
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1991 – 96

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 15, 1994

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, June 15, 1994, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN, (President)
Senator J. J. PAYNE (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable L. V. H. LEWIS, G.C.M.
(Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator A. MORRISON
Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, B.S.S., J.P., M.C.F.A.
Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS
Senator the Honourable Dr. C. D. CLARKE,
(Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs) (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 J. A. F. COLE
Senator T. E. BARKER
Senator Miss M. A. MOTTLEY
Senator T. C. BECKLES

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Nineteenth Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the financial year 1991–92;

The Annual Reports of the Community Legal Services Commission for the years 1991–92 and 1992–93;

The Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Order, 1994;

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Amendment) Regulations, 1994;

The Fifteenth Annual Report of the National Sports Council for the financial year 1992-93; and

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1994.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. President, for indulging me. Unlike the Other Place, we have no agenda item for congratulatory messages, hence with your permission, Sir, I would like to pay tribute to one of our own. For far too often, Sir, we are wont to criticise or wait too late to give praise posthumously.

During the period of April 26th to May 5th, the eyes of the world were upon Barbados as this country, smaller than the population of a congressional district in the United States of America, set out to host the first ever United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States. But long before the eyes of the world were focussed upon us, a single individual had the eyes of all Barbadians focussed upon him.

His task was not an easy one for he had to withstand the doubts, the suspicion and skepticisms of several Barbadians. There were many who not only doubted the ability of this individual to accomplish this mission impossible but almost as many more who sounded as though they wished him failure, and along with him, the Government and ultimately the people of Barbados. Great were the ill-wishers and many were those who chose to ignore his long outstanding and enviable record in successfully launching the Barbados National Bank, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, the National Petroleum Corporation of Barbados and the National Development Foundation amongst others.

Undaunted by these swells of malevolence and armed with the confidence born out of a successful past, this loyal son accepted the challenge to bring honour and glory to all Barbadians by launching the conference without a hitch, a conference acknowledged by all as a resounding success.

Mr. President, our valiant Senator undertook the task when so many others just sat on the fence with bated breath waiting for him to stumble.

Through his efforts, he has firmly established the name of Barbados in a most favourable light in the minds of the people of the world over.

Just as Sir Garfield Sobers' cricketing feats have placed the name of Barbados and the West Indies firmly in the minds and hearts of cricket-loving people the world over, so too has Senator the Hon. Lawrence Vernon Harcourt Lewis, Leader of the Senate and Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands registered the name of Barbados in all countries of the world which are concerned with and interested in their own environment and sustainable development.

For this, Mr. President, I want to pay public tribute and to congratulate Senator the Honourable Lawrence Vernon Harcourt Lewis, Leader of the Senate and Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands in Barbados, for the competence, skill and efficiency demonstrated in successfully avoiding the pitfalls and shoals, which would have wrought havoc with a lesser man, and making the Global Conference, the first of its kind in the world, the resounding success that it was. For this truly was "a pride that made no wanton boast."

I thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to move the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) to enable this Honourable Senate to deal with one of the matters on the Order Paper today.

The question was put and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I wish to move the First Reading of a Bill that seeks to amend the Barbados Investment Corporation Act, Cap. 332(A).

The question was put and agreed to.
11.25 a.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LAMBERTS, ST. LUCY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WIND POWER PROJECT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the Resolution before us relates to the compulsory acquisition of 41 020 square metres, or 10 acres of land at Lamberts in the parish of St. Lucy for the purposes of wind power development. It will be recalled that during the early 1980s the Government of Barbados entered into an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank to conduct studies by means of a pilot project to determine the potential and generating capacity for obtaining electricity through wind turbine generators and then transferring this electricity into the national electricity grid for use by householders.

At least three sites were identified, selected and examined but because of its favourable wind regime the site at Lamberts was preferred. It was selected as the best location on the island for setting up such a project. Appropriate action was instituted to secure the land for the project and Government gave consideration to a leasehold arrangement with Barbados Farms Limited, the owners of the lands. Accordingly, Cabinet at its meeting in August 1985 agreed that 10 acres of land at Lamberts, St. Lucy, should be leased for a three-year period at an annual rental rate of \$5 000.

During discussions on the lease agreement, the owners raised certain stipulations which made it economically more attractive for the Government to seek to purchase the land rather than to pursue any leasehold arrangement and in such arrangement be committed to restoration of the site in its former condition.

The proposal to purchase the land was considered and approved by Cabinet in January 1986 and the matter was pursued. The project took shape. It was found to be feasible in terms of its ability to generate electricity, but it floundered in its ability to do it at a price which was economically feasible for Government, or for the Light and Power Co. for that matter, who would have to take the

electricity into their grid. However, the Wind Power Project came to an end. It was successful in that it generated electricity.

In recent times private sector interests have indicated a desire to pursue wind power generation in Barbados. The Cabinet of Barbados at the present time, recognising that it is unwise for Government itself to pursue the Wind Power Project, is still committed to the idea of generating energy through wind power and is talking with these private sector interests about the possibility and, hopefully, eventually for the private sector group to establish wind farms at Lamberts in St. Lucy for the purpose of generating electricity. It is recognised by Government that if arrangements could be made for generating of energy through wind power that this would be used to offset some of the high cost of electricity on the island.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, the Government is seeking approval to purchase 10 acres of land. Sir, we would like to know, since the Honourable Minister mentioned that private sector interests would be the ones involved in this project, what is Government's role. Are we going to give everything over to the private sector for them to operate and if so, what arrangements are going to be made between Government and the private sector interests noting that Government is about to purchase the land? Would the Government lease the land to the interests? What sort of arrangements are going to be made because we are being asked to purchase land the Minister is saying that Government for some reasons would like the private sector to be involved in. Probably, Sir, we would like to know the arrangements that are to be made between Government and the private sector in this respect.

Sir, the Minister mentioned that the Project proved to be infeasible because of the cost of producing electricity via wind power. What I would like to know is, if Government finds it uneconomical, why should the private sector find it economical? Is there something inherent in Government's ability to manage projects to cause this sort of thing to happen? There is a feeling in this country that Government is, by nature, inefficient and that anything the Government can do the private sector can do better. I do not subscribe to that view, Sir, because I think it is not based on any empirical investigation, or any sound evidence. I am a little skeptical about the nature of this Project given that Government has proved that it is infeasible in the first place.

This brings us to the whole question of costing energy. I want to submit that probably we could be looking at ways of reducing the cost of producing energy noting that most of the fuels used in Barbados are basically diesel, fuel oil and natural gas with fuel oil being the major fuel used in the production of electricity.

I wonder, Sir, if Government should not be advised, given that they are looking at the feasibility of using other means of energy generation, to look again at its pricing structure with regard to the conventional means of producing energy in Barbados. I know that a large proportion of the expenditure used by the Light and Power Company is on fuel and a large percentage of that fuel cost is from taxation. At times, Sir, more than half the cost of fuel is taxation. So I wonder if Government should not be looking that taxation especially as it relates to energy products and see what scope there is for reducing it so that the cost of energy, which we are concerned about, because the whole idea of looking at wind and other means of energy is to get the cost of energy down to the consumer, among things.

I am saying, Sir, that another way Government can do this is by looking at its tax structure and see if by prudent use or by fiscal and other measures if they cannot reduce the cost of electricity to the consumer because I am very worried that the cost of energy is a major headache for most households in Barbados and a lot of it is related to the cost of the inputs, especially fuel oil and diesel which have a high taxation.

Sir, there are lots of questions to be raised about this Wind Energy Project. It sounds good in theory but probably the Minister can tell us in what areas and what are the reasons for the failure in the first place. Were there technical reasons? Were there management reasons? What are the reasons why this Project, in spite of the fact that it did generate electricity, for its failure in terms of the fact that it did not produce it at a cost which would encourage the Light and Power Company to buy energy from that source? That is a major question I am asking. I hope the Minister would oblige me, if he has the information because I know that he is very versed in energy matters so he can advise the House so that we can vote on this Resolution with more knowledge than we presently have.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, in lending support to this Resolution, I just want to register what I consider to be – I would not say concern, although it boils down to that. I would have liked to see information on the alternative cost of generating energy in Barbados. We know that energy can be generated from a variety of sources. I need not go into that, but I believe that before a Government commits resources to any project, careful alternative costings should be done.
11.35 a.m.

I would just like to urge Government to use whatever resources it has at its disposal and if it does not have those resources to call upon other sources which exist in this country in the University and in the Caribbean Development Bank. Those are the institutions I know best

which can assist Government in doing the kind of project analyses which are essential to proper planning.

With that comment, Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, I would like to make just a few comments on this Resolution before us for a number of reasons. I think it is necessary to note that I live in St. Lucy and I was very proud when this project was going in that part of the country, and to recognize that the Lamberts Wind Power Project was an experimental one, it was a pilot project. What is important is that it was there to demonstrate to Barbadians that this kind of energy could be utilized again at this time in our history. This is not a new venture in this island. I think that now there is a more efficient way of using that wind energy.

