in our application of such a measure because it can pose certain problems.

With those few words I urge the Government to take note of the things I have mentioned in the spirit in which it was given. As I said before, I have no problem in supporting this Resolution because it is of benefit to the children.

SENATOR Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. President, I too would like to give my support to this Resolution and I would like to comment on a couple of the ideas brought up by Senator Barker. I think if we look traditionally at school location in Barbados we would note that the title "school location" was associated with a dominant church, the Anglican Church, and the village. Therefore schools were located primarily not so much because of need but because of where the church was and closer to the village. We have moved far beyond that situation now. Those were the days when there was very little proper means of transportation and now Barbados has become virtually one city so we have to look at facilities that are adapted to the present situation.

11.35 a.m.

But whereas we have to take these things into consideration I think there are possible, some negative fall-outs. I am concerned about the fact that whereas when we grew up, we started probably at the age of 4 or 5, and one of the things that that did for us was to build muscle and develop us into healthy individuals. Today when children are getting no exercise, when the transportation is at their door, and still they are not attending school as frequently as they should, I think it is creating a problem. I say this in all seriousness because I think that our fall-off in sports, in cricket and in football can be directly attributed to the fact that young children today do not exercise and do not build proper muscle mass.

If we look at what is happening on the international scene the dominance of African athletes and primarily from Kenya, people who have to run 8 and 10 miles every morning in order to get to school, the first thing they have to do is to run, then to attend school. Running and exercising become part of them and therefore when they have to compete, they can compete at the very best level and win. It shows us that it is not only nutrition and proper health that can contribute to excellence but what is healthy is the day to day living that is important.

What bothers me very, very much is that we in this country are getting away from healthy health standards. Children get up on mornings, their parents wake them up at quarter to nine to get to school at 9.00 o'clock. Very often they are late for school and do not want to go

to school. So whereas we are bringing the schools to the children, we are amalgamating *et cetera*, there are other aspects that we need to take into consideration very seriously for the future of our country and for our young people.

I think that a serious study should be done because I believe Barbados has a very great future in sports especially cricket. But if our cricket standards continue to deteriorate the way they are, we are in serious trouble. I am attributing this deterioration in our sporting standards directly to the fact that we are producing unfit young people and unfit young people cannot compete. I think this is an area that the Education Department has to look at trying to make our young people physically fit so that we can, again, attain our standards.

One other point I should like to look at is the allocation of places in school. I agree with Senator Barker that, again, we need to study this. Traditionally this concept of zoning and sending children to the schools nearest to them seems very attractive. But I think we have to be realistic. We have to realize that parents who live in the country have to work in town and therefore, very often, it is more convenient for them for the children to be at the school closest to where they work. It is safer and if you do not have a parent whose mind is settled because he thinks that he cannot get back home at 4.30 p.m. because he leaves work at 5.00 o'clock to meet the child who is in a school in the country, these are areas that we have to look at seriously. Maybe the time has come to do some kind of study to see what the advantages are of placing some of these schools, the largest schools in the country where they will not be populated as opposed to possibly concentrating one or two more of these schools in the city which is closer to the hub of activity where the parents prefer their children to be. I think this is something we need to look at, I do not think we can just wish it away. But I think that we are moving into the Twenty-first Century and we have to take a new concept to education. I think this school will go a far way in addressing the concept of the school next to the village, next to the church and I give it my wholehearted support.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator A. Morrison.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I rise to support this Resolution and to indicate to this Senate that I thought I would hear arguments advanced about the location of the school rather than education policy. I thought we would hear points of amalgamation of school rather than education policy. If they have a fault with the location then I can see it being relevant to the debate.

If I may respond to a few remarks made by Senator Barker about zoning when he is opting in one sense that

we should have zoning and in the other breath he is saying that he would like the right to be able to send his child to the school that he wants to choose then we have this double stand in argument. You either have zoning or you have people being able to choose the school the children should go to. As far as location is concerned, I believe that people should go to the school nearest to where they were born and then there is no problem.

I believe when the school has to be constructed that that would be the right time for people to debate all about the education policy as far as the school is concerned. But in a matter such as this where we are acquiring land for the location of a school all we should like to hear is whether the location is a good one or bad one.

The arguments about zoning and running to school and things like that, I think are irrelevant to this exercise and having your own pet peeve about certain things like education policy. This Senate would be given the opportunity when the time comes on the primary education of this country to debate matters of this sort, Sir.

