
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 21, 1994

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, December 21, 1994, at 11.25 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator F. W. GOLLOP, (President)

His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, (Deputy President)

Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY, (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development); (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business)

Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE

Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS

Senator D. T. GILL

Senator Miss J. C. ODLE

Senator N. A. LYNCH

Senator N. P. WELCH

Senator J. A. WORKMAN

Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON

Senator P. S. BERNSTEIN

Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN

Senator C. K. LAURIE

Prayers were led by Fr. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents before the Honourable Senate:

The First Annual Report of the National Productivity Board for the period October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994.

The Drawback of Duties on Sale of Goods to Tourists (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1994.

Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the Year ended December 31, 1993.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move the introduction of:

A Bill to amend the Savings Bonds Act, Cap. 104A and beg to move that this Bill be now read a first time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I do not propose to deal with any matters of Public Business at this sitting. The House of Assembly met last night and concluded only one item on their Order Paper which was the Bill to amend the Savings Bonds

Act, Cap. 104A. As you would be aware, Sir, our sitting today was convened to deal with those matters which would have been dealt with by the House yesterday.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: The House of Assembly will meet today at 12.00 noon. I am therefore proposing, Sir, that this sitting be suspended until Friday, December 23 at 10.00 a.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. President suspended the sitting accordingly at 11.32 a.m.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 1 – THE SAVINGS BONDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the first order of business is to amend the Savings Bonds Act, Cap. 104A in order to increase the limit that may be raised by the issue of savings bonds. The last amendment of the Savings Bonds Act was made in 1986. By way of Parliamentary Resolution No. 51 of that year, Mr. President, the Act was amended to increase the limit from \$25 million to \$50 million, at which limit it currently stands.

As you know, Mr. President, savings bonds are instruments, medium term securities which provide opportunities for domestic savings as well as the financing of governmental operations. Currently the average annual yield of such securities is just under 8%. The amendment that we are proposing is one which is necessitated because the current limit, as we have been advised by the Central Bank, has just about been reached and in order to accommodate new issues of bonds on the market before the end of the current fiscal year, this amendment is necessitated.

You would appreciate, of course, Sir, that one would not want to be placed in a position where it became necessary to approach Parliament on every occasion when an issue of bonds has to be made. Therefore, the limit is set to provide for some leeway with respect to the future issuance of bonds. That is why we are recommending that the limit be set at \$100 million.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I note the absence at this time of the Deputy President, who is Chairman of Committees. I want to move a motion that Senator Symmonds be elected as Chairman of Committees for this sitting.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I move that the motion be seconded.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Savings Bonds Act be committed to the Committee of the Senate.

Mr. President, I beg to withdraw that motion. This Bill has in fact been certified as a money Bill, therefore we do not need to go to Committee. I now beg to move that this Bill be read a third time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Savings Bonds (Amendment) Act, 1994.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO AUTHORISE THE MINISTER OF FINANCE TO RAISE BY THE ISSUE OF SAVINGS BONDS IN BARBADOS MONEY UP TO A LIMIT OF \$100 MILLION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, this Resolution for which I am asking the support of the Honourable Senate follows as a consequence of the passage of the Savings Bonds (Amendment) Act, 1994. The Resolution gives effect to the intent of the Resolution by authorising the Minister of Finance to issue Savings Bonds in Barbados currency up to a limit of \$100 million for financing such Capital or other expenditure as he may determine.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, before I move the adjournment, and with your leave and the leave of the Senate, I would want to take

this opportunity to have the record reflect the Senate's recognition and appreciation of the sterling contribution which has been made by a distinguished Barbadian who has served in this distinguished Chamber. We speak of none other, Sir, than Sir Harold Bernard St. John who, as you know, Sir, was quite fittingly honoured by being made a Knight of St. Andrew in the 1994 Independence honours.

Sir Harold served in the Senate during the periods 1964 to 1966 and 1971 to 1976 and like all other activities in which he has been involved he served with honour and distinction. His contributions in this Chamber as in the other have been legendary. My only regret, Sir, is that during the periods when Sir Harold served in 1964-66, I was not quite yet in primary school; so I would not have had the honour of hearing his contributions with my own ears, and in 1971-76, I would have been entering secondary school. By 1976 I would have been somewhere around third or fourth form but, by then, I was politically aware and I would have noted his contributions via the reporting in the Barbados Advocate.

10.25 a.m.

The record has been clear enough for me to stand and indicate that Sir Harold has been a dedicated and loyal son of Barbados. He has served us with distinction and his achievements have been recognised, not only here in Barbados but throughout the international community, especially within the European Community as well as the African Caribbean and Pacific States.

As you know, Sir, as a distinguished Minister of Trade – and you would note I would have some particular interest in this seeing that I seem somehow to have followed in Sir Harold's footsteps in terms of ministerial interest and responsibility – but as a distinguished predecessor in a similar office, Sir Harold served with distinction and he advanced Barbados' interests in a manner second to none within the ACP grouping with respect to having our market access and very importantly, under preferential terms, to the European Community for our sugar, molasses and rum.

Contributions at that level are measured not only by the agreements which are signed in respect to trade or investment. Contributions at that level within the international community are also measured by the high standard with which the individual and by extension the entire country is helped.

By having such excellent examples of international representation such as Sir Harold Bernard St. John, the stature of Barbados as a young nation has been lifted to extremely elevated levels such that any Barbadian who is involved in ACP Lomé type activities will really benefit from the warm reception which he will receive and which

will come as a result of the high standing which stalwarts such as Sir Harold Bernard St. John have been held.

So Sir, with those short words of recognition and congratulations, I would like the Senate to take note of the honour which has been bestowed on Sir Harold Bernard St. John, a former member of this Honourable Chamber and I anticipate that other Senators would want to make some comments on the fitting honour that has been bestowed on a former Honourable Member of this Chamber.