The point that I want to draw to this Chamber's attention is that Lamberts is – and I think the Minister spoke on this – best suited for that area because it is one of the windiest sites. It is also isolated. But even if we look at the question of Government bringing this as a pilot project, we must also recognize that it has shown Barbadians, once again, that there is potential for wind power energy. Furthermore in that area of this country, in the northern area of this country and in St. Lucy in particular you would recognize that there is a great area for farming and that this type of energy can be used for irrigation. I have no problem with Government necessarily looking towards the private sector to take over the project once we can now recognize that this kind of energy is environmentally friendly. It is a non-polluting resource and therefore it is something that we can really go for.

If we look at irrigation in that part of the country, we would recognize that that is a great farming community and because their ground water is in plenty in St. Lucy, not for domestic use but that can be used for irrigation, it is necessary that we find a resource that will best utilize this. Wind power has been used in that area of the country for a long time. There were windmills as I could remember at Mount Poyer, at Greenidges, at Spring Hall, at Cluffs and a number of detours at Mount Poyer is still standing. There is a number of wells that I understand which still have the piping and maybe the shell and all of that. They are still there and they can be sensibly utilized rather than let it just go to waste.

I see no reason if the Government has tried to bring this type of energy source back to fruition, if it is necessary to pass it on to the private sector to get it going and to let it be a worthwhile venture in the country and to the farming community, in particular, in that regard that it cannot be used. I wanted to make that point. I support the Resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is... Senator Lewis.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President the acquisition of this land will satisfy the commitment which was given in 1985 in the first place. It is necessary to acquire it in order that that commitment would have been satisfied.

Secondly, the Wind Power Unit that was used for the pilot project is still at Lamberts. The Government having carried out the pilot project and having satisfied itself that wind power is a feasible proposition has no responsibility to develop the project further and indeed has no intention of getting in the business of providing energy via that source but it will facilitate it by collaborating with whichever private sector group is able to finance the development of a wind farm at that location and/or at other locations.

On the question of what arrangements would be made for Government's involvement that will have to be a matter for negotiation at an appropriate time when the private sector interests who are not resident in Barbados but are an international group. When they reach the stage of having examined the feasibility of the project, I take the point made by Senator Dr. Alleyne that when the Government reaches the stage of wanting to examine the feasibility and whatever project is put up by the private sector group that there are agencies in Barbados with the appropriate expertise in this area who could assist Government in examining and verifying the possibilities and opportunities inherent in the development of a wind farm in this country. This is a matter which the appropriate Ministry will pursue because Government is committed to the use of alternate sources of energy and in this case, somebody used the words "environmentally friendly" I have little doubt that this type of energy would be environmentally friendly and that we would grasp it and use it.

But there is no intention on the part of Government to fund this development. The intention is to facilitate rather than to fund. Any contribution and involvement will lie in the extent to which it will either make the lands available and the manner in which it makes the lands at Lamberts available, in the first instance, to whatever group of developers eventually pursue such a project.
11.45 a.m.

Incidentally, Mr. President, a comment was made about failure of the project. Let me say there was no failure of the project *per se*.

With those remarks, I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 2 – THE BARBADOS TOURISM
INVESTMENT CORPORATION (AMEND-
MENT) BILL, 1994

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Although the matter relates, Mr. President, to the amendment of the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act, it is really a land matter appropriately to be dealt with by the Minister responsible for Lands. It relates to a small parcel of land, 10 360 square feet, which for all intents and purposes has always been part and parcel of the property of the Heywoods Hotel.

The hotel occupies various parcels of land, some of which are found in the Second Schedule to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act. When the transaction relating to the disposal of the hotel was nearing its completion, it was realised that not all the lands occupied by the hotel had in fact been vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and that this small portion of land which was obtained for the express purpose of siting a sewerage plant had never been conveyed or had never been vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation.

What this Bill now seeks to do is to vest that small portion of land in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation in order that there may be a clean conveyance of the property from the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation to the new owners of Heywoods Hotel and to ensure that all of the lands occupied by the hotel are transferred at the time of the conveyance. That is basically what the Bill is seeking to do.

So that, Mr. President, the Bill seeks to amend the Second Schedule to the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act by adding a Schedule which recites all that I have just said, the fact that this 10 360 square feet should be added to that Schedule in order to facilitate a clean transfer of the property.

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

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. President, I wish to make a few remarks because this Bill seeks to amend the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation Act and it seeks to do so to give effect to the conveyance in respect of this parcel of land so that the completion of the sale of Heywoods to the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited can be effected in a total way. Therefore it must beg the question as to the terms and conditions upon which this Government has sold the Heywoods Hotel to that Corporation. Indeed, Sir, we have heard from the Honourable Minister of Finance that \$34 million was agreed upon with \$10 million to be paid in foreign exchange with respect to that sum.

The Barbados Labour Party has contended that a property in which so much money has been spent, so much investment has been made to the tune of over \$60 million, that to sell that property at this stage for \$34 million is a travesty and a serious injustice being perpetrated upon the taxpayers of this country. To that extent I wish once again to register our great dismay and great objection to the sale of Heywoods to the Barbados Shipping and Trading upon the terms and conditions outlined by the Honourable Minister of Finance in respect of that sale. We believe that if this Government was serious about the development of Heywoods, which was a property owned by the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, they would have made greater efforts to ensure that there was a better return on the investment which has been made by the people of this country through this Government.

Sir, I would also like to raise the issue of all-inclusive tourism, because we understand that the property which has been sold is to be the subject of an all-inclusive resort. I wish to say at this stage, Sir, not that we are doing anything other than sounding a caution that this Government needs to ensure that there is a proper study carried into the effects of all-inclusive tourism in respect of this economy and this society. We have had a number of persons who have, and would have, cause to work at the same Heywoods Hotel, such as the beach vendors, water sports operators and the taxi operators, who have already come out and raised their concerns. While at this stage I do not believe that we are suggesting that it should not obtain, I believe that Government needs to ensure that a property such as Heywoods which is intending to go all-inclusive, given the nature and size of Heywoods and indeed its dominance in the northern part of this island in respect of one of the major hotel properties, that a proper study be done as to the effect it is likely to have by a transition to all-inclusive both to the economy and to the society in general and any fall out that may happen.

We cannot ignore the fact that it is likely that services which were once obtained as a result of independent contractors may now be obtained within the focus of them being employees of that institution, and therefore it raises questions as to what they can obtain for their services and, given that, whether their standard of living may not in effect fall in respect of their inability to operate as independent contractors within that part of the tourism sector.

I would also like this Government to answer very clearly and in very definitive terms, and not to hedge around the bush, as to whether it is a fact that there is an intention to involve an element of casino gambling at the same Heywoods resort to ensure that the viability of that property is maintained, given the fact that there is a view that that hotel cannot succeed without some form of competitive edge, such as casino gambling. I would like the

the Honourable Minister to be specific in either an acknowledgement or a denial in respect of that question.

Sir, it also raises, finally, the question of economic enfranchisement. This is a question that has related to who this property should have been sold to, and there have been great comments, comments coming from persons who have been stoutly in defence of the Prime Minister within the last two weeks, who suggested earlier this year that Government had derailed itself of the process of economic enfranchisement by their decision to sell the Heywoods property to Barbados Shipping and Trading and not ensuring that there was an effort that persons could participate fully in the economy who would not otherwise have that opportunity, in the main small businesses, black Barbadians, Credit Unions, *et cetera*, who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the economy. Sir, it is interesting that those same persons who are now claiming that the process of economic enfranchisement is being derailed because of a vote of no-confidence in the Prime Minister are the same persons who, two months ago, were accusing this Government of derailing itself of the same process of economic enfranchisement when the decision was taken to sell Heywoods to the Barbados Shipping and Trading. I can only say that there seems to be a great muddle in respect of those persons, especially when they are found on top of the hill at Cave Hill. And it seems that when we talk about political egomaniacs and bankruptcy triumphing over self-interest, in truth and in fact, we really have to ask the question who are the ones who are operating out of self-interest now when they say that the economic enfranchisement is not being derailed now.
11.55 p.m.

Indeed, Sir, it also raises and clearly shows the split in Government, which raises the other point. I ask under what moral authority are we seeking to complete and effect the rest of this sale, given the fact that this Government is in the turmoil that it is, given the fact that there has been a vote of no-confidence which has resulted in clear and open dissension in the Cabinet as well as in the general Democratic Labour Party and given the fact, Sir, that it is a major policy area. And one wonders whether we, as a member of the Legislative Assembly in this country, should seek to effect this Resolution, make complete a major policy decision which has clearly been the subject of dissension between...

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order. Mr. President, we can save the Honourable Senator that sort of barb by stating unequivocally that the sale has been completed and there is a clause in the conveyance which anticipates that the lands, if not transferred by this measure, will have to be transferred by another means. The sale has already been completed. Don't worry to waste our time with that.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, with all due respect. The Honourable Senator knows better than to anticipate an Act of Parliament. Indeed, I would have thought that his years of experience would have saved him from making such foolish remarks. Nevertheless, Sir, these things happen.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I object to that, and I expect that the words "foolish remarks" be withdrawn, because if the Honourable Senator could get a glimpse of the conveyance she would see that appropriate provisions have been made. If she doesn't understand, she should listen.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I would seek to withdraw the "foolish remarks" if the Honourable Senator will withdraw the remarks that I was speaking "barbs". I only respond, Sir, in like terms and in like manner.