With those remarks, I beg to support this Resolution.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FAIRFIELD CROSS-ROAD, ST. MICHAEL FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Fairfield Cross Road, St. Michael for road improvement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the circumstance surrounding this Resolution has to do with the fact that many years ago, the Ministry of Public Works, Communication and Transportation utilized a small area of land at Fairfield Cross Road for the purpose of road construction. Apparently there was no consultation with the owner concerning this land and then there was an approach to the Crown seeking payment for the land in question.

A survey was carried out and the area used was determined to be some 281.8 square metres of land. The Ministry responsible for lands was authorized by Cabinet to pursue action to acquire the land. I suspect that there was no title because the question of the payment to the individual, the amount to be paid, there is no disaffection between the parties. It is proposed on passing of this Resolution to arrange for payment of compensation to one Serena Thorpe, subject to the provision of proof of ownership of the land.

This matter really is to tidy up the acquisition of land which has already been used.

I beg to move that this Resolution be passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Belle Gully, St. Michael for road improvement.
11.45 a. m.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, when certain road works were being carried out at Belle Gully in the parish of St. Michael, the appropriate Ministry utilised some 324 square metres of land, the property of Mr. Julien Waterman for improvements to the Belle Highway 4 Junction. It was subsequently deemed necessary to have a survey done and the Senior Land Surveyor in Government carried out the survey. A valuation was obtained of the land which was utilised and the Commissioner of Land Taxes estimated the value of the land to be some \$3,500 which amount is somewhat lower than the owner had asked for and seems willing to accept for the land. This 324 square metres of land converts to 3 487.62 square feet and if it was purchased at \$5.00 a square foot it would cost \$17 400.

It is necessary, Mr. President, that since the land was utilised the matter be regularised. The appropriate notices under the Land Acquisition Act were published in 1993 and was gazetted accordingly. This Resolution now seeks to cap the matter and to ensure that the transaction is completed to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned.

I beg to move that the Resolution to acquire this 324 square metres of land be now passed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, just a short intervention here. Both this Resolution and the one that was previous to this, the Minister said that in both cases the Government used the land and it is only now, some years later, they are regulating the position. I wonder if the Ministry of Transport and Works should not be a little more cautious as to how they encroach on people's property. Maybe it is a case of where the line mark may be, or probably the Ministry might not know as the Minister suggested. But the point is that there is a feeling that the Government when it comes to people's property can do what they like. There is that feeling which the average citizen has about the Government and their actions.

I think the Government has to be careful in respecting the property rights of people so that if you come to a situation where there is doubt whether the land is Crown Land caution should prevail and as soon as possible, and I do not mean years after, the situation should be regularised.

Sir, I know that both of these instances may have been for work done quite a few years before. I am not blaming any administration but the principle remains the same that Government has got to be cautious how it encroaches on other people's property.

Sir, the last time we were dealing with land resolutions I highlighted the fact that it is taking a very long time for Government to release money for land which they have compulsorily acquired. Sir, I do not know what the reason is. I have been told that in some cases there are legal delays and all of that because we all know that the burden of selling property sometimes involves delays that are sometimes not foreseen. The point is, Sir, that the Government has got to expedite matters so that as they have the right to compulsorily acquire land from citizens, in the shortest time possible there should be adequate compensation to the individual who has suffered the loss of income since the person may have to look for money to relocate or whatever or they may be undergoing a financial loss and they have to wait many years for Government to compensate them.

Sir, it reminds us of the old Barbadian saying that while the grass is growing the horse is starving so the Ministry of Housing and Lands has got to put its house in order and ensure that the citizens of this country are not discommoded as a result of Government exercising its legitimate authority in taking up land for public purposes.

All over the island, Sir, we hear of people complaining that they are waiting for years for Government to send and call them for money. Sir, I do not accept the excuse that it is a lot of money and Government does not have the money. My view is that if Government does not have the money they should not take up the land in the first place because the ordinary citizens of this country cannot buy land and promise the vendor the money, he has to have the money up front. I do not see why Government should have special privileges in this regard. If they do not have the money do not take up the people's land. It is as clear as that.

Sir, with this word of caution I support the Resolution and I compliment Government on tidying up some of these outstanding legal matters and I just want them to make sure they treat the citizens of this country properly when it comes to paying the money that is rightfully due to them.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Sir, I rise just to explain a few points which have been raised by the last Senator who just sat down. Sir, in most cases where there is a delay in payment of compensation for lands it is because, in most cases, people do not have any title, as such, to the lands and there is an ownership problem. Except you have the ownership in the right place you cannot draw the money. There are some people who own land for over 25 years and 30 years and they do not have any title to the land. That is something, Sir, which pervades the whole of Barbadian society. Most poor people inherit land from their parents and grandparents and they never do anything about the title to the land. It is their land and there is no doubt about it but when you have to do business, in the case where someone who is related to you gets into trouble and you are a landowner without a title and you want to get bail for that person you are unable to do so because you do not have papers to the land.