SENATOR Miss P. SYMONDS: Mr. President, as one who worked closely with Sir Harold Bernard when he was Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party, I am very pleased to associate myself with the congratulatory remarks of the Leader of the Senate. The accolades which have already been heaped on him are highly deserved and too much cannot be said about his integrity and his determination not to sacrifice Barbados's economic future to his political ambitions.

To me, the most important thing about Sir Harold Bernard as a politician and statesman is his absolutely indefatigable searching for precedents in other countries which could be adapted and wisely chosen. In spite of his vast knowledge, Sir Harold Bernard is not a know-all. This is in keeping with his capacity for taking infinite pains and with an ability to listen and to think. Mr. President, the transformation of Oistins swiftly and painlessly is largely due to him and it is a monument to his initiative, to his vision and his capacity to get things done.

In addition, he possesses the common touch. Above all, he has a generosity of spirit. There are a few people who think him brusque but, in fact, he is a man of great compassion, unselfish, caring and kind but lacking in vanity. His actions in and out of Government have demonstrated this.

Mr. President, he is one of the few politicians whose careers span the period of pre-Independence and post-Independence. Therefore, Sir Harold Bernard must be persuaded to write his memoirs or if he cannot be persuaded, someone must be commissioned by Parliament to write them. His accuracy, knowledge, insight and judgment must not be allowed to perish. He is an example to all Barbadians and we would all benefit from his experiences. I congratulate him wholeheartedly on his elevation to the knighthood.

SENATOR THE HON. G. MURRAY: Mr. President, in joining in the already abundance of encomiums that have been heaped on Sir Harold St. John, I rise to give my contribution from what I believe are somewhat

different perspectives. Though not quite a babe in the woods as the Honourable Leader of the Senate indirectly attested himself to be by trying to establish how young he is, I was also young at the time when we first heard of Mr. St. John, Bree as in those days everybody referred to him. He had become a virtual legend when I first heard of him in Local Government.

As a matter of fact, I think that he represents a living testimony of the benefits of the local government system in the sense that he was able to prepare himself for higher office at a national level and at the regional level and indeed at the international level through the ACP, through the groundings which he would have had in the local government system. From very early he established himself as a force to be reckoned with and he became a virtual legend. So therefore it was no surprise when he moved on to higher service.

I believe that having worked with him, having been his Personal Assistant after the passing of Mr. Adams, I had some direct contact with his style, with the depth of his intellect and the breadth of his vision. There is a popular saying that "no man is a hero to his own valet", but I can declare quite sincerely that from working closely with him, he had lived up to all that had been said about him. His public persona therefore was very much in sync with his personality and his style as an individual and it had been a pleasure working with him.

I learnt quite a lot from watching him approach the various topics that came before him when I was Personal Assistant, and I can assure you that the restless energy which drives him today I suspect will never be diminished. That's because he has an insatiable curiosity for knowledge and to know things and I suspect he shall go on for very much longer and soon come to realise that his contribution to Barbados and indeed to the wider world are not yet over, especially bearing in mind the declaration that has been made by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister as to the intentions of naming him an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

10.35 a.m.

I also believe that Barbados owes Sir Harold a massive and a mammoth apology for the treatment that has been meted out to him over the years. I think that the defeats he suffered in 1971 and 1986 were not so much at the hands of the electorate but rather reflected the efficiency of the rumour mills of his political opponents. It also represented that unfortunate failing in the Barbadian personality and psyche of being very likely to fall victim to rumourmongering and titillating gossip. I suspect that on sober reflection one would see that it was not really to his political disadvantage but rather, like I said, this proclivity

to gossip which had been exceedingly well exploited by his political opponents over time.

I believe too that Sir Harold has established clearly that in a day when it is popular for people to be cynical about politics and politicians, that he has shown that it is possible for a politician to serve his country well and to come out with an unsullied reputation from all aspects of politics. I think it therefore means that politics and politicians are not as hopeless as people are wont to make it believe and that he can serve as an object lesson for not only the young and upcoming breed of politicians but also those who are currently in operation and who can learn a lot from him on how one can be true to one's cause and at the same time be true to one's conscience.

Sir Harold, I believe too, had refused, as Senator Symmonds said, to court cheap, political popularity which he quite early recognised, and which hindsight for the rest of the country has clearly vindicated his position, that it was better for the good of the country to suffer personal defeat at the polls than to court cheap popularity and to do great damage to one's country. That was, to me, the only, but the latest manifestation of his inherent refusal to court and cater to the lowest common denominator of man and to cater to man's basic instinct but rather always to aim for the high ground and to put country and cause before narrow political interest and cheap popularity.

I therefore believe that Sir Harold will go down well into the annals of Barbadian political history. I agree sincerely with Senator Symmonds' call for a written record of his contribution to Barbadian politics because we have already suffered far too much by not there being no writings about leading political figures. Those who are interested in the social and political history of Barbados are wont to bemoan the lack of records of written detailed, either biographical or ultra-biographical records of the contribution of stalwarts of the likes of Sir Grantley, Mr. Barrow and Mr. Adams. I think that maybe we can start to turn that failing around by seeking to utilise some method of getting the thoughts, deed, words and visions of personages like Sir Harold down on record, to establish in a written form the rich political history that Barbados has accumulated over the past 350 years and without which, I suspect, we would not have been able to reach our level of social, political and economic development.

I therefore think we should go all out to fulfil the wish of Senator Symmonds and to record not only the works of Sir Harold but all the likes of those who have either come before or will come after him. I therefore most heartily endorse my congratulations and those congratulations of the Honourable Senate to Sir Harold St. John.