Sir, even though the terms of the sale have been completed and even though there has been a signature to the sale, the law is and it is stated that the whole sale has not been effected until the conveyance of this parcel of land has been transferred to the Barbados Shipping and Trading. So that to seek to bring a red herring in the same way that Professor Beckles brought a red herring with respect of economic enfranchisement...

Mr. PRESIDENT: No. Senator Mottley that is nothing to do with the debate.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I agree, Sir. I am only talking about the propensity to bring red herrings because it seems that within the last 2-3 weeks a lot of red herrings are being spread about the place.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Proceed, Senator Mottley.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am making the point that in the same way that that element of the sale still has to be completed that this Government has not finished its obligations in respect of the Barbados Shipping and Trading and the sale of Heywoods Resort. I am sticking to my point that this is the sale of a major property that has major policy implications, not only for the primary productive sector in this country but also as the primary topic and philosophy facing this country, that is, economic enfranchisement and whether we as governments in this country are prepared to empower those who need the empowerment most or whether we are only prepared to talk about it on political platforms, whether they are in 1991 or they come next week at the urging of other members who are not elected who tell people to scatter the men as if they are scratch grain.

We are saying that whatever the implications of that, these are major policy things and given the current state of

this Government, given the fact of the current dissension and the uncertainty of this Government, and worse, given the fact that the Barbados Shipping and Trading themselves are one of those many tourism resorts that are finding themselves in a difficult situation in this country because the bookings that are supposed to be coming in for the winter season, from November, when that property opens, are in doubt now because of the political instability in this country today. Persons rather than confirming bookings to Barbados for the winter season are waiting to see and playing the same wait and see game that the Prime Minister is playing with the rest of the electorate. That is the nature and the consequence of the political instability that has fundamental implications for the success of that Heywoods property.

Let us not be bamboozled by comments that this has nothing at all to do with the instability. The sale of Heywoods has fundamental implications for the performance of this country's tourism sector and if we don't understand that political instability is one of the major causes for tourism in the same way that crime is a major cause for bad performance of the tourism sector we don't know what we are talking about.

I maintain that we have no moral authority for seeking to complete this sale when the major policy implications are so great and when the Prime Minister clearly does not have the confidence of Parliament in terms of the Lower House and secondly, Sir, the country through its voice which has been recorded so far seems to have doubt over whether he has the moral authority to continue.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mottley, that has nothing to do with this matter which we are debating.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, that is a matter of opinion, gracefully. But I maintain that...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, I am stating that that has nothing to do with this matter.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: And I stand firm to my opinion and I will stand firm in November when we see the fall in bookings because of the political instability because we don't know who is coming from who is going, from who is with who, from who is not with who. Nevertheless, Sir, I leave it at that and I would urge that we stop this political cannibalisation from having the effect it is having on our major productive sector, that of the tourist industry.

I wish to end by saying that I want to reiterate our objection to the sale of Heywoods on the terms and conditions of which it was sold. This has been part and parcel of a policy by this Government to sell the assets of this country without ensuring that the best returns can be made from them, whether it is through the sale of the

shares in BARTEL and BET, where property transfer tax was waived, where we did not seek to get the best returns and where this Parliament has already ensured that both of those companies have monopolies on the external and the local carriers in relation to telecommunications.

We saw it, Sir, with the Barbados Flour Mills where we did not have a proper evaluation done in terms of the price and the proper returns that should have been obtained from the sale of that asset. We have seen it in the Arawak Cement Plant and we are now seeing it with Heywoods. It is part and parcel of an attempt to strip this country of its assets and to strip it in circumstances where you are not even giving institutions that have excess capital, like the credit unions, the opportunity to participate fully.

Sir, if you are preaching principles of economic enfranchisement, yes, the market will allow for certain people to come forward but at the end of... I forgot the Port. That is part and parcel of the same nonsense.

When you are seeking to put major assets like Heywoods on the market, I am contending that if philosophically as a Government and as a Party you are attempting to adhere to the principles of empowering smaller persons and smaller business persons in this economy to participate fully in this economy, alongside those who presently control, that it is not simply a matter of saying you intend to sell Heywoods and the first bid that comes in you take it and run with it, or even the second or the third.

I am saying that there should have been an attempt by the Minister of Economic Affairs which is controlled by the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister for as long as he remains there that there should have been an attempt by that Ministry and indeed, by the Honourable Senator Clarke who is also in that Ministry to ensure that they brought to the bargaining table and offered and showed and guided the way.

We have had a Government which has had a history of participating in developmental projects in the productive sector where the private sector may have been a little hesitant to do so. That has been part and parcel of our history, especially since Post-Independence whether it is this Government or when the Barbados Labour Party is in Government.

There is nothing unusual to try to coerce and urge and bring people together and lead them gently in areas of the economy which we believe needs exposure and participation by certain elements. That is the same thing that those who talk about economic enfranchisement made the point, so I am the most surprised person when I can hear them say now that the same Ministry of Economic Affairs was on a process of economic enfranchisement that

is being derailed by a no-confidence motion. That is the hypocrisy that we have to deal with in this country today.

Anyhow, Sir, I wish to end by clearly making the point that I do not believe that we have the moral authority to continue to vote on this Resolution even though the major aspects of the sale have been completed.

12.05 p.m.

This is to effect a total completion of it, Sir, and in those circumstances the Barbados Labour Party cannot support this Resolution, nor can we support the terms and conditions of the general sale. We have been on record on that and we are sticking to that in this debate.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I join this debate to speak to two specific points raised by the goodly Senator that have to do with the sale price. In a limited way I want to address this issue of economic enfranchisement. I preface my remarks on the comment that this is the onset of the silly season and therefore commonsense and good judgment will always be in conflict.

Mr. President, I have not seen the document which sets out the terms and conditions pertaining to the divestment of Heywoods, however, I have information on the price. As I understand it, the Senator is objecting to the price. I therefore ask a couple of questions. If you go into the market to dispose of an asset, do you not allow the market forces to determine the price? I would think that is what you have to do if you go into the market.

The second question which I need to address, Mr. President, is, what is the justification in 1994 for a Government of Barbados to hold the view that it is necessary to own hotel property?

Aside.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, in the early 1960s there was sound justification for a Government of Barbados to invest resources in owning a hotel property. The logic of it simply was this that in the early 1960s Barbados was a very young destination trying to develop a place in the tourist international market. Therefore, Government had to take the lead in establishing standards and also in convincing investors that tourism was something the Government was prepared to put its money where its mouth was.

We compare where we are today with what we were in the 1960s. I think the last figure I saw in Barbados is that we have approximately 15 000 beds in the industry. We have come a long way. It is a fairly established industry. Government no longer needs to do that kind of

pioneering work which it was required to do in the 1960s. It does not have to do that. In my view today Government should be concentrating on policy, establishing the policy framework which will build confidence in the industry and which will encourage investors, both local and foreign, to invest in the industry in all aspects of the industry. There is no justification for the Government, faced with tight budgetary considerations, to be putting money in a hotel plant today. It might satisfy politics but in the final analysis it undermines the economics.

Mr. President, any sensible Government should first put clear priorities on the use of its resources. I am satisfied that in the 1990s the Government should not have a very high priority on placing resources in direct investment in tourism. What a Government needs to do is to come up with a consistent policy after it has discussed this with the business community because if Government is going to operate in isolation from the business community, invariably you will find that it is not going to work to the benefit of the country. Sit down with the elements which are involved in tourism, fine-tune a policy, put that in place and stick to it. That is what is important.

Mr. President, I do not think many of the people who complained about the sale price of Heywoods stopped to think that we could hold on to Heywoods and that it could continue to be a burden on the budget. One of the reasons why Barbados experienced the difficulties which it experienced starting around the early 1990s had to do with the fact that many of these state corporations and public sector assets were burdens on the budget. We have to recognise these as facts. The Arawak Cement plant, Heywoods, the whole set of them you go across the place, several of them were burdens on the budget. Whenever these corporations were making losses they had to finance those losses by some means, and the Ministry of Finance had to be underwriting that, giving guarantees left, right and centre. At the end of the day whenever these liabilities had to be met the Ministry of Finance had to come up with it.

This is the 1990s. It is all right to talk politics to get votes. I am not interested in that now, I am talking about economics which makes sense. Barbados today, and no country in the English-speaking Caribbean can afford to have on its budget these kinds of enterprises which continue to generate hemorrhage. They cannot do it. There is no way you can do it. What is more, there is a limited time frame within which all of these countries in the Caribbean which are affected by these kinds of fiscal problems have to do surgery on those problems. And if you cannot get the surgery in Barbados you have to go to Antigua and get it. That is just a light-hearted comment, Mr. President. It is a fact.

These hemorrhaging enterprises, Mr. President, not only affect our budget by way of deficit but that fiscal

deficit has to be financed and the financing of that fiscal deficit can lead us into serious balance of payments problems where we have ample evidence of that throughout this English-speaking Caribbean.