When these things happen, as far as the Ministry is concerned, the Ministry has gone to great pains to make sure in every instance where there is a road development that proper notices are sent out and we let people know how much land we want. Sometimes it is a case of the surveyors not having the right demarcation and you will find that the alignment of the road might call for an extra piece of land here and there. It is those extra pieces of land which call for a further undertaking by Government to then acquire that extra piece which had to be taken off because the engineers discovered that we had to carry the road straight up without going around another curb and it is those delays that have happened.

We know we have had a big back log of people who have not been paid but that log is coming down. That has been a backlog which has developed over the years when the other administration was in power and it has now come to us. You will see the large number of notices that are now out for the outer ring road, that is the road that is coming through the outer ring road, across Culloden Road up from Eagle Hall. All of these notices have been served already. It is not a question of going and pouncing on poor people's land at any time and trying to ride rough shod over the poor people and actually taking away the land from them without any means of compensation. When it boils down, eventually you have to prove that you are the owner and at that point in time then it is a question between the lawyers and the Government's legal people to arrange the right time when you can get your money. So it is not a question that the Ministry has been a bit amiss or has not been mindful of the rights of the land owners.

Sir, I just thought I would clear up those two points as far as the Ministry's function in those matters is concerned and that as far from being indifferent and having a lackadaisical approach to people's rights, that is one

Ministry that actually goes out of its way to inform people of what has to be done and what is required. There are some locations in Barbados now where people have bad roads and there may be one person who feels that you cannot have his or her land unless Government acquires it. That would mean that particular road may remain bad for a very long time. There are other cases again, Sir, where people say "yes" to the development and, when the road is completed, they say that they want their land now. Then we have to come in and tidy up that aspect of it. The person has already said "yes", but at the end of the day when that road is completed that person wants payment for the land. So then you have to come here and ask for approval in order to pay the person for the land.

Thank you, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 5 - TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT PALMETTO
STREET IN THE CITY OF BRIDGE-
TOWN FOR THE PROVISION OF
PUBLIC FACILITIES

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution which is before Parliament relates to the acquisition of 113 square metres of land at Palmetto Square in the City for the provision of public facilities. In addition, it also seeks to perfect land title for the Crown. Although the Crown has been in possession of this land at Palmetto Square on which a bath was sited on for many years. Apparently there is no evidence that the land in question was, in fact, owned by the Crown.

In 1980, the owner of the adjoining property Griffith Reliance Pharmacy entered into an arrangement involving the exchange of lands at Palmetto Square. Under the arrangement, Government agreed to exchange 51 square metres of land for 18 square metres from Griffith Reliance. There was a differential of 33 square metres which Griffith Reliance agreed would be accepted by them in exchange for the finance of the construction of a modern public facility on Crown land. The facility according to the arrangement would be kept in good order and maintained by the Sanitation Service Authority. Since then Griffith Reliance has shown no further interest in the matter, but the Crown needs to ensure that the title is secure in order to prevent subsequent encroachment. So that this Resolution before us seeks to allow the Crown to perfect the title in respect of lands which it already owns and, in fact, already was used by the former City of Bridgetown when there was Local Government.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walcott.

SENATOR Mrs. M. WALCOTT: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution before this Senate. The provision of adequate public facilities especially in Bridgetown is long overdue. In this country we pride ourselves as having a progressive society, but in many areas we are lacking and this is one. So it is good to see that something is being done about it. Although I understand there was a facility there before, nevertheless we need to have more done about the positioning of public facilities around the place.

Many visitors to this Island, especially the cruise ship passengers and Barbadians too, have at one time or another made complaints about the lack of adequate public conveniences in Bridgetown. And I wonder now that the environment is foremost in our thoughts, whether – if not these to be constructed in Palmetto Square – some time some public facilities could not be erected for anyone who is willing to pay a fee for the use thereof.

I am sure that regulations are in place for the proper management and maintenance of these facilities. But Barbadians have to learn at some stage that we cannot continue to have the privilege of so many different facilities available to us free of cost forever. The cost of providing them all will at some stage become prohibitive and it falls to us to do our part. I do think that in the future some of the public conveniences should be ones for which a charge is required by the user. The income would not be much but it would assist in maintaining a higher standard of facility and I am sure the system will be acceptable to most people.