SENATOR Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. President, I too would like to add my congratulatory remarks to Sir Harold on his elevation to higher office. He is truly a statesman for me and I know for many other Barbadians because of the outstanding contribution he has made towards politics in Barbados and towards the development of Barbados in general. I too trust that many other politicians would emulate Sir Harold and set the necessary examples that are to be portrayed for all our young people in particular to follow.

I have always been an admirer of Sir Harold and of his great vision. Even in 1986 when he was backraised he stood up for what was truthful and what was upright. I think we need more people to stand up for what is right rather than to follow the crowd and do the things the crowd likes you to do. I felt very proud of him in that particular situation. He accepted the defeat like very few individuals would but although he was no longer a parliamentarian, he continued to make his contribution not only to the constituency in Christ Church which he formally represented at that time, but also to the development of Barbados as a whole.

I am very aware, Sir, of his ability to speak on numerous subjects and with a lot of authority. I am also told, even though I have not had the experience of hearing him perform in the law courts, that he can listen attentively and without even making a note, is able to refer to a number of issues that would have been raised. I am truly very happy to be able to say some kind words on behalf of a person with that kind of ability and capacity.

Sir Harold also has a very interesting sense of humour. For what I knew of him he always made me and other individuals, and not necessarily people of the hierarchy of the Barbados Labour Party as well as in other environments in Barbados but the ordinary folks feel very much at ease when in his company.

I am indeed very happy, Sir, that his contribution has been recognised at this time and whatever he has done has been highlighted because I find that in numerous situations when we are out there in the political arena, a number of wrong things are said and a number of good things are said. It seems to me as though we like to hold on to the negative. I am aware of the positive that Sir Harold has done and I am glad about his elevation to this particular honour. I know we seem to want always to wait until our heroes are old, or ready to die, or until they die, then to heap all the showers of praises on them. I am glad that now that Sir Harold has all his mental faculties in place that he has been recognised and that in the future other individuals who have played outstanding roles in Barbados and otherwise would be recognised so that they can be able

to live and appreciate the kind words that would be said on their behalf.

I also want to share the sentiments expressed earlier by Senators Symmonds and Murray and, of course, Senator Farley, in connection with history recording his performance. I think we need to rise above the level that we experience in Barbados all the years where, when it comes to our politicians, we seem not to want to give them the recognition that is necessary. I trust that history would record his performance so that our youth and the generations to come would be able to read of the contributions made by him and others in this small society of Barbados.

Mr. President, I trust that Sir Harold will continue to live for many other fruitful years and that he will continue, as I know, to make the outstanding contribution he has made and continue to be the guiding light for other politicians and Barbadians as a whole, to follow.

Thank you very much.
10.45 a.m.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Sir Harold very sincerely. However I gingerly rose because having been at Harrison College with Sir Harold from the Prep form onwards until he went towards classics and I went towards science, I think the Honourable Leader of the Senate has me feeling a little bit ancient here, departure lounge kind of thing.

It was a privilege to have known Bree from those days and even in those days he was a leader at school. He was somebody whom people instantly recognized had a future. I would also think that agriculture cannot but recognize the very, very important part he played in the sugar industry by the ACP negotiations and the LOMÉ Convention. His leadership there was outstanding, not only for Barbados but for all the ACP countries. I think the sugar industry has him to thank.

He also had a real interest in agriculture. On many occasions in his travels particularly during this time when he went to other tropical countries, he would bring back plants, seeds and so on and he would call and say, "Look I have such and such a thing." In fact he introduced the Honey Dew Melon into Barbados which had never been here before and had only grown in the South of Spain and not in the hot tropics. He brought back the first seeds and introduced them. We worked together on that. This kind of interest in agriculture which he has shown...After all, he is a lawyer and one does not normally expect them to show that kind of interest in agriculture. I see the Deputy President is not here to leap to his feet.

There are many facets to this great man and I would just like to say, on behalf of agriculture and myself that I do not think a more worthy person could have been honoured.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. A. WORKMAN: Mr. President, I am most humble to rise to say a few words of congratulations, the recognition of the honour conferred on Sir Harold Bernard St. John. I speak of him as a human being, as an Attorney-at-Law, as a politician and now he has been rightly elevated to the status of statesman.

I first met Sir Harold in 1959. I see that Senator Farley is looking at the grey in my hair but that is not age, that is wisdom. I met him in the legal profession when I first became an Article Clerk and "Bree" as he is well-known was a stalwart already in the legal profession. At that time in the embryonic days of my sojourn in the legal profession I discovered he had tremendous talents and ability and the most outstanding of those was his ability to stand at any time and in any circumstance particularly when his back was pushed to the wall in the law courts and come up with the correct answer. He was always one who had the answer for the correct time. That was displayed by him also in his political life. He also displayed that in his family life because he was and still is a tremendous family person.

The Honour which has been bestowed upon him is most fitting. He has not just got the highest Honour which our country confers, for the Order of St. Andrew is something more than just the highest honour. The Order of St. Andrew takes its roots from Biblical times. St. Andrew was that disciple who when John The Baptist came proclaiming Jesus first found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. He brought him to the one who was the way, the truth and the life. This is so of Sir Harold. Sir Harold has always taken time off to lead persons to ways of truth, to lead them to the way of life. I am sure there are many, many people in this country who will attest to that. For the good Sir Harold has done will be unnoticed because he is not one who ever wanted people to know what the left hand was doing and the right hand was doing. He kept them very separate and he kept it all very quiet because of his great humility. That is one of the tremendous qualities he has, a most humble, gentle person. He has the highest integrity, honesty and truth. Qualities which we need so badly in our community today. Qualities which we need to instill in the youth of our society.

I would hope, Sir, that some time in the not too distant future we will be able to put persons like Sir Harold on television, not for political mileage but to show to the

people of this country that it is not roughnecks, it is not through rude behaviour, but it is through humble, honest and dedicated hard work that we in this country and in the world can and will succeed.