I find it difficult to understand how an intelligent person as the goodly Senator can on one hand castigate a Government for grappling with balance of payment problems and at the same time try to encourage the Government to bring on board the very sources of these problems. You cannot have it both ways. I am sure all of us know this.

My contention, Mr. President, is this, and I do not want to go back into the history of Heywoods. It is not necessary. My recollection is that the model of Heywoods which we have now was not the original model which was intended for this country. It was modified and not enough attention was paid to project feasibility in the modification so that what we implemented was a model that was unworkable from the start. We have to recognise that. The same thing happened down in St. Lucy with the Arawak Cement Plant. We have mauby pockets but we want champagne taste. But you end up paying for it.

I contend, Mr. President, that sometimes you have an asset and that asset turns out to be a liability and the sooner you get rid of that asset, the better. So there is no point in the Government hanging on to Heywoods and saying we will wait and wait until they get a particular price but, in the meantime, what is the cost of waiting? That is the question which you have to address.
12.15 p.m.

I am not persuaded that the goodly Senator is really serious about the argument she is advancing with respect to the sale of Heywoods because if a Government of Barbados, faced with the economic circumstances, decides that it is going to be wedded to this notion of protecting family silver and so on and so forth, what is going to happen, Mr. President? You are going to end up with tremendous burdens on the Budget. You have to finance that deficit. It is going to further undermine the balance of payments and there is no way in Barbados that you can continue with a fixed exchange rate in those circumstances.

Very quickly, Mr. President, I would say, on this matter of economic enfranchisement I cannot say I understand what the proponents of it mean because the concept keeps shifting from one time to another. What I know is that you cannot empower people. There are several business people in Barbados, what we call small business

people who are doing well. But we do not know them because they pay their bills and they spend their time building their businesses. The people who we know about are the humbugs who do not like to pay their bills.

My own experience is that the ownership of assets in Barbados has widened substantially over the last 30 years. I have no doubt about this. No Government can initiate direct action to empower people. You can put the policies in place particularly policies in relation to education. And I mean education in a continuing sense. Because sometimes the worst thing you can do is to put the money in the people's hands. It is sometimes like putting a gun in the hands of a little child.

I am not going down this line about a Government empowering people. Create the conditions, the environment, put the policies in place and those who want to do it will do it. I have no doubt about this. This notion that the Government must go out, if it is selling Heywoods and beg Tom, Dick and Harry to come and get a piece of the action is not going to work.

The credit unions in this country have a lot of money in the commercial banks. What do they wish to do with it? You have persons in Barbados who would prefer to go and put the money in a savings account in a commercial bank rather than buy a Government bond. I heard a talk show host say that the Government wants to put its hands on the people's money in the credit unions. I had to call him and ask him if throughout the history of this country had he ever heard about a Government, any Government, Labour Party Government or Democratic Labour Party Government which interfered with the people's money in the commercial banks. They never did it. The law does not allow them to do it. But you get a lot of irresponsible cheap talk in this country. Imagine a talk show host saying that the Government wants to put their hands on the people's money that is in the credit unions. I asked him a question. He has not been able to answer me to this day.

Mr. President, I understand where the Senator is coming from. But I think that at the end of the day when all of the talk is finished we will agree that this is a difficult season which is approaching. We will recognize that the Government has acted wisely in terms of disposing of the Heywoods sale and I support this Resolution.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, it was interesting to hear the last Senator distance himself on the DLP manifesto which I am sure he had a hand in writing because economic enfranchisement was a major plank on the DLP platform so now if he does not understand what it is all about and he was one of the main proponents of this...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, what has that got to do with the matter which we are debating?

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, he raised a matter on this and I am responding to his...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker this has nothing to do with what we are debating.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all due respect, the Honourable Senator raised the point about economic enfranchisement and that he did not know what it meant. So I feel I am within my rights to respond to it.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, will you please go ahead with what you have to say.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, if I am allowed to but apparently when I get up and talk I am not allowed to speak in here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the Honourable Senator as I said before has distanced himself from the whole concept of economic enfranchisement but we have noticed a lot of turns around by members on the other side so that is not to be totally unexpected. I want to raise...

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir, I never distanced myself from economic enfranchisement. Apparently the Senator does not hear well nor understand well.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I want to go on to the point about the need to sell Government assets because the Honourable Senator who just spoke, Senator Alleyne, spoke a lot about the reasons for selling assets and he mentioned among other things the need for selling assets to help with the fiscal deficit and he also mentioned the fact that there is no rationale for Government investing money in tourist related activities at this point in time.

He mentioned that in the 60s there was a good reason for Government investing money in the Hilton project. I agree with the Honourable Member to a large extent but does that mean that if you have an asset that you should give it away just because it might not be feasible to invest in the asset now?

Sir, can we be heard in silence?

Sir, the need to sell Heywoods is based in my view on faulty economic grounds which do not stand up in the light of empirical investigation and sound analysis. I am surprised that my good friend the Honourable Senator made such elementary mistakes in his presentation. I know that he is capable of much better. As he himself said this is the start of the silly season.

Sir, the point I want to make is that there is no justification for selling Heywoods because Heywoods is not a drain on the Barbados Treasury. Hence, Sir, selling it is not going to improve the fiscal position.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: On a point of order, Sir, I made the observation that over time Heywoods has accumulated liabilities by making losses. Senator Barker is making the contrary point. One of us has to be telling the truth.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the point is that Heywoods can be and should be profitable. Again, I make the point the Government cannot make Heywoods profitable.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: On a point of order, Sir, it is a matter of fact and record that Heywoods has never been profitable.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, as I said before I was interrupted, there is no reason why Heywoods should not be profitable and the same way that somebody is going to buy it and hopefully they are going to make a profit out of it I believe that the BTIC if they had the will can make Heywoods to be a profitable venture.
12.25 p.m.

I believe that the BTIC, if they have the will, can make Heywoods a profitable venture, and I stand by that. Instead of giving away Heywoods – and I call it giving it away because we are selling it for half its value, which in my view is tantamount to giving it away – we should be ensuring that everything is put in place to make sure that this valuable property becomes efficient, and instead of being a drain on the Treasury, as the Honourable Minister has said, it could become an asset and contribute money to the Treasury. Giving it away is not going to solve the problem, especially out of that \$34 million we are going to raise from the sale some of it has to go to Wyndham, because of the determination of the contract that they had with the Barbados Government.

Sir, I am calling here now for full details of the sale of Heywoods, including the money that is to be paid to Wyndham. That information should be given to this Honourable Chamber. It is not Thompson's property, it is not the property of any member of Cabinet, it is the property of the people of Barbados, and if the

Government is selling our property they should give us full details. I am calling for full disclosure. It is not like me selling a car that I have or something like that, this is a major people's property that is being disposed of for half its value and the people's representatives are not made aware of the terms and conditions of that sale. All we know is that it is sold for \$34 million.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, on a point of order. Senator Barker make the remark "it is not Thompson's property". I consider that inappropriate, because it suggests that the decision was made as if...

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is not what?

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: It is not Thompson's property.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What does that mean? I do not understand it.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Tell him what it means.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, you will withdraw that. You speak so quickly that sometimes I fail to understand what you are saying. I had to ask again. You will withdraw that. That is not the sort of thing that is parliamentary.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: On a point of order, Sir.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, before the Senator speaks...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Phillips, you may speak on a point of order.

SENATOR A. J. N. PHILLIPS: On a point of order, Sir. Twice during his presentation so far the Senator has said that the property was sold at half its value. I am wondering where the Honourable Senator was qualified to value properties, because I have never seen him listed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with all respect, what am I to respond to now? I am told that I have to withdraw something.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are to withdraw the remark which you made.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: What remark?

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Oh, I am not going to withdraw it, I am going to put in a "Mr."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute. Senator Barker, when I tell you to withdraw a remark you do not tell me...

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Don't get hot under the collar. Keep you cool, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You don't throw tantrum here, you understand? Senator Barker, all I am concerned about is that you withdraw the remark. I did not understand what you said, but sometimes you speak so quickly and I don't understand a lot of what you are saying anyhow, but now I understand, that sort of remark must be withdrawn.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, anything you want me to withdraw I withdraw. I am tired having arguments with you, so anything you want me to withdraw I will withdraw.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank God for that. The sooner the better. I want to reiterate that this Chamber must be given full disclosure on the sale of Heywoods, and all the blustering I am hearing from the other side is not going to deflect me from this urgent call for the Government of Barbados to tell this Honourable Chamber the full terms, including any provisions that are therein enshrined in that agreement which might lead to the moral decay of Barbados. I am specifically referring to casino gambling. I want to know whether or not that is anywhere in the agreement. We want full disclosure in this Chamber. I am very serious on this matter.

It is an affront to the dignity of this Chamber that we are asked to approve a Resolution which has major implications without all the facts being given to us. It happens day in and day out that we come in here, no facts, but we are asked to vote like robots on important pieces of legislation.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: This is important. You do not understand what is important.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who is "you", Senator Barker? Address the Chair, please.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you finished? You have taken your seat.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I was listening and waiting until you were finished. I learnt good manners. I learnt that when somebody is speaking you are not supposed to speak, so I was waiting until you were finished.

I would like to know, Sir, the reasons why the Chairman of the BTIC was not present when the deal was signed. I find it strange that one of the major...