Sir, I would add that, while the provision of the additional public conveniences will certainly help in presenting a clean Bridgetown, further and urgent attention must be directed to the garbage situation in the City. The separation of garbage is being emphasised now and one way that would help is the introduction of bottle banks. The actual establishment of those bottle banks does not appear to be very involved. More attention is required to educate the public regarding their use and to the final disposal of the bottles. I understand that some of the hotels already have in place a system for collection and disposal of used bottles and I think a similar system of a bottle bank or whatever should be available for use by the public especially in Bridgetown.

I repeat that efforts such as provision of proper public facilities and whatever can be done towards sorting out the garbage situation in Bridgetown are very positive steps and I hope that we can go on and make it very evident that we can have a clean Bridgetown.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we on this side welcome any move by Government to improve the public facilities in Bridgetown. We are not totally happy with the standard and availability of public facilities in Bridgetown, so we welcome this move.
12.05 p.m.

However, Sir, I note that this Resolution is to compulsorily acquire the land at Palmetto Square, but the Minister has omitted to tell us when Government plans to put up the facilities. I would not want to see the place used as a urinal before the facilities are built. In years gone by, I think it still happens now, a lot of the side streets off Broad Street and Swan Street, because of the lack of facilities, are used as urinals without the proper facilities, so while we support Government in acquiring the land, and we know the purpose for which the land is acquired, I hope that in the next Estimates debate, next March, which is a short time, we will see Government, having acquired the land, coming to this Honourable Chamber for a sum of money for us to approve for the erection of public conveniences at this location. It is not enough just to acquire the land, you have to find the money to put up the facility, otherwise you will be in trouble.

On this matter, Sir, I find it disgusting to see, as I have on many occasions driving around, especially men urinating at the side of the street just like that. I noticed a lot of it in recent times, men urinating at the side of the street. I am a bit embarrassed driving my daughter and seeing a big man there at the side of the road urinating. I think it is very disgusting. It is not only as a result of lack of facilities, it is just plain bad manners and disgusting behaviour and I wish that all men would stop the foolishness and show a bit of decency in their lives.

One last note. Some years ago a Senator, I think it is Dr. Alleyne – I do not want to misquote him, since I do not ever quote him – but he made the point that Government owned a lot of property in this island that they did not know about and that the Minister of Lands needed to have an audit of the buildings that they own. In a lot of cases Government does not even know what properties it owns around Barbados. I am told that there is a property on the wharfside which Government owns. It is in a very rundown condition, so I think Government would own it.

While we acquire property for facilities, probably Government needs to look at what it owns and see if it is utilising what property it owns in the best manner. Do not just acquire property without at the same time knowing

that it owns a building on McGregor Street or wherever. I think the Ministry of Lands, who I think is the authority in which all Government lands are vested, needs to have an inventory, especially for Bridgetown, and give us a plan at some time or other on how they intend to use what property they own in Bridgetown, whether they are going to keep it or get rid of it, but Government needs to tell Parliament, both Houses, what they intend to do with the property which has been entrusted to them under the Constitution of Barbados.

Sir, with those words I support the Resolution.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, one of the concerns I have about this particular area of land is that I see a number of persons, vendors, selling ground provisions, clothes and all sorts of things. I sincerely hope that the facts are made known to those people. In other words, you are going to let them understand that the Government is acquiring this for a facility. You have always found a difficulty whenever you allow people to squat on places and then you want to utilise the place for another purpose. That is all I am saying, because it has happened already and it will happen again. Then you will get the public making a furore saying the poor people were doing this and the poor people were doing that. I hope that will be known.

At the same time I want to support the Resolution, I want to say that especially where people are utilising services, people are going into the stores and shops around there and it is not usual that business people would allow people to use their facilities. I am glad that we will have the facilities, but I feel that for these public facilities we should have some form of payment. I think that helps the place to be kept properly too, because there is more vigilance, there is somebody there. You put the money in a slot and there is somebody to hand you the paper and things of that sort. I think we have to have this kind of arrangement, otherwise we are going to find a lot of vandalism which other places have experienced. I think that people have to learn that in Barbados they must not get everything for free, somebody has to pay for it, either the taxpayers or private enterprise.

You cannot have public facilities in every place, because in some areas they would look unsightly. I would say that in Palmetto Square a lot of people congregate, even on the other side, selling and so on. I think most people should not have to walk distances to do what nature would have them do when nature calls. I would welcome this and also I sincerely hope that people in Barbados would understand that when you throw garbage all over the place and do not keep public facilities tidy, or around outside the facilities, or deface the walls, it bespeaks nothing but ill-bred behaviour. People get the impression that we are a set of people who do not appreciate things and we do not therefore keep them well.