We have a feeling in this country today that people must start like the grave diggers who start at the top. Sir Harold started at the bottom, he worked diligently, honestly and he has reached the pinnacle of our society. I am sure, Sir, that in every walk of life in which he has gone there is no one who can point a finger at him and say things of him which are degrading unless those persons are being untruthful. That is a tremendous Honour for any individual.

Sir, when the history of Barbados is written and read in whatever era, we will find that Sir Harold will stand out head and shoulders above so many people, that in the history of Barbados he must be recorded and penned in the words of Horace *exegi monumentum aere perennius*, which is translated, "I have left a monument more lasting than bronze".

I wish that, as we record these sentiments, many others will follow from the tributes we have paid to him today, not because we are just mouthing but because all of us here on all sides in this community appreciate the sterling qualities of true humanity which we find in Sir Harold. We thank him for his selfless sacrificial service to this country and we pray that God will bless him with many, many years to come, good health and pleasant memories of the service he has given.

SENATOR N. P. WELCH: I join my colleagues in this Chamber in congratulating Sir Harold Bernard St. John in attaining the Honour of the Order of St. Andrew. I have known Sir Harold for about 20 years and the thing that fascinated me most about him and still fascinates me is his memory. I remember, quite a few years ago, as a teenager he had a meeting with a couple of colleagues and he came out and sat there. At the end of the meeting I left feeling a bit despondent that he was not hearing us. But I was fascinated when he recalled the facts with such accuracy and I said to myself that day that he had a tape recorder at that meeting. But as I have grown with him I have come to realize that he did not have a tape recorder, he had a phenomenal memory. As I grew with him in Christ Church I have had examples of the phenomenal memory that he has. I remember only a couple of months ago he sat in his office in Oistins and recalled from memory every name of his constituents from Oistins down to Top Rock and I was impressed with that.

I remember doing some canvassing for him in Layne's Road, Maxwell. The crying problem there was drainage, drainage, drainage. When we reported back

to him he said to us but there is a well by this ackee tree, a couple yards from this house. We went back and found it there. When it comes to his memory you cannot second him. He is good.
10.55 a.m.

I also see him and admire him because in my opinion he is a walking encyclopedia. I have had a lot of joy and it has been an educational experience for me listening to him talking about agriculture, particularly fishing, about the workings of local Government and about tourism, industrial development and particularly sugar agriculture.

I remember only a couple of months ago in a conversation with him, he was getting a bit angry and annoyed about the level of race talk in election campaigns and he said to me, what you all should be talking more about is the history of the Barbados Labour Party. And he said to me, I will not write it, but if you are interested or anyone is interested I will tell you about the history of the Barbados Labour Party. I will record that for you all so that you all can have something which is worthwhile and fitting to speak about. I hope that myself or someone else would find the time and energy and be able to track him down because he is a busy man and be able to record his thoughts on the history of the party and in local politics generally as he saw them over the past 30 or so years.

I too remember quite clearly as a youngster, during the last Barbados Labour Party regime, that there were lots of calls from the know-it-alls within Barbados that we were gaining nothing from Caricom and that we should drop out of Caricom. I think most of the talk was precipitated because of the situation with the multi-lateral clearing facility with Guyana owing us over \$100 million. That man stood up as the great regionalist that he is and defended Barbados' position in Caricom. And I was not surprised in his comments after he was awarded this high honour that he expressed the desire that the major part of his remaining political life would be spent in strengthening the regional integration movement. As a regionalist I think that is where his heart is and I hope that his efforts in bringing about this dream and vision of one Caricom, one Caribbean, would be accomplished in his life time.

I remember too a young journalist friend of mine who in conversation said to me, "Patrick, one of the most remarkable things that as a young journalist I encountered in my travels throughout the Caribbean region has been ... You meet with technocrats and government officials in the other islands and when the name Bernard St. John comes up they say that man is something else. We have had the honour of working with him in LOME and in Europe and he is a phenomenon".

These are the types of things that make me and other young Barbadians like myself who know him very proud

of him. But there is one quotation that in recent years he has been using quite a lot. He always says to us, Churchill said that the good thing about politics is that unlike life you can only have one death but in politics you can have several deaths and you could rise and fight again. And I think this statement meant a lot to him because as he reflected on his defeats in 1971 and particularly in 1986 when he not only lost his seat but he lost the Government and lost his position as the Prime Minister of this country, I admired this particular thing about him most because he was not willing to sacrifice the future of Barbadians and the country for any political mileage. He was willing to play the game as he saw it and in the interest of this country and I believe, on his reflection of what he lost then that he knew that whatever happened, that if he died then, he would rise again to fight and carry on the battle, the great battle, that he had carried on for us in Barbados and particularly in Christ Church.

I also believe and I am one who feels that he has an obsession with integrity and one of the ways that I know you can lose his friendship quite easily is to lie to him. Do not ever lie to that man. I admire these qualities in Bernard St. John and it is because of these reasons that I would like to join with my colleagues here and the others in the other House in offering my heartfelt congratulations to him, Lady St. John and his family. Thank you very much.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you very much, Mr. President. While assessing the life and the work of Sir Harold, an old poem that I remember from Buxton Boys' School, that great school which no longer is, came to mind. It says:

"Lives of great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight. But they, while their companions slept, were toiling onward through the night."