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, on a point of order. We are concerned with the vesting of property in the BTIC, nothing to do with the Chairman. It is not an issue here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you. Proceed.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, it is important. I find it strange that this is a major property owned by the BTIC and they are selling this property and the Chairman of the BTIC was not present at that signing. I do not know if it is coincidence, but I find it strange that a person of his calibre would not seek to ensure that when such a major deal was going through he was not there signing on behalf of the BTIC. I do not know if the Honourable Minister of State in that Ministry can advise us on it, but I think it is important, especially when it was rumoured – and some say it was more than a rumour – that a bid was sent to Government in excess of the \$34 million. As I said, we want full disclosure.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, would the Honourable Minister state if my information is correct, that a bid was received for more than \$34 million, and why is it that this offer was not taken up? Maybe there are good reasons, but again, Sir, we are in the position where we do not know, and where there is no information speculation and rumour must run rife, because there is no information. I am saying that the Government can stop all this misinformation, as they might want to call it, by giving us full disclosure. Until that is done, we are going to hear a lot of things on the streets, which might have implications for the character and the integrity of people. All of that can be stopped if Government comes to the people and states the facts relating to the sale of this property.

I hope that you understand what I am saying clearly, because as you said before, you do not always understand what I am saying. I want to speak clearly on this point, because it is very, very important.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: All the heckling by the Honourable Minister is not going to help the situation,

because the public has a right to know. I have a problem with this Resolution, because it is not a slight matter. The Honourable Minister is treating it as though it is just 10 000 square feet of land you are investing in BTIC.
12.35 p.m.

As my colleague Senator Mottley pointed out, it has wider implications because it is part and parcel of the whole deal and must be treated as such. We cannot support this without more knowledge.

In the 3½ years that I was in this Chamber the one thing I have noticed is that Government expects the Chamber to second guess them and to have information. I don't read Government files. The time may very well come, but at present I don't read Government files. So it is only decent for them to give Honourable Members information on which they can make their determinations.

I want the files. I want to see the Heywoods file. Sir, I would love to see the Heywoods file. There is a saying that you can run, but you cannot hide; but we will get a full disclosure soon. It might be sooner, rather than later. I hope, Sir, that all that I am hearing in the streets is pure rumour and speculation because I want to see the files.

Sir, there are lots of reasons why we have problems with this particular Bill. Heywoods should remain the property of the people until such time as a price can be obtained which is commensurate with its value and with the amount of money that the people of Barbados spent on the property. That must be stated clearly.

I want to go further and state that I hope the day will come when the same way that when Government wants to sell an old unused toilet and bath they have to come to Parliament for permission that when it sells a major \$60 million property it will come to Parliament for permission also because on many occasions as you will recall we had to give permission for Government to sell an old, unused toilet somewhere in the countryside for \$200 and now you have a property of \$60 million and Government is treating it as though it is its own private house where it goes through with the sale and the public of Barbados knows nothing about it. That, Sir, has to stop. That must stop if the people of Barbados are to have any confidence in the Government, whichever Government is in power. We must treat these properties as the people's properties and we are only agents, trustees so to speak.

Sir, the Honourable Member is talking about things he doesn't know about. I hope that...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Address the Chair and ignore any asides. Senator Barker address the Chair and proceed with your debate.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, with those words, I hope that Government will take heed of the caution I have expressed and I want to join my colleague and say that we are opposing this legislation which will bring nothing to the credit of our country, but lend itself to all types of rumours and that Government had better heed the warning.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I cannot and will not reply to rumour and speculation. Secondly, I will not attempt to make a bad political speech a good one by trying to respond to anything in it.

The matter before us relates to a simple vesting of land...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker, I will not have the constant loud interruptions.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: There is a time and a place to ask and to get the replies. This relates to a simple vesting of land in the Tourism Investment Corporation to ensure that a transaction is facilitated. The only reply that is relevant was given by Senator Dr. Alleyne in relation to the matter of the basis on which the Heywoods Hotel was disposed of. There is something called scatter shot, you know.

Mr. President, the policy of the Government in relation to gambling has not changed. The Government has never been in favour of casino gambling and is not now in favour of casino gambling. That is a matter which I think we need to have in the records of this Honourable Senate that the Government has not changed its position in relation to casino gambling.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into committee on the Bill, Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in committee without amendment and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ORDER NO. 3 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO THE METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION OF BARBADOS INC. OF LAND AT SPEIGHTSTOWN, ST. PETER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, the school property situated at the corner of Chapel Street and Goddings Alley in Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter was formerly the premises of the Speightstown Boys School.
12.45 p.m.

The Speightstown Boys' School occupied premises partly owned by the Methodist Church and an adjoining building owned by the Crown in its right of Government. When the School was no longer used by the Ministry of Education as a facility because the pupils were transferred to another place, the Methodist Church instituted a training institute to implement and coordinate certain aspects of multi-faceted training needs for the Church. They proposed that they approach the Government and ask permission to use the total premises for Christian education and training in vocational skills.

The original school was sited on lands owned by the Methodist Church. When it was sought to expand it many years ago the Crown bought adjoining lands and built on to the original building so that the premises which the total building occupies are partly owned by the Methodist Church and partly owned by the Crown in its right of Government.

What the Resolution now seeks to do is to lease the area of land that is owned by the Crown in its right of Government to the Methodist Church for a period of 15 years at a nominal rent of \$100 per annum with review every five years on the understanding that the Church will be responsible for repairs and improvements to the building throughout the term of the proposed letting, for the payment of utilities and other outgoings arising out of the use of the premises. This matter has been proceeding for a number of years and, in fact, the Church has been using the premises throughout those years. It goes back to 1991.

I beg to move that the Resolution be passed.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: Mr. President, in supporting this Resolution my contribution will be a matter of reinforcement rather than duplication of what the presenter has already said.

On a lighter vein, Mr. President, it is notable that all of the business of this Chamber so far has been northward bound.

The property that we are discussing in this debate, and again I repeat to reinforce what has been said, has been used for educational purposes for some time, extending to a large extent the programme of adult education that is spread completely over our island. Classes in training and retraining in crafts and skills have been going on for some time.

It is significant, Mr. President, although it might just be *en passant*, that the location of this property and these facilities is within close proximity to the briar patch, so to speak, of one of our most famous female social workers, Helen Alma Parris, right in Goddings Alley. It is of some significance that a facility of this nature should be so accommodated in such a place as if it were almost to her memory.

Earlier in the education programme, many of the classes were conducted free of cost. Due to financial constraints small fees have been paid by the participants to assist in offering the tutors a small stipend. This is extremely useful in times like these.

Apart from this skills training and retraining programme, there are other related areas that are accommodated. The scouts use the facilities as a "den" and we know that scouting in the north has been strong for some time. The courtyard and other suitable facilities are used to accommodate suppers, small though they may be, but yet, a form of accommodation. Volleyball and road tennis are accommodated on its outer courts.

Mr. President, the Methodist Church in Speightstown in particular has had a history of good service. One case in point I like to remember and this was told to me by the priest himself even although it does outdate me, but I do not mind.

Aside.

SENATOR Mrs. A. STRAUGHN: "The Methodist Minister". Thank you for your correction. Perhaps the Leader of the Senate would even be in a better position to correct me on that terminology. But going back to the days of Reverend Lawrence, in the very wee hours of the morning Reverend Lawrence used to conduct religious services, and when I say "wee hours" I mean the hours between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., for the lightermen who used to work on those schooners that plied between Bridgetown and Speightstown. That little religious service he offered as a replacement for the unsavoury behaviour and conduct which was very typical of lightermen and wharfmen, and that was a particularly useful service.

Mr. President, looking at the conditions which were referred to in the presentation, we see that the lessee will be responsible for repairs and improvements to the building throughout the term of the proposed letting and the payment of utilities and other outgoings arising out of its use and premises. This means that a proper maintenance programme should be put in place. I submit that provisions for a system of organised management would do a lot to offset any form of vandalism which we know would be detrimental to this particular project, because vandalism has always been detrimental to projects of this nature and other projects as well.

Mr. President, I keep a tab on the things that go on in Speightstown because I have a special interest in that area. I know for sure that the people who will be responsible for this particular facility are people who know what responsibility means. I have no hesitation, Mr. President, in supporting this Resolution.

SENATOR Miss Y. V. WALKES: Mr. President, in supporting this Resolution I want to make a few points. I am very happy to see that this matter which has been in abeyance for a while is being dealt with by the Government. Let me just say that there were a few problems with this project. In the very early days when the children were transferred from that School, the School was not utilised and therefore there was some vandalism. Since the Methodist Church decided to fully utilise the areas, they had to do a number of structural repairs. This has really put a burden on their finances.

We are very happy to see that this is happening recognizing now that – and I can appreciate the comments made by the two Senators before – this is a vital area in the northern part of the country and that many persons are using this facility now and a number of the areas which were mentioned before. It is also used for drama especially for the young. It is necessary that we see the continuance of this facility.

There is a need for continuous maintenance but there is also a need for furniture and equipment at that facility. The Methodist Church is trying very hard to see if they can keep it going.
12.55 p.m.