So, Mr. President, with this I want to support the Resolution and I welcome the idea of the Government going to acquire it especially for the facilities they are going to utilise it for.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, just a few comments. First of all, I should like to say that I support the Resolution and I go further and say I think we need to acquire even more land space for this purpose. I found it interesting that over the years here in this Senate we have dealt with Resolutions that tended to almost spell the demise of the public facility, because we dealt with the changing of hands or the changing of use, or the sale of certain facilities.
12.15 p.m.

I have been wondering whether this was the right direction or whether in view of the increasing population and growing tourist industry we should not have more facilities rather than less.

The other problem for me is the location of most of these facilities. I think that in spite of where the Palmetto Street one is they have tended to be in, out of the way places where nobody wanted to go, especially today where it is dangerous to be out of the public view. I think the locations of public facilities must be in prominent positions in spite of what Senator Fraser just said. The fact that some have been untidy should not be used as an excuse to have them around the corner somewhere. After all, at the airport there are toilet facilities in the midst of things and they are quite presentable because somebody is mandated to keep them in good shape throughout the day. That is an example of what should happen with our toilet facilities. They should be looked after.

A friend of mine told me that on one occasion he had an emergency situation and he went into one and was immediately cured of diarrhea. I don't think that is the best way to be cured but it had that effect that you just wanted to leave the place. Seriously, Sir, I think we need more land space about the country for this purpose. I know it would be an expensive venture for the Government but an alternative way to do it would be to look at the service stations and the stores. One Senator just said that the business people do not allow people to use their facilities. Now, I have gone around the world and neither I nor the persons with me had any difficulty in shopping in Canada or the United States in getting access to public places within the buildings. Everybody knew where to go.

It is unfortunate that we have a situation here in this country where so much shopping is done and people do not know where to go in stores because they are

not prominently labelled or because people are not encouraged to use the facilities in business places. I think some kind of legislation ought to be introduced at some point soon to insist that in view of the advantages of the tourist industry and the number of local people who frequent these places that it should be a must that a properly displayed and labelled toilet facility be available for the people who do business there and this would help relieve the problem where Government is concerned.

It is unfortunate that the taxi drivers in their rounds about the country often stop at gas stations and the people with whom they are touring have no place to go at these stations, after having bought their gas. We all know that that is one of the points where one can stop while touring in the United States. I think our tourist trade is much more important to us than for people touring across those countries I am referring to. Someone, and I think Government, must take the lead in bringing about the kind of health legislation that insists that all business places, including service stations, made proper provision for such rest facilities.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the question of the Government's disposal of sundry sites which formerly housed facilities of this nature came as a consequence of vandalism and abandonment and, in some instances, population shifts. In one or two other cases it was the need for road widening or clearance. In every instance, the abandoned facilities had not been in use for sometime before they were abandoned by Government. There is a difficulty. This particular situation is different from the majority of the other cases. There can be no question that in the City of Bridgetown there is a crying need for another such facility and there is also need to ensure that the ones that presently exist are properly identified and made available.

I support the comments made by the last speaker, the Honourable Senator, in terms of the provision of these facilities in locations around the country near to gas stations and it may be that a word to the Town Planner will elicit some support to recommend to persons when they are doing developments that they clearly identify facilities available for persons who are travelling throughout the country. In a tourism-oriented country these are not only desirable but absolutely necessary.

This particular situation at Palmetto Square is peculiar. The land is a triangular shape piece of land and it had on it a facility for a public urinal which was abandoned over time. After the site was cleared the owner of the adjoining premises approached the Government. It seems that in 1980 the Ministry of Housing and Lands was

approached by a person holding a brief for the adjoining property owner in which plans were supplied to the Government and proposals for the redevelopment of the Trafalgar Hotel site which had been acquired by the Crown and for construction of a commercial building.

At that time, the developer proposed that in order to ensure a better layout of the development he would like and asked permission to use 51 square metres of Government land to the West and he would give up 18 square metres to the North West. In return for the 33 square metres which Government would be giving up, the developer agreed to finance the construction of a modern facility.

The matter was visited again by Cabinet in 1984 and they concluded that the area of 51 square metres out of a total of 106 square metres should be released to the private developer in exchange for an area of 18 square metres provided that – and there were certain conditions – the private developer would pay the full cost of construction of the new facility and that the new facility and the approximately 73 square metres of land on which it would be located would remain the property of the Crown in its right of Government; that the new facility would be handed over to the Sanitation Service Authority which would be responsible for its maintenance. Nothing happened. There was no documentary evidence that the Crown owned the lands.