That came to me, Sir, because in my association with Sir Harold, I found him to be a man with a capacity for knowledge. He was described as a walking encyclopedia. And this, Sir, did not come by any special gift but it came from hard work and dedication. And as a young man his life is an inspiration to me. Not only because of that, Sir, but because he took all that life threw at him with fortitude. Because if you remember, Sir, in 1966 in his first excursion into elective politics he defeated two stalwarts in Christ Church, the late Sir Edwy Talma and the late Fred Goddard and he became the senior Member for Christ Church in 1966. That was a high point. But 5 years later came a low point where as leader of the Barbados Labour Party, having for a year or two taken over from Sir Grantley Adams, he not only took his party into defeat but he himself lost his seat. I remember, Sir, that night

I was home listening to our Rediffusion set when the results were coming across and it seemed as though Sir Harold was in trouble to a newcomer. Before the final results were known, I remember a commentator saying, the people of Barbados recognise quality so that they will not vote out Sir Harold. And that struck me because even although he was subsequently voted out of office yet everybody in Barbados recognised that the saying of this commentator about quality was none the less true? He took it with courage and it showed something to a lot of us because sometimes, Sir, we like to exude in victory and we feel good when we have achieved a tremendous victory but we are not of the same mode when defeat comes. But Sir Harold is an inspiration to us in that he took his victories and he took his defeats and nobody can ever say that he was not magnanimous in victory nor graceful in defeat. That is a testimony to an inner courage and character which I myself would be proud of and which I am sure many of us would be proud of if we could display that character. Take everything that life has to offer you. Take it with a smile knowing that tomorrow is another day.

Sir, I join with all that was said about Sir Harold because in the last 8 years or so I have come to know him pretty well and I have come to appreciate his qualities even more. As it was said, Sir, he was a man of integrity and even his political opponents are sincere when they praise him for his integrity because no matter what was said about Sir Harold no one can question his integrity. It reminds me, Sir, of Shakespeare, I think it was in Othello. Sir, I cannot remember who said it but it goes like this "He who steals my purse steals trash. But he who filches from me my good name deprives me of that which profiteth him not but leaves me poor indeed."

11.05 a.m.

Sir Harold's name is indeed good in Barbados and it will continue to be good, because he is a man of outstanding character, so while, according to Shakespeare, they may have taken away his seat they could never take away his good name. I wish that at the end of my political days, whether they be many or few, the same can be said about me, but I have an example I can follow. None of us can say that we are without example, because Sir Harold is leaving us an example which we can all follow. We can do well to follow his determination, we can do well to follow his dedication, we can do well to follow his diligence, we can do well to follow his integrity because it would make us very rich indeed.

I am glad that in my short political life I have had the honour to work with Sir Harold. I know that our association will continue, if it be the Lord's will, because we know that he has a lot to offer this country. I am glad that the Government is recognising his special skills and is

seeking to use them for the benefit not only of the Government but, of more importance, to the people of Barbados.

Sir, I want to join with the Senate in extending my heartiest congratulations to Sir Harold and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Thank you.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I hope that the tone I detected just now is not intended to suggest to us that Sir Harold has passed on. Far be it from us to hope that he would do that in the immediate future. I would like to express the wish that he will be with us for many years to come, and I would wish therefore in speaking to his credit to speak very much in the present and the future.

I recall, Mr. President, the joy that was expressed by the supporters of the Government a few weeks ago when the Prime Minister indicated, in what was a fairly broad hint, that shortly it would be improper for anybody to refer to Mr. St. John, as he was then, as Bree. I think that nobody in that auditorium at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic was left in any doubt as to what the intention was, and I would wish to say that I shared in that moment of satisfaction; because I believe, as the previous speaker has said, that persons who have contributed need to be recognised when they can appreciate the recognition. Regrettably, in this global community persons are full of praise for individuals when the individuals cannot hear and cannot respond, and indeed very often people who are close are careful to find extraordinary caskets and beautiful flower designs to put on the mould, and the mould when it was dynamic and living and with a spirit was not able to receive any such appreciation. I think it is very fitting, therefore, that public figures, particularly those who very often attract abuse, sometimes undeserved abuse, are able from time to time to have the public recognise that there was not all substance in the abuse and that in fact the pluses are significantly more than the minuses.

Again, I would wish to join with the previous speaker in saying that all of us would have differences. He said all of us would have examples. I go beyond that to say we will all have moments where we have been less than perfect, and I do not believe that anybody has been absolutely perfect in this life. In fact, the Good Book warns us not to believe in perfection on this side of Heaven. We, therefore, would need to recognise that there may have been the kinds of weaknesses which may have led to defeat, but let us further say that defeat is not always the result of weaknesses. Sometimes defeats can come from strengths, strengths which bring about fears, fears which bring about jealousies, jealousies which bring

about undoing, and I would wish merely to say that I do not necessarily share the view of those who were of the view that Sir Harold was weak when he lost, but perhaps may have been too strong. That is just a word for the historians.

I wish to say that the Barbados Workers' Union and the Labour Movement, which I have the pleasure of serving, would wish to join through me in this honourable institution in paying tribute to Sir Harold St. John. I think it is a tribute which, if you would permit me, Sir, I would want to extend to Stella Lady St. John and to the St. John family, because it is my considered view that no man is an island and no woman is an island either. Any time any one of us has managed to achieve, I think we have to accept that that achievement has not come because we have taken unto ourselves all of the attributes of greatness, or we have toiled all by ourselves, because the human psyche is such that loneliness is perhaps our greatest enemy and there must have been, and I am sure there was, strength and support, active co-operation and I believe that that was one of the striking characteristics, and is one of the striking characteristics he was able to draw from in his family. In fact, that is one of the strengths which perhaps led to the kind of position which I just described as strength that is so great that it leads to jealousies, that it leads to lack of success. But that is another matter, Sir.

I wish to say that even when I was a politician, as I was for a very short period, and I have been hearing all today about how people go up hill and down vale and they go back up hill, I suppose somebody was saying to me that they expect in a few years' time to see me somewhere else. I do not know, Sir. I gather that was a lesson for me, Mr. President. But when I was a politician attacking, rightly or wrongly, the politics of the period 1976 to 1986, I was very careful, even then, although I was not close to Sir Harold at the time, to single him out for praise as being an exceptional leader and a selfless person who in my view was most significant in the contribution that he could make and would make to the leadership of this country. I know in those days the tapes were very much the order of the day, and those people who were familiar with the tapings of meetings might be able to recognise that then I felt as I feel now: that Sir Harold was and is an exceptional political figure, one of whom Barbados ought to be justly proud.