Each time there are a number of courses being held there. Every time there is the start of a new course there is the question as to whether there is going to be sufficient funds to continue and whether the property will be properly maintained and kept going.

Therefore I should stress that there is a wide range of crafts and skills that is going on in terms of tailoring, needlework, bookbinding, hatmaking, you name it.

There is a wide range of adult training, not only for adults who are looking for skills but the unemployed especially when places like Elmers and those were closed recently the unemployed found some areas there in order to keep themselves going and also to keep some of the youth off the street. So I am saying it is really playing a tremendous role in that northern area for adult education and for various other activities that lend comfort to the persons of the north seeing that it is in the heart of Speightstown and also there is access to the area in terms of transportation too. This adds to it.

I am trying to make out a case this morning to see whether there could be some way that a subsidy could be given to the Methodist Church to assist in the maintenance and with furniture and equipment and even in terms of running the programmes because the tutors or facilitators are just paid a small fee but there is a need for much more to be done. My plea is for us to see if there could be some subsidy in future given to this worthwhile venture.

Even if we look further we will note that this summer they are hoping to carry on a computer training for the school children. It is so vital that it makes us want to ask and plead for the kind of help that would be necessary to have it going. The Church is struggling and I am saying that I shudder to think that in the next 15 years they would be still in a similar position as they are in now and have this vital area, if not closed, just operating on a minimum.

Therefore I support the Resolution but I am asking strongly for us to look at a subsidy or some area where we can further assist. I can appreciate the peppercorn amount that is being asked for on the lease but I would also like us to put it on our agenda in terms of looking for worthwhile support, worthwhile help and for the continuance of this project. Thank you very much.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, before I move the adjournment I believe that this Honourable Senate would wish to offer condolences to relatives of the late Owen T. Alder who was a member of this Honourable Senate for a number of years as well as to the relatives of the late Sir Mencea Cox who served the Senate briefly and also the relatives of the late Sir Hugh Springer, former Governor-General of Barbados.

I do not think that it is necessary for me to say anything in relation to these gentlemen all of whom have

served this country in the past. Their deeds have been well chronicled in other places and in various fora and I only therefore wish to move that this Honourable Senate offer condolences to the relatives of these deceased brothers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your expression of sympathy. Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague and myself and the Barbados Labour Party I want to join with this Senate in offering our condolences to the family of the three gentlemen named because all three of them were outstanding citizens of Barbados and they have made sterling and tremendous contributions to the political and social life of this country and also the economic life of this country.

When the history of Barbados is written, especially when it relates to the period of the 40s and the 50s, these three men must take their rightful places as pioneers in the development of this country. Sir we could not have got where we are today in terms of our standard of living, in terms of our quality of life had it not been for the contribution of men of this calibre.

Of the three men, I knew Sir Mencea personally because he was my father's friend being the representative of St. Michael Constituency from 1946 to 1961. As such, Sir, I have almost a rule that anybody who was my father's friend has to be my friend because I trust my father's judgment and his instincts.

Sir, my relationship with Sir Mencea reinforced my admiration for the judgment of my father. He was a gentleman of the highest order and anybody who knew him would testify to that characteristic. At a time when our country was now developing in a sense, especially when it relates to Government that first Cabinet of Barbados set the tone for most of what followed and Sir Mencea stood out in that first Cabinet of Barbados.

The improvements in the water distribution system, the improvement in the highway system, the improvements in the international transport infrastructure, the Airport and the Sea Port was testimony to his vision and foresight because I think he was the Minister in charge of public works around that time.

Sir, it is only the accident of birth and the social and political realities of that day that prevented Sir Mencea from attaining the highest office in the land. When Sir Grantley left to take up the Prime Ministership of the Federation the logical successor in terms of ability, in terms of appeal, was in fact Sir Mencea. Sir, as I said before the realities of the day worked against his attaining that signal honour and it is not to anybody's credit

because a lot of what transpired especially in my Party since then was attributable to that decision.

1.05 p.m.

It caused tremendous friction in our party, so much so that in 1966 Sir Mencea contested the seat of St. Michael as an Independent. It was only in 1976 when we returned to office that the then Prime Minister ensured that his contribution to his party and to the wider society was given pride of place. He was then made a Senator and he was given the important role of chairing the Constitution Review Commission. A lot of what he said should have been implemented. If that had been done, a lot of the problems we are facing today could have been averted, such as the foresight of Sir Mencea. He was a fitting man, Sir, to lead such a review commission. Some time we are going to have to look again at his work and at some of his – meaning the Committee's – recommendations and see whether we should not be implementing some of those decisions.

Sir, I remember speaking to Sir Mencea in the early seventies. Of course politics came up, because I am almost a political person and he was obviously of the same mould. We got to talking about our politics and the 1961 elections came up. He related the assault he took in those elections, because he was the target man. He was in a sense the leading light in the then Barbados Labour Party and he took a massive battering. He told me something that will always live with me. He said that he did not mind the attacks made on him, because he expected them. Once you are in the political arena, you expect these sorts of attack, but what hurt him was that people he had associated with for so many years believed them. The people he represented in the constituency of St. Michael for over 15 years, and gave them good representation, he was hurt that they believed the slander and lies that were told about him. As a young man listening to that, it made me ponder. It made me even more resolute to work for the people whether or not they recognise the contribution or even take note of your contribution. You do what you have to do and ignore what people say of your contribution. He did what he had to do.

Today we are paying tribute to a man, as I said before a gentleman of the highest order, who rose from being a taxi driver – and I am not saying that in a derogatory sense – to occupy one of the highest offices in the land. It tells me that there are boys and girls around there who need to look at the lives of these men and they should realise that accident of birth and other circumstances should never be obstacles, but rather they should be hurdles on the way to achieving goals in life. They must be treated as hurdles and not obstacles and we must learn to rise above circumstances and reach the top.

Only recently when we had the water crisis – we still have it – but I remembered what was said in 1961. In 1961 they accused Sir Mencea of wanting to put metres on everybody's house. Now in 1994 almost all of Barbados has now come to the realisation that that has to be done in order to encourage people to be more conservative in their use of water. We are talking about 33 years ago when he was accused of wanting to put an imposition on the poor people by having their water services metered. So the man, in my view, had tremendous foresight and that is why I repeat my call that we go back to the Cox Commission and see whether or not we can incorporate some of his findings, especially as they relate to the running of our society.

I consider it an honour to be able to pay tribute to Sir Mencea. As I said before, he was my father's friend and hence my friend.

Sir Hugh Springer will always live in the memory of Barbadians. I remember the words of St. Paul, and I hope I quote them correctly, in referring to Moses when he said that he chose rather to suffer afflictions with the children of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. I remember that because there are men and women in Barbados who could have ignored the plight of the masses and could have risen to the top in society in that day. Sir Hugh Springer could have been anything he wanted to be in Barbados. He had the intellect, he had the relationships to be anything he wanted to be in Barbados, but he chose in the 1930's to align himself with the working class movement and he rose to become the first General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union. This is a man, as I said before, who could have been anything he wanted to be in society at that time, but where a lot of other black middle class people chose to align themselves with the Conservatives and so on, Mr. Springer, as he was then, chose to align himself with the working people of Barbados in those dark days.

It was a momentous decision, because the Workers' Union at that time, small and insignificant, needed a man with organisational ability and foresight to chart its path, so to speak. I want to say that those formative years were important for the Workers' Union because they set the path for its future development. Sir Hugh Springer was instrumental in ensuring that in those years the organisation was tight and the administration of the Union was efficient and progressive enough to cater to the needs of the working people. So he stands out for that, and not only that, Sir, when he left Barbados in 1947 or so he went to work in another fledgling institution, the University of the West Indies, where he was the first Registrar. This was at a time where it may have been the conventional wisdom that countries like ours in the Caribbean were not able to manage our own affairs, so it was important that the University had at its administrative helm a man with

the knowledge, the wisdom and the character to lead that institution and to chart its path.

I speak subject to correction, but when the University extended to Barbados I think he was also at the helm then. He may have been instrumental in the decision for the University to expand its campuses to Barbados and, before that, to Trinidad. So a lot of developments of the University of the West Indies could be laid at his feet in terms of the administrative experience he brought to bear in that institution.

Sir Hugh Springer will always be remembered as a Caribbean man who not only sought to make his mark in Barbados, but lent his skills, his knowledge and his wisdom to the wider Caribbean in ensuring that it had a university which was second to none and of which the Caribbean could be proud. So that our degree holders can be accepted in any country in the world as having gone to a reputable institution, so his contribution to the University will never be forgotten, because he was their first Registrar, and a very successful Registrar at that.
1.15 p.m.

He has made his contribution there and he has gone after 80 years of labour and we are richer for having known him. He has left a mark on Barbados.

Mr. Allder was a member of Parliament for many years and he was an outstanding debater and worker on behalf of the masses. He was the member for St. John for some time, and again I am speaking subject to correction, but I think he may have been my M.P. when I was born, because I was born in the parish of St. John. I have to check on that. Anyway, Sir, he made a lasting contribution to our Island because at that time it was no easy thing being in political life. It was no easy matter because it was not as lucrative as it is now and the demands and sacrifice that one had to make were in fact tremendous.