Events took a different turn when the Ministry of Housing was informed in January 1984 about the developer's change in attitude. There was no response to correspondence from the Government. In 1988 it was recognised that the developer was now using the lands and in fact was collecting rent from 2 tenants on the land. The area is being used as a car park and sometimes by the vendors as Senator Fraser said. If the vendors went and paid somebody rent on lands that the person did not own, I am sorry for them. When this process is completed, as Minister for Housing and Lands, I will take up possession of the land because the Crown owns the lands.

On the question of the facility, whether or not the Government is able to put a facility there and to bring any proposals in time for next year's estimates, I do not know. I am not even ready to react to that yet because there are a lot of considerations relating to development in the City of Bridgetown on that site. What we certainly cannot do is to construct a facility there again for the same problem to arise that happened last time so that any facility which goes there will have to be properly and adequately maintained in a condition which will do credit to the country and in a country where tourism is one of its main income

earners. I understand the consideration and views that are expressed on the other side and we will certainly, if a decision is taken to put facilities there, as was contemplated, try and ensure that they are properly and adequately maintained for public use.

12.25 p.m.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, as a lead-up to the adjournment of this session, I wish to take this opportunity, as Leader of Government Business in the Senate, to express our sincerest and warmest congratulations to Senator Jimmy Springer, the Archdeacon of this fair country of ours, to say to him that the Senate shares with him the happiness and joy of his preferment.

I believe I speak for all Honourable Senators when I say that Senator Springer's preferment is, in our view, not only well earned, but that we have been always impressed by the contributions which he has made during the period he is a member of the Senate. Some of us have been similarly impressed by the contributions which he has made as a priest in the Diocese of Barbados over time. His example has been one which one could easily follow with admiration and for me it has been a privilege over many years whenever I come in contact with him.

Mr. President, there is something he said, or did many years ago that I always remember because it amused me in a way and yet, there was some truth in it. It was an occasion when I believe I was invited to go to St. Leonard's, something to do with the credit union movement, and one of the things that Senator Springer said in introducing me was that he had heard and known of me for a long time and he therefore thought that I was an old person, but that I was, in fact, not an old person but I had started doing some things at a very young age that mature people may or may not have done. I am trying to say in my words what he said to me. What he was in fact saying was that in terms of public life and in public involvement I had been involved in it for a long time. That is what he was saying. He was saying it in the Church and he meant it. It came across to me in contrast with other comments made by people.

Again, at a credit union function one young gentleman, whose name I do not know, came up to me and said "Why you do not come out of the Senate? You retire from the Civil Service, you can retire from the Senate. You

and Frank Walcott have been around a long time. The two of you could retire." I understood that he was equating me in terms of age with Frank Walcott when, in fact, there is a 10 year gap between us. But in the case of Senator Springer he did not seek to equate years but he was equating length of community service involvement.

It is not often that we are generous enough when we are communicating with other people in ordinary circumstances that we are willing to pay tribute, even in the slightest fashion, to efforts which are made known, no matter how puny they may have been in the early stages and I remember Senator Springer very well for that. That comment was made probably about 20 years ago. I have been involved in co-operatives, and so has Senator Springer, for a number of years and this was probably the only occasion that I knew that he knew me. Since then, I have observed his approaches in the Senate and he has been one of the persons in the Senate, if I was not in this position, that I would like my contributions to be as similar as his have been, as effective and generating as his contributions have been, whenever he decides to make an intervention.

I would like, therefore, to express my own personal congratulations in the warmest possible manner and also those of my colleagues on this side.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we on this side join with other Honourable Members in offering our sincerest congratulations to Senator Springer on his elevation. I only knew Senator Springer personally for the past 2 3/4 years. I heard about him for his sterling work at St. Leonard's, especially when they had the unfortunate experience of having their building destroyed by fire. I was told they had a very lovely organ there which they lost. But his work in rebuilding and modernising St. Leonard's was testimony to his inner character which I have even admired more since I have come into contact with him 2 3/4 years ago.

Sir, personally I am very interested in church and its activities. Even although I belong to another branch of the christian faith, yet I recognise the importance of the Anglican Church to Barbados as a whole. So I am glad that Senator Springer is now in a position where he can use his skills and character to further the cause of anglicanism in particular, and christianity in general, in this fair land of ours because if ever a time we needed an example of Christian living, it is in these perilous times.