I want to go beyond that, Mr. President, because it was never my view that Sir Harold was a Barbadian, I have always felt that he was a West Indian. I do not know if anybody else spoke to this, but I would imagine that many persons who were closer to him, and who are closer to him, than I am would have recognised this. Being a West Indian myself, I would wish to share a community of interest with Sir Harold, I would want to single out those

expressions which I recognise in him as expressions for the oneness of the region, to be part of that great thing that he still has to continue to do, even though we may argue that he is at the end of his political days.

11.15 a.m.

I don't see him any longer, Sir, as a politician. I see Sir Harold as a statesman. I don't see him as a Barbadian statesman. I see him as a Caribbean statesman and I therefore am particularly pleased to hear the report that the Deputy Prime Minister has indicated that very shortly he will become Ambassador Extraordinaire.

Soon after the elections when I was spoken to and asked what my views were about the Cabinet, part of it was whether the Cabinet was too young, my view then was that I recall a British Prime Minister assuming the mantle of prime ministership at the age of 21, and I hear now that there is a youngster at Oxford University at age 9. So I don't know what is too young. I have rejected this notion of anybody being too young. The question is how able you are, and not how young and how old you are. That does not mean that old persons in this august Chamber need to take comfort in their age because age as the other end of the spectrum does not necessarily equip them.

No person necessarily by name. I am merely saying that age one way or the other is not a criterion for greatness in itself. It does help somewhat. It does help a little bit but we can repeat the same experience over and over for many years. Again nothing to do with this Honourable Chamber. I was making the point that when I was spoken to in those terms, I said I was not surprised except perhaps by one person who does not need to be named because I did not warn you in advance. It was my view that persons like - I almost said Sir Henry. Sometimes I prophesy somewhat and you have to forgive me. I recognise the need for us to realise that numbers have to be satisfied on certain occasions, independent of occasions like New Years.

I recognised then and I said to the Press that it was my view that Barbados could benefit significantly from having Sir Harold and I also mentioned Mr. Henry Forde serve at a level beyond the limits of the Barbados Cabinet, and being in a position to be extraordinary statespersons using their experience across the globe and doing a shuttle service in diplomacy which would not be unfamiliar or dissimilar to that kind of diplomacy being now performed by President Carter for President Clinton of the United States of America. I am not suggesting that he has to go to Bosnia. Let's hope he does not have to do that, or that we will not have to send anybody back to Haiti; because it is our hope that we can reverse that situation in that country once and for all. It is a hope. Nobody is too sure

whether we will see it realised but it is a hope and we have to work towards it.

Within the context of a CARICOM region and within a context of our working towards a wider association of Caribbean States, which is our only salvation as a people in my opinion, there has to be a body of persons, who are bigger than an individual island or an individual state, who will join together and bring the collective wisdom and experience that they have for the governance of this region, which will give us part of that competitive edge that is required in the globalised economy that is taking over at this time.

I believe that persons like Sir Harold and Mr. Michael Manley who have declared themselves out of the hustings for future political office; but there are also others we can think of very easily. Dame Eugenia Charles who has already indicated that she is going to demit political office: persons like these, in my view, Mr. President, could make up that cadre of persons on whom we shall have to rely for giving the politicians that additional thrust that is required, be it a thrust to get the Japanese to bring some of their business this way (I believe that some persons in here have been trying to assist in that regard) or be it in trying to ensure that when we speak to the Latin American states or the Southern cone states, that we are able in those discussions to make them realise that if we can get 300 million people in this Latin American Caribbean region together then we have a power bloc that other people have got to talk to.

It is therefore important for us, in my view, to realise that the lives of great men, as the previous speaker was saying, those lives which remind us that we can make our own lives sublime, that those lives are not over because persons have moved from one level of contribution in the society to another level of contribution. It is my wish, Sir, that we would realise that persons like Sir Harold will continue to be examples. And we need examples in this country.

Our colleague was right in saying that those heights attained are heights which other persons can draw strength from. I would wish to express the view that those large bodies of young persons, and not so young persons, who are aspiring to play in the arena, be it of politics, be it of just social organisations, or even the church, that they will recognise that not all of the criticisms of public figures are accurate criticisms, and that they are still among us in this country and indeed in this region and in the world people who are prepared to sacrifice in the well-being of the rest of the community, and that persons like Sir Harold are

persons from whom we can take guidance, and whom we might be able effectively to use as examples.

The Barbados Workers' Union, indeed, the Coalition of Trade Unions and staff associations would wish to repeat again our sincere congratulation, Sir, to Sir Harold for the attainment of this honour and to the Government of Barbados for conferring it.

SENATOR C. MASCOLL: Mr. President, I did not have an awful lot of contact with Sir Harold but I am very convinced that in terms of contribution to Barbados he has made a contribution in the area of trade as a Minister that has gone somewhat unchallenged. I say that because he has demonstrated to a large extent an understanding of issues relating to Lomé, ACP and other such global concerns that other Ministers have demonstrated over the years.

In that regard, I always admired his intimate knowledge of issues relating to trade. As I said, I did not have enough contact to go into a full elaboration on his total contribution. I must say that his observations after the defeat of the Barbados Labour Party in 1986 at the Combermere Auditorium when he suggested that the Party needed to attract young men who understand issues of finance was an observation that to a large extent influenced me in thinking about making a contribution to Barbados in that area.

I must say that even though his wishes have not been fulfilled, and despite the lack of fulfillment he has still been able to achieve victory at the last election; that the dream that he has that politics may attract that calibre of individual who can make more meaningful contributions in those areas can still be realised sometime up ahead. But there is a start. I am not so sure as I said that it has been fulfilled in the way that he would have liked it to be.