Owen T. Allder's name will always stand out as the first in a group of parliamentarians of working class origin who ensured that the plight of the masses were aired and there was representation made on their behalf.

Sir, as I said before, I want to join with the Leader of the Senate in extending our condolences to the families of these three gentlemen.

SENATOR W. LeR. INNISS: Mr. President, I rise for a very short time just to associate myself with the remarks which have gone before.

I can remember as a child, born and bred in St. Michael, that throughout my childhood in political circles all I could hear about was Cox. It was Cox and Bryan. I

can remember when Cox was saying, "Don't plump. Give Bryan half." But he was so much of a favourite that many persons thought they could not do otherwise but to plump for Mr. Cox. That is why in spite of his own campaign he would come out well ahead of anyone else in St. Michael.

I never had any personal contact with Mr. Cox, but I have always followed public life and politics with some interest and I am particularly impressed with persons like M. E. Cox. I have much more respect for M. E. Cox and for people of his ilk than I have for many persons who offer themselves for jobs in politics nowadays. I make no apology for what I am saying.

There are too many persons out there who are making themselves available for work in the political arena but people like M. E. Cox was offering himself for service, because when he came forward as a lieutenant of Grantley Adams in those days there was no certainty of anything. There was no hope of any Ministry. You would have been ridiculed by your own and you would have been ridiculed by the forces against which you were fighting.

I have heard from civil servants that M. E. Cox was a model Minister. A person who was well informed, a person who allowed the civil servants to do their work but, nevertheless, he understood that his input would be there and he was informed. He was not a yes man. But he was a victim of our society in more ways than one. Many people believed that M. E. Cox should have been Premier of Barbados but some people could not forget that he was Cox the chauffeur and he was not Cox the medical practitioner. That is why in spite of his political alertness and keenness it is believed that he was overlooked when his turn had come.

It is people like M. E. Cox who paved the way that people like us could be in here to pay this kind of tribute. Grantley Adams did a very good work for which he has always been praised but never let us forget those foot soldiers and those lieutenants who came along because no one man could have done it all by himself.

I would also put into the same kind of category of grassroot politicians who made a contribution to Barbados Owen T. Allder. There are times when his views and mine would never coincide, but he was a man who stood for something and knew what he stood for and he was very strong and very firm, another person who came through the ranks and represented his people for a long time. He, too, made his contribution.

Much has been said about Sir Hugh. There is no point for me at this stage to belabour that point. He has made his mark in Barbados and the Caribbean generally and indeed within the Commonwealth as an educator, as a trade unionist, as a statesman. Those are the kinds of

persons whom we can hold up in Barbados and hold forward as persons to whom our young people could look as role models. At the end of the day, we hope that, like them – we are not saying that we would necessarily attain the same kind of eminence but in terms of our contributions and commitment to anything we put ourselves to that – one can hear, "Well done!".

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I just want to make a short intervention on the tribute we are paying to three very honourable gentlemen.

I just would like to say that the impression that Sir Mencea Cox has left on my life is one indeed that makes me think sometimes that if he were alive today and if he were young at this time how far this man would really go. I recall at that time you would hear of Cox and Bryan but what was outstanding was that in 1955 when the hurricane took place in Barbados, I remember M. E. Cox visiting almost every area. I said to myself how could this man do this. I remember that he came to our house in Deighton Road and he was enquiring what has happened to you people and whether we had lost anything. Everybody was talking. People who had to come and seek assistance at my grandmother's house and stay there were all talking about this man, M. E. Cox, who came around to find out about human beings. He did not stay at home and say, "all is well with me, I am going to stay at home".

That has made a lasting impression on my mind of a representative who was so interested that he got in an old car with a friend and drove all over the place. What was interesting too is that now we have so many politicians in St. Michael. I always wondered how he and Bryan could run the whole of St. Michael. I think that is something we must really think about and no people... I mean you would see Cox walking through the area and stopping at people. He knew them personally. Seeing my grandmother anywhere he knew her personally. He knew my mother. This is something that you really had to admire, a man who knew such a big area of all these thousands of people and yet he knew them personally.

Also I find the man was very well read. He would go to the beach, and to most of us young ones when we were on holiday, on mornings early it was an education to talk with Sir Mencea. That was something he liked very much, going to the beach early on mornings. We would ask him a lot of political questions and he was able to reply to us and tell us what was happening.

I think persons like Sir Mencea must long be remembered in a very important way in Barbados not just putting up some monument but I feel that people should

write about this man and we should use these kinds of textbooks about people like Sir Mencea.

Owen T. Alder as well was another walking source of information, a person who was always willing to pass on knowledge, to ask you if you had read a particular book and according to the old people "before the cat licks his ears" he brought the book around to let you read it yourself. He would say, "Man, that book is tremendous". I do not think people like Alder, Cox, and those kinds of people, that anybody could tell them about any book that existed at that time that they had not read. They were very well read.

1.25 p.m.

Owen T. Alder had a way of travelling every single year and bringing back some of the things he thought one would want to have or would be interested in. I remember one year he travelled and he brought me some little things out of shell and he said to me, "Why cannot we do these things in Barbados and sell them to tourists"? He always travelled and he would bring back something that you could copy, or make money from. I think all these things go to his credit.

He was also a very astute man. If he had a point he would argue it out regardless of what happened. Even up to his last days I remember him coming to a General Council Meeting just a few weeks before he died and he would always be willing to speak out, speak up and be heard. We must have admiration for those people who were not deceitful.

When it comes to Sir Hugh, I knew him for a long time. I have had the pleasure of also working with him. Many of you might not know but he was the first Chairman of the National Development Foundation. He continued his interest. We were very happy that last November we could have honoured him at our 10th Anniversary Dinner. We do not feel very badly about it in that if he had gone on without a honour from the Foundation we would really have felt very terrible but we were able to do this.

He was always very gracious. He would always enquire about the organisation. I think he realised that organisation was started to help those persons whom the bank would hardly notice. We had to work very hard to get on with the job. Persons like the President of the Senate, and Senator Harcourt Lewis we had to work very hard to find money in the first instance or to back people at the bank. However, Sir Hugh was there with us. We did not start as we are now. We started very small. It seemed as though the Foundation always produced Knights, Governors-General, Ministers of the Crown and so on because nearly all the persons who started with us in the beginning are placed in those kinds of position.

I want to thank God for placing these noble citizens in Barbados at a time when we would have needed them. I believe that their families must feel that there is some bright star shining somewhere for the work they have done. We too in Barbados must also try to emulate their qualities, qualities of kindness, meekness, humility and love, something which is so badly missing today.

Mr. President, without any further ado I would like to thank you for allowing me to pay that tribute to those three Honourable gentlemen.

SENATOR Dr. F. W. ALLEYNE: Mr. President, I will be very brief but I want to associate myself with the remarks which have been made before in connection with these three gentlemen. Just to say that Senator Barker and I have been for some time exchanging opinions as to whether we were a bit slow in paying our tribute to these three very distinguished persons.

Mr. President, it is noteworthy that there was a commonality shared by these personalities. They were all men of dignity. They were all men who understood service. I knew two of them personally. I read and heard a lot about Sir Hugh and everything I read and heard about Sir Hugh tells me that he was a great credit to Barbados, the Caribbean and to the world. I think it was fortunate that he was born in Barbados.

I used to meet Sir Mencea at auction sales. I met him on a couple of occasions and I always sought him out because as a school boy I remember I first saw him in the 1956 campaign. He had tremendous delivery. When I discovered this man was a 7th Standard boy I could not believe. When you talk about a giant in politics, Mencea Cox was a giant. Let us make no mistake about this. He was one of the giants of Barbadian politics. When you listened to him you could see the man's learning coming out, his delivery, language and so on, a very dignified politician. The politicians of the 1990s can take example from Sir Mencea Cox. He did not have to go around mud-slinging and vilifying people. He was a man of great wisdom. I certainly benefitted by knowing him. He told me how he suffered. I need not repeat it here. He suffered at the hands of some of the same people who night after night go around and defile the landscape with all kinds of vilifications. They are still around today.

I want to say a special word about Owen Taylor Alder. He was my friend and mentor for a number of years. On his passing I wrote a tribute to him and it appeared in a small booklet. I said then that Owen T. Alder was a big man. All of us knew him as a very tall, big man but he was not only big in physical stature, he was big in mind. You could disagree with him fiercely, he never took it personally. He was like that.

We used to have some bitter disagreements because his house was the convenient meeting point for me because, given where my children were located in secondary schools, one at Queen's College, one at St. Michael's School and one at Charles F. Broome Memorial School, his residence was my rendezvous. When I had to kill time we would go and pass the time at Owen T's place and we had some fierce debates. The referee was a taximan called Mr. Gibson, who hangs out in the Lower Green. Very often he would have to referee the debates or whether it was Gippy and Senator Alder at it, I would have to referee the debate; but he was an excellent person to know.