I want to commend Senator Springer for his elevation and let him know that he has to maintain further contact with his Lord and Saviour in order to be successful in his undertakings. And irregardless of which branch he belongs to the whole of Barbados wants the new Archdeacon and the new Bishop to succeed as they tend to push the church forward.

12.35 p.m.

He has my support for what it is worth. I am sure that we will all remember him as he undertakes this task. I just want him to remain as humble as he is and that, in spite of all the difficulties, I know he has the heart to succeed. I want to tell him that any matter which comes up before this Honourable Chamber which is advantageous to the church in general it has my unqualified support because I see the need for a more vigilant church in today's society.

With those few words, Sir, I offer my sincere congratulations to Senator Springer.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Simmons, did you indicate that you wanted to speak?

Dr. E. A. SIMMONS: Mr. President, I know the Leader of the Senate had spoken for this side but I personally, as an Anglican want to put on record my congratulations also for the post which Archdeacon Springer now has. As an Anglican I want to say that I am very concerned about the erosion of support in the Anglican Church over the past 30 years. However I am very confident that with the new leadership in the Anglican Church that the Anglican Church will take on a new role and a new image in this society.

This country has been built for several years on the Christian principle that has been given to it by the Anglican Church. Although one can be very critical of the church itself, I think we owe it to the Anglican Church for the principles that have been instilled in this community that puts it at number one in the developing world not only in terms of Christian things but because of our fundamental belief in God and the way we act. Therefore I think it is important at a time when young people and adults are moving away from the church and Christian principles that we have again, in Barbados, people that we can look up to and people that we can put our confidence in.

I want to say to Archdeacon Springer that throughout this country, as far as I know, you happen to be one of the people that the masses of Barbadians have got confidence in. Therefore you have a great responsibility to this country and especially the young people because if we are to turn around some of the moral values that are in this country we need the role models and especially role models in the church. I think that you are a good example of that kind of person that we need to see in this society.

Finally, I want to say as an Anglican again that I express my congratulations to you because I think you are the apt person for that position.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Walkes.

SENATOR Miss YVONNE V. WALKES: Mr. President, for a number of reasons I would want to congratulate Archdeacon Springer. I speak also, for women,

many women would not be speaking in this forum. I only need to say just a few words in that regard.

Let me say that although I have not have known Senator Springer for a very long time, I have met him in many areas in the past few years on other committees and also with the Barbados Workers' Union, where he is Chaplain. On the occasions that he has had to deal with matters for the Barbados Workers' Union everyone has been very proud and express their deep appreciation of the way he conducts business for us whenever the time arises. Also in another area, on another Board on which we both sit. This Board is very controversial, very demanding, sometimes very depressing. On occasions sometimes you feel as though you need his hand when he is not there.

Do not take my comments for granted. I am almost looking at the way in which he presents himself and the patience he exhibits when I am so impatient. The kind of experience and depth that he brings to the deliberations when we are having some very trying times in that particular capacity. I would want to say that I think that the Anglican Church has chosen a very capable person for that position and as an Anglican myself and very involved in the Anglican family, I am one of the people who was very glad to see you, Senator Springer chosen as the Archdeacon. I saw you only last week at an Anglican ceremony and I did not get a chance to congratulate you there in St. Peter but I hope you could have felt my vibrations and my joy from the distance where you were.

Senator Springer, let me just say that I am not only glad that the kind of character and depth that you have will impress on the Anglican Church the importance of a number of matters that will confront it in the next few years. I think the last Senator who spoke commented on this but I am very concerned about the kind of work that the Anglican Church, as the major church in Barbados, will have to do in relation to families, in relation to the young, in relation to bringing people closer together. I am saying that I know that you will have a great job in assisting Bishop Brome in ensuring that the young people are brought into the Christian family or the church family.

I also would like to say to you that you have another role to play in ensuring that women are right up front of the Anglican church to the position of being Bishop.

Aside.

SENATOR Miss YVONNE V. WALKES: Yes, Senator Barker. There is nothing wrong with that. It is not necessarily because you are a woman, or that a number of women must be priests, but that there is the need to impress upon the society the importance of women, the strength of women – the power of women; That women

are not feeble, insecure people that can be treated in any fashion. If we are going to talk about the social organisation of the sexes then we need to understand that both sexes, male and female, have important roles to play. I cannot see us showing that example if in one of the major areas of our lives there are no role models, no examples, and the major church that house the largest population of church people in this country not giving the kind of prominence to women, not demonstrating that strength; that power, that authority, that depth of character by placing women in the highest position in the Church.
12.45 p.m.