Just let me say that in terms of contribution, that Sir Harold certainly has demonstrated over the years a quality which escaped some of the previous leaders when he could have, if he wanted to, indulged in the kind of spending that we associate with the presence of an election. In that period he did not, in fact, embark on such a strategy. Maybe even if he had done so I think the alternative was so attractive that it might have been difficult to change the outcome of that particular election. Just let me say that it is an admirable quality, a quality that has, in fact, been repeated in 1994. It is an admirable quality for a leader not to indulge in that kind of typical spending round about election time.

11.25 a.m.

I can recall numerous debates as I sat in front of the television where, as I said earlier, I admired the way in which Sir Harold dealt with issues, particularly issues relating to trade. It is hard to say it but he has, in fact, been somewhat of an inspiration for me in politics. I have made it known in other circles but now that I am in public I would not make those utterances because they might be misrepresented in this particular arena so I have to be careful.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I have recognised that truthfulness is not always the best thing to pursue in this political arena because, as you would notice, whenever you make very clinical observation of the economic happenings in Barbados which are founded in truthfulness, they are always misrepresented either within or without by the media. Therefore, one is always left to believe whether or not one can make a clear interpretation of economic events in this country and that it be carried in that light.

We have only recently, without digression, seen that kind of thing happening to the manufacturers of Barbados who are prompting all kinds of things. That is just a digression to demonstrate how that issue can be misrepresented and turned upside down in public.

Just let me say though that it was unfortunate that Sir Harold did not constitute part of the Cabinet of the Government. I have every reason to believe, in fact, given the rhetoric that has been espoused, that his presence will be absolutely necessary to convert that rhetoric into plans and realities for the 1995 period and beyond. I think it would be, in fact, very important that he stays around and makes his contribution to a Cabinet that obviously is lacking in experience in terms of the management of economic and fiscal affairs. Therefore, it is necessary that his presence be seen beyond 1995 as I can see some very serious challenges confronting the Barbados economy and that kind of exposure which I have already recognised to be a shortcoming on some of the committees and commissions in this august Chamber, we have to ensure that we maintain individuals of that kind of calibre who are going to make the kind of contribution to the future development of Barbados that is so absolutely necessary. In that regard I look forward to continued contribution from Sir Harold in the years ahead in terms of making a very significant and appropriate input to the decision-making process of the Barbados Labour Party.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself with the congratulations

and most of the comments made in this Honourable Chamber about the sterling contributions of Sir Harold Bernard St. John. Sir Harold brought a formidable intellect and an unswerving commitment to integrity and to the business of public life in this country. He has served his country well and he has served the region well. As an unswerving regionalist, he has set the tone for the future.

Sir Harold is still at the height of his prowess. He is one of the greatest resources this country has today. He is a constant source of support, knowledge, and a fount of advice for all of us who choose to use his vast experience and his wise council. Sir Harold has many years left of service to this country and it is fitting that he should be so rewarded for his many years of public service. One cannot but think how different our history would be if the same commitment to integrity that he has demonstrated had been followed in recent years.

I support Senator Symmonds' call for a recorded history of the recent political and economic history of Barbados using Sir Harold's experience. I recommend that someone or a group of people be commissioned to interview Sir Harold but not just Sir Harold. I think we should embark upon a programme of recording current history because very soon it becomes forgotten history and it is quite often lost to us.

Much of what I know about Sir Harold of his early years in politics come to me through my father who admired him as an opponent and admired him as a patriot. He thought highly of Sir Harold and, indeed, I think in later years communicated with him on many important issues of the day. Sir Harold is what we are looking for in today's search for a role model. I have seen many cast up as role models that I would question but I cannot question Sir Harold as a role model for any young man or woman entering either business or the professions or the business of Government.

As many have said before, Sir Harold earned his way. He worked. He used the intellect he had and he did not hide his light under a bushel. He did not take his talents and keep them without interest. He multiplied them and he multiplied them to the benefit of all the people of the Caribbean and the people of Barbados. We owe him much and we trust that he will be with us for many years to come to lend us advice, to help us in our deliberations and to benefit from his friendship, a very valuable friendship it is indeed. I congratulate Sir Harold and Lady St. John on this award and thank them both very much for their dedicated public service and what they have given to this country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would like to associate the Chair with the sentiments expressed in tribute to Sir Harold St. John, a former distinguished member of this Honourable Chamber, and a former Prime Minister of Barbados.
11.35 a.m.

I have had the privilege of working with Sir Harold both in the legal profession of which he has been a distinguished member for about 4 decades and in his public career.

Sir Harold is a man who pays attention to substance rather than form, a man who speaks his mind without looking over his shoulder. In short, a man of courage and integrity. I would agree with Senator Symmonds that he is also a man of compassion, with Senator Workman that he is a man of humility and with Senator Trotman that he is a Caribbean statesman, a West Indian patriot. He is a man of immense knowledge not only of the intricacies of the law but also public affairs in its widest and most comprehensive sense.

The Honour conferred on Sir Harold is therefore well deserved on grounds both of the content of his character and the quality of his contribution. On the basis of the sentiments expressed today Sir Harold should be in no doubt that Members of this Honourable Chamber rejoice with him on his well deserved preferment.

I congratulate him and I add to those congratulations my congratulations to Lady St. John.

Senator Farley.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, just before I move the adjournment, there is one housekeeping matter, if I may. The staff of our dining room downstairs have laid on a Christmas lunch for the Members of the Senate which I understand will be ready some time in the afternoon and, in keeping with the spirit of the season, Mr. President, I am sure that the repository of spirits within that area downstairs will be open to ensure that we are caught up in the spirit of the season whilst we await the serving of our sumptuous Christmas lunch. I would hope that all Members of the Senate will remain for that.