I told him on one occasion, if there was one thing I would have liked to get from him was his library. He had a first-class library. I remember asking Owen T. why did you give all your time like this because I do not think there are many people in Barbados who saw service at as many levels as the late Owen T. Alder. He served as a Vestryman. He served in the House of Assembly. He served in the Senate. I think at almost every level. He never managed to get into a Cabinet but I do not think that if he was in a Cabinet he would have lasted more than a week because he was a fiercely independent man. I believe he was the independent of the independent in Barbados.

This explains his very strong spirit. It explains why he was in so many parties and he formed so many parties. But he was a great man to know. I heard about him from the time I was a little boy because he grew up in Bibby's Lane with my uncle so I always heard about Owen T.

I think there is a lesson which we have to learn particularly from the life of Sir Mencea Cox and Owen T. Alder. These are fellows who started from very, very humble beginnings, from the lowest of the low, and they saw life as a matter of hurdles to be overcome. What is significant about these men is that having overcome the hurdles by dint of hard work and discipline, they tried to open doors for other people. That is what is significant.

Owen T. said to me on one occasion, "Frank, I do not want subsequent generations to experience the hard times which I have experienced and that is why I am in politics. I am not in it for money because there is no money in it." Politics then was not lucrative and politics today is not lucrative unless you are a thief.
1.35 p.m.

With respect to Sir Hugh I would disagree with Senator Barker by way of setting the record straight. Let us not fool ourselves in this Chamber. Sir Hugh, brilliant as he was, had to face the same obstacles because of the colour of his skin. He had a brother who had a double first and all of us know the experience of Chris. So I think that, in paying tribute to these men, it is an appropriate time to call upon our historians to do, for the benefit of

subsequent generations, a history which would make all of us proud because the importance of history is that it teaches us lessons. It shows us how people over time have been able to cope with difficulties and I believe that a proper history of the lives of these great men will benefit generations of Barbadians yet unborn because they can see how these fellows faced the difficult issues of their day and how they resolved them.

Mr. President, I believe that Barbados, the Caribbean and the world is a better place because of these men's lives. May their souls rest in peace.

SENATOR Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I wish to enter this debate to pay tribute to these three men. I would wish, at the outset, to associate myself with the remarks on both sides of the Chamber in respect to these three men.

To a large extent much has been said indeed in respect of the dignity and the level of service given to this country and to the wider Caribbean and indeed, in respect of the wider Commonwealth by these three men. Unlike most of you in here my age does not allow me to have had personal knowledge of Sir Mencea when he was active or indeed with Owen T. Alder when he was active in terms of the height of his contribution. Sir Hugh is slightly different because my grandfather died when I was 9 or 10 years old and to a large extent Sir Hugh really became a surrogate grandfather for me over the period for the last 20 years or so and therefore I had a very close relationship with him along, strangely enough and for the record, with the former Prime Minister Errol Barrow. Both of them were a form of surrogate grandfather and advised me throughout my participation in university education and legal career and indeed the political field.

I want to pay tribute in particular to Sir Mencea because I think that, to a large extent, a lot of what was fought for in those days was epitomized in the type of person and the type of conduct of Sir Mencea where persons were prepared at all costs to fight to ensure that there was a change not only in the social circumstances but indeed in the political circumstances of the time because I don't think we can forget that Sir Mencea paid a major role in the bringing of universal adult suffrage to this country and indeed when only a few months ago tears would come to our eyes in watching Nelson Mandela in respect to what has now happened in South Africa when we think that a country this size had persons who could fight and achieve without serious bloodshed, the right to vote in this country from as far back in this country as 44 years ago is a serious tribute to be paid to the character and worth of those men.

I think also what is significant and Senator Inniss spoke of his sterling work as a lieutenant of Sir Grantley

but being a lieutenant is not always an easy job particularly when you have strong and powerful leaders. I think that I would not be misleading this Chamber to say that perhaps the division between himself and Freddie Miller at the time led to what was perhaps an unfortunate decision in his being overlooked for the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party in 1958.

I am happy today, Sir, and I make bold to say it is the work of men like Sir Mencea and Sir Grantley that has ensured that in 1993 the Barbados Labour Party did not make the same mistake when it chose its leader in spite of the humble beginnings of its leader today. So that at least while we may have fallen off the path in 1958 I think we have learnt from our mistakes in 1993. I stand by those remarks, Sir.

In respect of Owen T. Alder the first time I ever went on a political platform was the 19th February 1989 at Eagle Hall corner and the first person to call me the next morning was Owen T. Alder and from that time on I enjoyed the benefit of his advice and wisdom in respect not only of style but in terms of the substance of my contribution in the political debates since then.

Sir, I will miss his counsel in that regard because I benefitted very much from his experience in particular what I consider his understanding of St. Michael because having come from Bibby Lane himself and having been a giant in Hothersal Turning which was an area in which I was spending a lot of time he was able to give me good counsel in respect of really and truly understanding the nature of persons, because at the end of the day representation is not about what we want to do but indeed what is best for those whom we represent and indeed the form of service that we deliver to them must bear in mind their nature and desires as much as it bears in mind our own view of how things should be.

I am eternally grateful for the counsel of Owen T. Alder in respect of that. I think Senator Alleyne made this point in his contribution that persons who succeed but who are still prepared to give others the benefit of their wisdom in spite of their success to open doors to help others I think that that is perhaps the greatest legacy a person who has succeeded can make in his life, that he is prepared to ensure that there is a continuity not only of thought but of the struggle.

His independence, Sir, is legendary. Indeed his ability to take contrary positions without bearing malice is also legendary. I think that it would be fair to describe him as the last of the great independents although we may well be seeing independents in races again in the future. I don't think that we will ever match up to those standards again, Sir.

In respect of Sir Hugh it is difficult to describe Sir Hugh. Those who describe Sir Garfield Sobers as a great all round cricketer perhaps can draw on that analogy in describing Sir Hugh whose sign of greatness was marked by his ability to participate in a number of fields and to excel in those fields, whether it be in politics, whether it be in education or whether it be in the trade union movement, whether it be in the raising of his family. Those who knew Sir Hugh well would know that in spite of his endeavours in the affairs of state that he also had a very keen interest in the welfare of his family from his youngest grandchild Daniel who is about 5 or 6 years back up to his eldest daughter Richild.

I think that at the end of the day when we judge people who contribute to the political and social landscape of this country that very often those persons who pay great attention to the maintenance and nurturing of their family are those who excel most in the carrying forth of the struggle whatever side of the fence they may come from.

Sir Hugh's contribution to the Barbados Labour Party as an organisational genius perhaps is one of the main causes why the Barbados Labour Party is still around 55 years later because had Sir Grantley not had someone with him who was prepared to pay great attention to the details of organisation the party perhaps would be like other political parties today that have leaders without parties and parties without leaders.

Sir, I don't want to trivialise the debate quite honestly because I really think that Sir Hugh's organisational genius ensured the success not only of the Barbados Labour Party as a political institution, the oldest one in the English speaking Caribbean but also of the Barbados Workers' Union and it says something of our trade union movement when one can consider that perhaps part of the success of unionism in Barbados is as a result of the fact that those who were charged with its initial planning strangely enough were all persons who might have chosen to go another field and indeed taken the stance to protect the employers of the day and the plantocracy and the mercantile community they having been the recipients of education at Oxford and otherwise and therefore one might have felt that they could easily have chosen to live a life that was concerned with their own self aggrandisement rather than worry about the workers of the country of the day.

1.45 p.m.

So that in those circumstances I think his contribution is even the greater. Indeed, Sir, his departure from Barbados in 1947, I believe it was, to the post of the first

Registrar of the University College of the West Indies is also significant, because once again that organisational genius came to play in ensuring that that institution got off to a solid foundation as well.

I think the greatest tribute was paid to him when he became Governor-General of this country. I can think of no person who epitomises all that we should expect from a Governor-General more than Sir Hugh. His dignity, his calm assurance and his inability to be sworn off the straight and narrow path by rumour and other things was great testimony to his character. I believe that even the difficulties in the change of leadership in 1987 of the Democratic Labour Party, when he ruled over that with a quiet dignity and assurance and confidence, in spite of comments that were being made all over the place by all and sundry, he kept the dignity of the office intact.

I would wish to pay tribute to these men and to say that their examples of service, of humility, of dignity are ones I hope that all of us can emulate in some form in our contribution to the political and social life of this country. I think that the time has come for us seriously to establish a National Heroes Day which would ensure that the work of these men continue to live in a very real way. I find it difficult to understand how an institution like the National Cultural Foundation has not ensured that there has been a project compiling the contributions of these men, in the same way that Senator Fraser and Senator Alleyne spoke, but I go further and say that the responsibility is with the National Cultural Foundation, since they are the ones who are partially charged by the legislation of this country to preserve the heritage and history of this country as well. I would hope that that would be one of the major projects that institution will undertake as a matter of urgency.

With those few words, Sir, I would wish to pay tribute to these outstanding Barbadian men.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you all for your contributions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, 1813.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ALLEYNE, Senator Dr. F. W.
BARKER, Senator T. E.
CLARKE, Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D.
FRASER, Senator Mrs. V. C.
INNISS, Senator W. LeR.
LEWIS, Senator the Hon. L. V. H.
MOTTLEY, Senator Miss M. A.
STRAUGHN, Senator Mrs. A.
WALKES, Senator Miss Y. V.