I am not talking about just being in the congregation because women are numerous there. I am talking about the message it will send if they are in high positions. I am speaking as an Anglican and I am saying that you Archdeacon Springer have a major role to play in that regard and I would like to think that you will play your part.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Inniss.

SENATOR W. LeR. INNISS: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with those remarks which have been made by previous speakers. I too happen to be an Anglican and I must confess that from time to time I have become quite concerned about my church. Sometimes we have seen and heard things which we would have preferred not to see and to hear and it is never any satisfaction or comfort to me when someone else says, but it happens in other churches too. That is why I am so pleased that I can join in saying congratulations to the Venerable Archdeacon.

Very often we find that persons in our community believe in lots of posturing. You become a radical and you pull down everything or you become an arch conservative and you follow step and you do only what was done the year before. I think that Senator Springer will bring new breath into the Anglican community and anyone who brings any kind of new life into the Anglican community in Barbados brings it into the society at large. You cannot call Canon Springer a radical in the sense of people who believe that everything should be pulled down and burnt but you could never think of him as a person who cannot think or who does not like change. He is a person of innovation while recognising that the things that went before still have some value. Unassuming but of great strength. I believe it took a lot of strength of character when the new St. Leonard's Church was created because there would have been some in the St. Leonard's community as well as Barbados at large who thought that every church should look like what the other churches looked like before. The only thing that was wrong with St. Leonard's Church when it was rebuilt, it did not look like a church because a church must be shaped like an upside

down boat. But he went on steadfastly without thinking that he alone had all the answers or that it must be done that way because it was his way but by reasoning and showing that one can change without being an iconoclast.

Again, Senator Springer has not seen his vocation as one of preaching only because we can be good preachers of sermons but by our lives we can throw people away from the same tenets which we have been espousing. He sees himself as an educator. He has been associated with education in various institutions including Codrington College and the University of the West Indies where he has done yeomen service. He is a person interested in the social sciences because from my understanding of him and I have been following him and following his career, he sees the human being as a whole. He takes the holistic approach as opposed to seeing the Sunday worshipper as opposed to the Monday wage earner.

Some in our Church have taken their pulpits and turned them into political platforms. When there is an issue Canon Springer's voice can be heard on the issue as opposed to those persons who are responsible for what has caused that issue. He is not one to jump up, from what I have seen and heard, and parade in a partisan political way. His views are strong and known and if he supports the policy of any particular person or party at any time it will be known to those who listen to him when he has to speak and when he speaks on issues. But I can never say he has joined that band of persons who have taken the St. Leonard's pulpit or any other pulpit to make it the Lower Green or the Independence Car Park to campaign for or against a political party.

I am saying that the kind of dignity that Canon Springer has shown throughout his life until now we have every confidence that he will continue and we hope that this will be a new life in our Anglican church and our Barbadian community and we all look forward to having him among us working in our council for a very long time to come.

Thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It would be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity very, very briefly to add something to this debate. I have already congratulated Senator the Venerable Archdeacon Springer on his preferment. But I should like publicly to state how very happy I was, personally, for a Member of our Honourable Chamber, to have had this special order bestowed upon him. It is very well merited indeed.

I have been over the years following his career with interest. I must say that I am particularly impressed by, not only his candour, but by his bravery because when he made sure that the St. Leonard's Church was built in the manner in which it has been built, in the very modern style of

architecture, there were not very many priests who would have stood up and seen to it that that was carried out and I thought that was really a very brave act indeed.

There are many other things for which I admire Senator The Venerable Archdeacon Springer. I like his humility and I like his firmness. I think that he will go very far. We know that he has made a great contribution already to the Anglican Diocese of Barbados and I look forward with interest to see how much more he will do because there is a lot to be done at this time.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I beg leave to reply briefly. I am overwhelmed, Sir. I can hardly find words because I had no idea that so many people were following my career so closely and so closely that I really do not recognise me in what has been said but nonetheless I am extremely elated that there are people, illustrious honourable people like yourself, Sir, and the Honourable Senate who feel the way that you have expressed it here today.

I would like to say to Senator Walkes that I felt that "thing" but I thought it was the Holy Spirit! Now I realise how much vibration and feeling there is coming from her side. In future I will know. But, Sir, among the things that have been said I have heard a number of messages which I will take seriously to heart and the greatest one is that there is support for the Anglican Church among yourselves and from this country. We need that kind of support and I can only promise that I will do my best not to disappoint you.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the Senate was adjourned sine die. At 12.55 p.m. Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Sitting.

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