I beg to move that this sitting stands adjourned *sine die*.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Trotman.

SENATOR C. LeR. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I would wish now that the Motion is before us to speak to the motion.

Last Wednesday we were forced to have a very short session. It has caused me to give some thought to the way in which we conduct our business and to speak to the issue with a view to seeing whether the following proposal can meet with agreement. I think that by and large the business of the Other Place is resolved on a Tuesday and it reaches us the following day but, quite frequently, with enough lapse time between the decision that is taken and the time that there is for implementation. My view is that it would be to our better functioning as a Senate, if we could as a normal procedure have a leeway of a week, let us say, in which to deal with the matters which in the previous week would have been dealt with by the Other Place.

What, in essence, I am saying is that if a Bill has gone to the Other Place and it has been addressed and has been passed, it would be only proper and fair if there were some time in which Honourable Senators had the opportunity to give careful and deliberate study to the issue before us rather than to come here the following day to discuss that matter and to speak off the cuff granted that the way that our Parliament is set up that there is a certain understanding of consultation between the major Parties which would form the Government and Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. But there are independents in this Chamber who might wish to have consultations on the issue with the interest groups which Her Excellency has sought to have us represent. We would not be able to do justice to that consultation process, Mr. President, if we are seeing items for the first time only after the Other Place has dealt with them and therefore we are speaking on our feet.

I know a number of my colleagues are very wise persons, based on their years, but there are some others of us who having the age still have not managed to get the requisite wisdom and might need to consult or, in any event, in a democratic process do need, from time to time, to have some kind of consultative arrangement. I accept very readily that there are occasions when the business of the country will be so urgent and pressing that it will be necessary for us to meet the following day or sometimes even later in the same day that the Other Place may have made a decision. I have no quarrel with that because our job is to facilitate. But at the same time, Constitutionally, our job it seems to me is to ensure that decisions which have been made have the opportunity for further cogitation and study so that at the end of the day the country has the possibility for this august Chamber to breathe on a matter which has been touched on by the politicians and to give the benefit of our statesmanlike review of that particular issue. I would therefore urge that some consideration be given to the matter. I do not necessarily believe that an answer might be possible today because it may be that consultations may have to be entered into, but

I would wish, with respect, to put forward that as something worthy of our study.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I want to thank the Honourable Senator Trotman for his comments and to inform him that that is our objective. In fact the first meeting which was held on the day after the meeting of the House of Assembly was necessitated because of the length of time for which there was no meeting and the fact that there was an Appropriation Bill to be completed within enough time that the business of Government could continue.

You would recall as well that during the mid point of our meetings we took a break of about 1 or 2 weeks to allow us to get into the intended format where we would consider matters one week after they had been considered by the House of Assembly. However the exceptional circumstance was the Bill dealing with the guarantees to the sugar industry which had some time limitations on it and similarly with the coming of the Christmas season we wanted to be able to terminate our session at a convenient point.

However what we do at those times when we are unable to have the one week's space is that matters are circulated to the Members of the Senate at the same time that they are circulated to Members of the House of Assembly.

If there are any Amendments then the Amendments would be circulated. But your point is well taken and it is our intention when we recommence next year and as things are moving smoothly to have the one week time lag between the consideration of matters in the House of Assembly and the consideration of the same matters in the Senate for the very reasons which you have cited.
11.45 a.m.

I appreciate your recognition of the fact that there will be from time to time exceptional circumstances that would cause a deviation from the desired norm. We on this side certainly appreciate the cooperation which all members have given in those cases where we needed to follow up on matters which had been discussed in the House of Assembly with some matter of urgency.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Since this is the last meeting for the year let me take this opportunity to express to Honourable Members and to the Staff of Parliament and to their families the compliments of the season, a Happy Christmas and a bright and productive 1995.

The question that the Senate be adjourned sine die was put and agreed to and Mr. President adjourned the Senate accordingly.
11.50 a.m.

CONTENTS

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 135

1. The First Annual Report on the National Productivity Board for the period October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994.
2. The Drawback of Duties on Sale of Goods to Tourist (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.
3. The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (No. 3) Order, 1994.
- 4 Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Port Authority for the year ended December 31, 1993.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY 135

The Savings Bonds (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – THE SAVINGS BONDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994 136

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 136.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO AUTHORISE THE MINISTER TO RAISE BY THE ISSUE OF SAVINGS BONDS IN BARBADOS MONEY UP TO A LIMIT OF \$100 000 000 136

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 136.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

ELEVATION OF HAROLD BERNARD ST. JOHN TO THE KNIGHTHOOD OF SAINT ANDREW 136

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 136; Senator Miss O. P. Symmonds, 137; Senator the Hon. G. S. H. Murray, 137; Senator Miss C. Y. Forde, 139; Senator C. K. Laurie, 139; Senator J. A. Workman, 140; Senator N. P. Welch, 140; Senator T. E. Barker, 141; Senator C. LeR. Trotman, 142; Senator C. A. Mascoll, 144; Senator the Hon. P. C. Goddard, 145; Mr. President, 146.

SUSPENSION 136

ADJOURNMENT 146

Senator the Hon. R. R. Farley, 146, 147; Senator C. LeR. Trotman, 146.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARKER, Senator T. E.
 FARLEY, Senator the Hon. R. R.
 FORDE, Senator Miss C. Y.
 GODDARD, Senator the Hon. P. C.
 GOLLOP, His Honour Senator F. W.
 LAURIE, Senator C. K.
 MASCOLL, Senator C. A.
 MURRAY, Senator the Hon. G. S. H.
 SYMMONDS, Senator Miss O. P.
 TROTMAN, Senator C. LeR.
 WELCH, Senator N. P.
 WORKMAN, Senator J. A.